

## Fed up Gompo chair Mlanjana quits

ANATHI WULUSHE · May 29, 2024

Vukile Mlanjana shocked the soccer fraternity when he stood down from his role as Gompo LFA chair, citing concerns of “victimisation and dictatorship” by the Safa Buffalo City ruling body.

In a letter seen by the Daily Dispatch, Mlanjana said insufficient financial support from Safa BC and its refusal to allow Gompo to hold a sponsored Caf C Licence coaching course had triggered his resignation.

“Payment of registration fees by poor clubs that don’t even get any support from the football government is not just and fair, and in my view this is victimisation and dictatorship in our hard-fought football democracy,” Mlanjana said.

“Gompo LFA hosted a successful Safa D Licence course on March 2022, but were denied by Safa Buffalo City of hosting a free Caf C Licence course since our first application on July 25 2023, [where we pleaded] for [an] endorsement letter that was going to assist poor disadvantaged football people in the Gompo LFA and the entire BCMM [and] also to assist alleviating poverty.”

Mlanjana and Safa BC president Mxolisi “Prince” Sibam met at the Safa BC offices in February to discuss the Safa national technical department’s request from Gompo LFA to host the Safa/caf C Licence course and also to get Safa BC’S endorsement to host.

Safa BC asked that R1,800 be paid before the candidates for the Caf C Licence coaching course could be granted permission to undertake them.

The first phase of the course was supposed to run from May 19-25, with the second scheduled for July 20-26.

Mlanjana claimed that the lack of growth and development for their coaches and administrators was due to Safa BC’S jealousy.

He also claimed that Safa BC was causing a significant rift within the Gompo LFA executive in an attempt to disrupt and destabilise them, aiming to weaken the structure to gain control and political advantage in the upcoming Safa BC elections.

Mlanjana took aim at Sibam, describing their work rapport as sour.

“We are no longer sharing the same football vision and goals as when we started to lead the Safa Buffalo City region in 2012-2017 as president and secretary,”

He said their relationship had deteriorated after the competition for the Safa BC presidency in January 2022.

He alleged Safa BC had grudges that led to exclusions of Gompo LFA players in the regional selection of squads to Safa national competitions, threats of suspensions and expulsions to

him and those LFAS which supported him during the campaign which ended with Qonce LFA members Thanduxolo Breakfast and Luvuyo Qaba being suspended.

Mlanjana further said the condition of football under Sibam in Buffalo City had experienced a gradual decline.

“We can see a pattern of sustained deterioration in pursuit of excellence and slow death in our Safa Buffalo City, as football is viewed as a business and career for personal gains,” Mlanjana said.

When contacted on Tuesday regarding the allegations, Sibam directed the Dispatch to Safa BC secretary Zolani Ngesmani, who said the organisation had prevented the president from speaking to the media.

Ngesmani said they had no issue with Gompo LFA hosting the Caf Licence course, however, he said they had not provided a list of coaches participating for verification.

He also said Gompo had not raised any issues with them about not being able to afford the coaching programme.

He said Safa BC did not fund LFAS. Ngesmani would not comment on Mlanjana and Sibam’s relationship.