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Murder accused denied bail

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FOUR men arrested in connection with the murder of a funeral parlour owner in Taung will apply for bail for a second time when they appear in the Taung Magistrate's Court on June 26.

The four were denied bail when they appeared in the same court on Monday.

North West police spokesperson Lt-Col Pelsoni Makau said the accused - Joel Tumo Phatudi, 39, Zwelinzima Mohapi, 23, Olebogeng Mgijima, 25, and Lebogang Serei, 40 - were arrested in Rooiwal near Taung on June 14 and 15 by a provincial tracking team working with Taung detectives.

"According to the information received, on May 25, Phatudi, Mohapi and Mgijima allegedly entered the funeral parlour belonging to Kgomotso Serei in Taung and demanded money. An argument ensued and Phatudi allegedly shot Serei before they ran away," Makau said.

Makau said preliminary investigations showed that Lebogang Serei, the fourth accused who is the stepson of the murdered man, was alleged to have been the mastermind behind the attack.

He was arrested on June 16.

Makau said investigations in the case were continuing.

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