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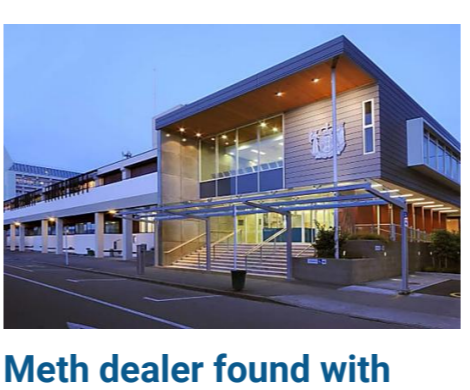
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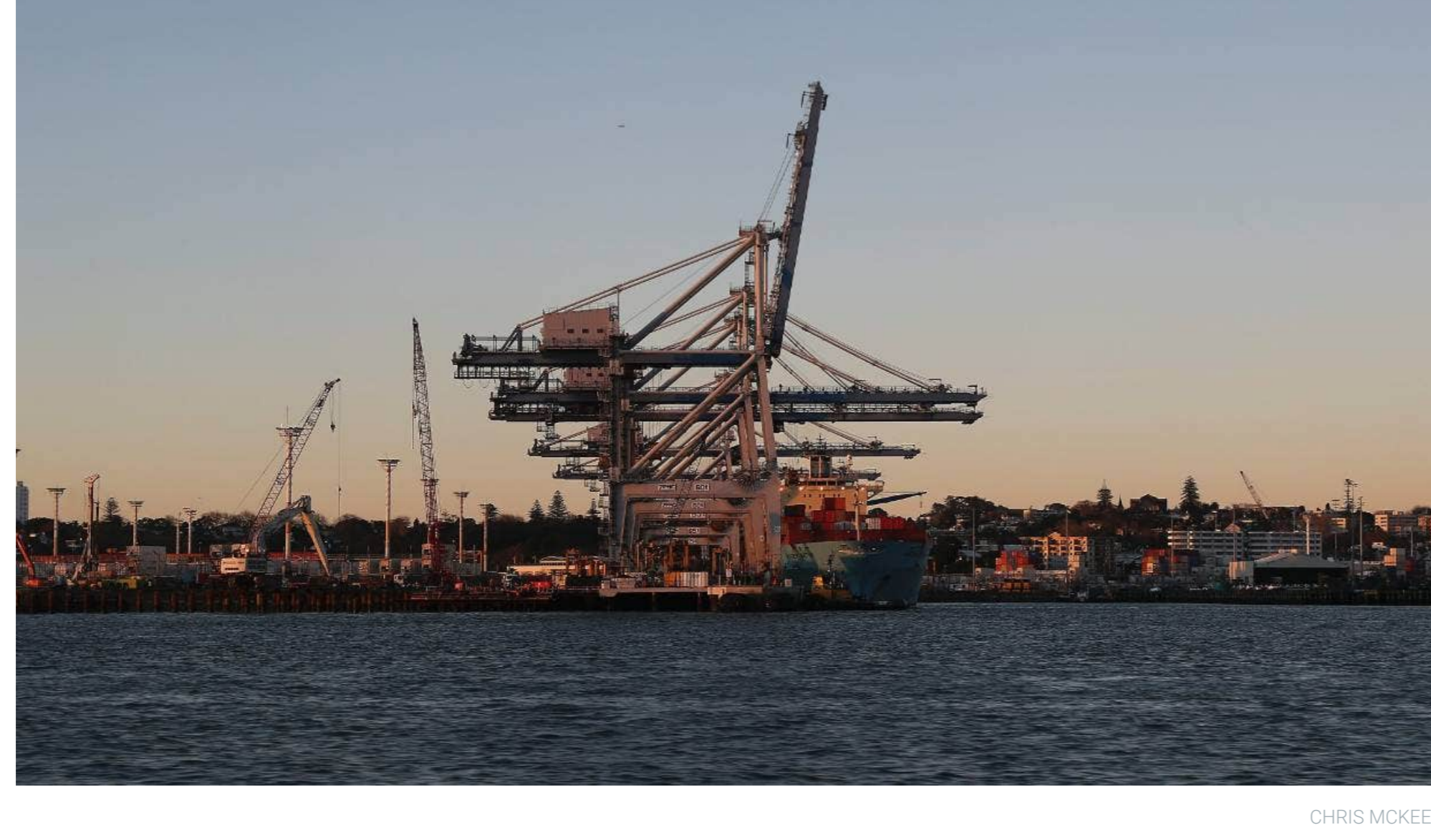
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'Devoted family man' Amo Kalati named as wharfie who was crushed to death

Auckland reporters - 15:00, Sep 06 2020



Amo Kalati died after he was crushed by a container last Sunday.

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A father-of-seven who was crushed to death under a container is being remembered for his "big grin and even bigger heart".

Pala'amo (Amo) Kalati, a stevedore who's understood to have only worked for the Ports of Auckland for a couple of months, died last Sunday on a ship at the Fergusson Container Terminal.

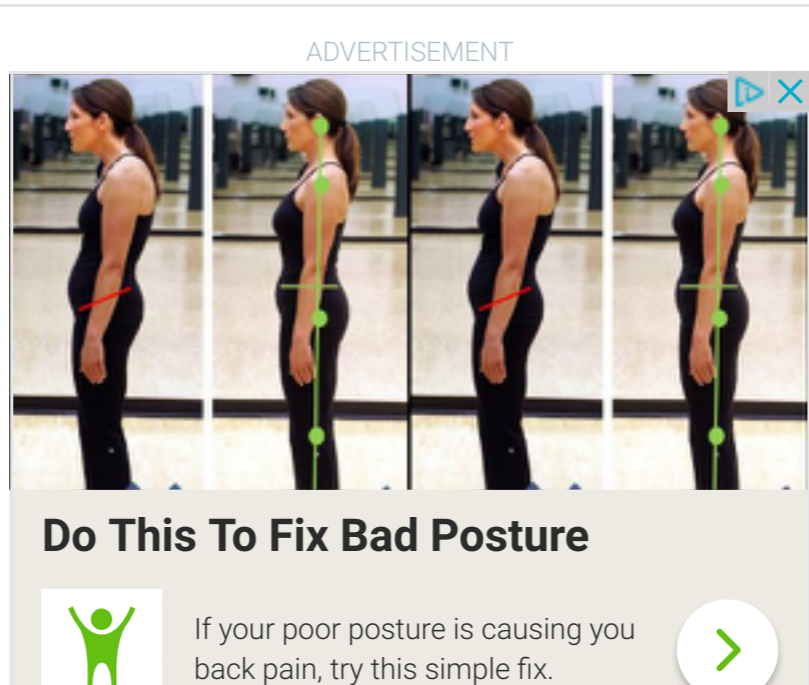
The 31-year-old's death is being investigated by Maritime NZ and police.

A week after his death, Ports of Auckland issued a statement on its Facebook page saying it was "absolutely devastated" by the death.

READ MORE:

- * [Auckland wharfies make claims of lax safety, near-miss before man was crushed](#)
- * [Wharfie was crushed to death by container on ship at Ports of Auckland](#)
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The post says its love and prayers are with Kalati's family, who they are providing ongoing support to.



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"We are a big whānau here at the port, so everyone is deeply affected by what has happened."

Counselling has been offered to affected staff, the post says.

"As an organisation we care deeply about the safety and wellbeing of our staff. In recent years a great deal of effort has gone into making the port a safer place to work, which makes this event even more painful."

Safety concerns have been raised by current and former staff.

STUFF.CO.NZ

Safety concerns have been raised by current and former staff.

Marist Saints Rugby League club also posted a tribute on its Facebook page extending the clubs condolences to Kalati's family.

"Amo was a devoted family man first and foremost. His cheeky sense of humour, big grin and even bigger heart will truly be missed."

Kalati represented Marist at premier level in the 2013 Fox Memorial and was involved in his eldest son's team.

The dad also ran an "amazing homework club" for the Marist Saints junior international grades as well as coaching his youngest son's team.

Kalati's family have declined to comment at this stage.

Earlier this week, [current and former Ports of Auckland staff made claims](#) about the organisation's handling of Kalati's death and concerns around safety.

A current worker at the port, who Stuff agreed not to name, claimed staff who arrived at the terminal near where the man died on the ship were told to continue working, just five hours after the incident.

The wharfie said he felt this was the "ultimate disrespect" to his dead colleague's family to continue work while the crushed body still lay on the ship.

"To me it's tapu. It's sacred and just bad luck."

Former wharfie Saul Parks also told *Stuff* he narrowly avoided the same fate as Kalati.

A Ports of Auckland spokesman previously said at no time were staff ordered to continue work after the incident or expected to continue against their wishes.

But it has apologised for some of what was said to staff the morning after the incident, which one worker alleged included a comparison to how police continued working after the recent death of a police officer.

A [Givealittle](#) page has been set up by Kalati's wife's brother to support the family.

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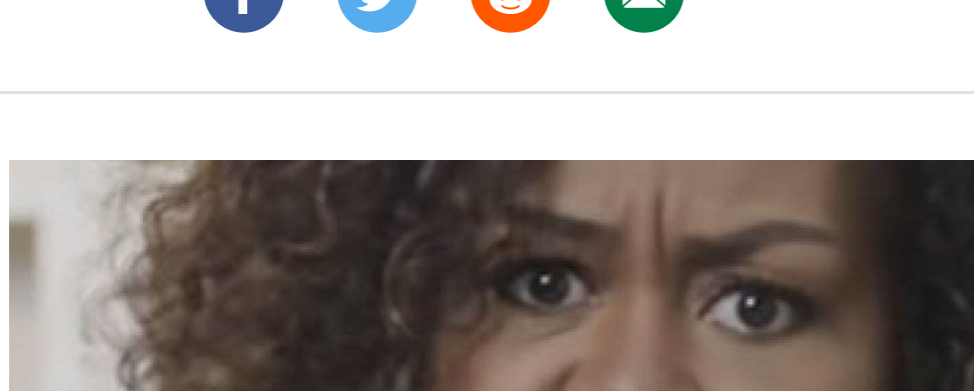
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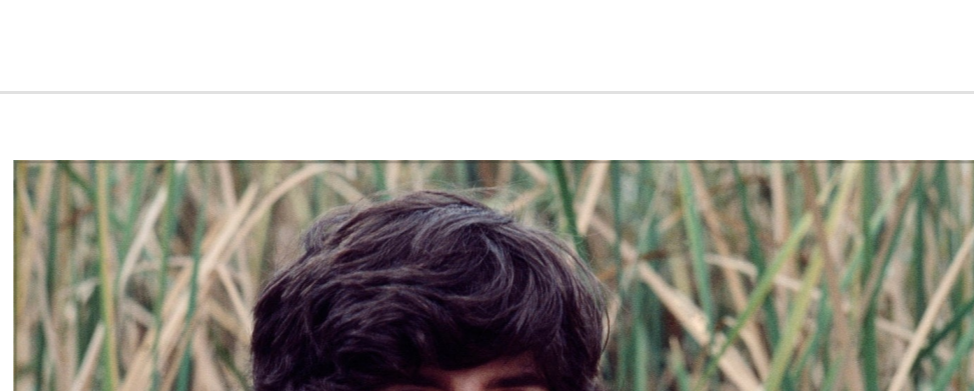
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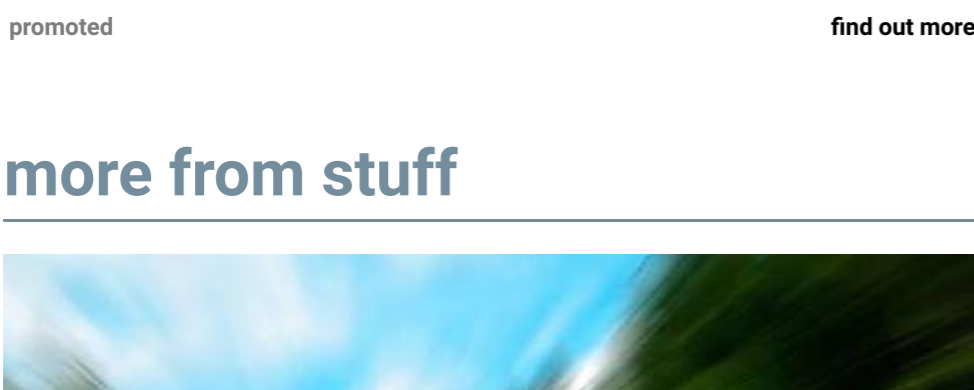
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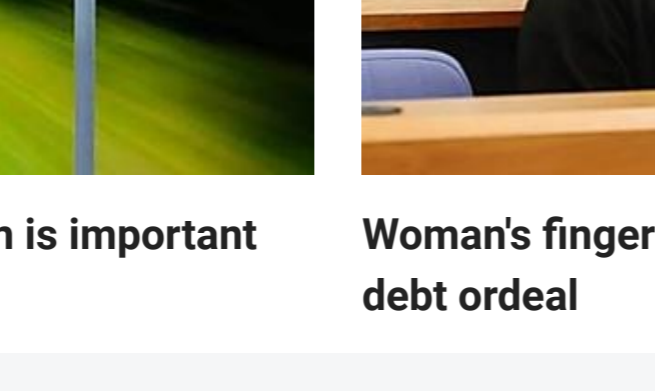
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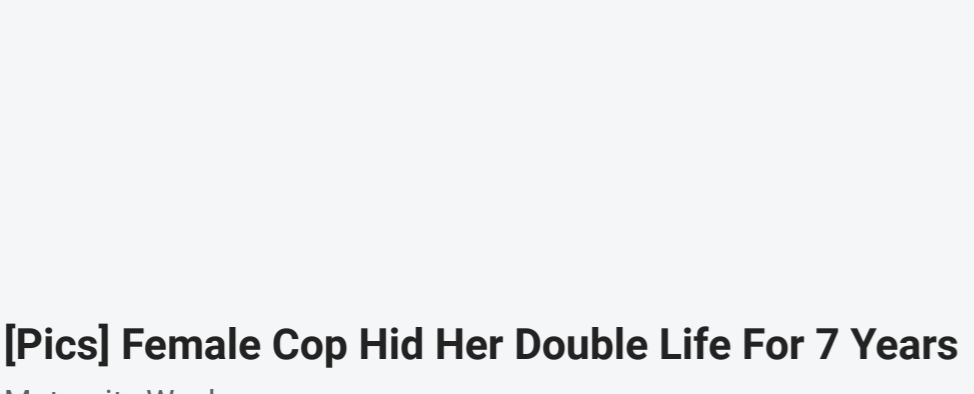
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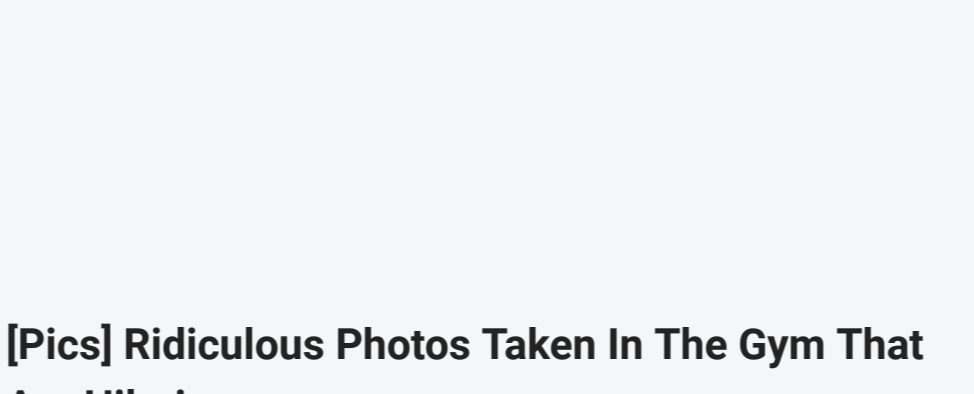
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