

# Brutality incident an 'embarrassment'

2013-03-15 22:11



Johannesburg - Police officers should be working with communities to fight crime within the framework of the law, and not abuse the law, Police Minister **Nathi Mthethwa** said on Friday.

"We must all of us, as society, mobilise and sustain a campaign against any allegations of police brutality and lawlessness across all spheres of society," he said in a statement.

"Critical in fighting crime is the campaign to weed out elements within the criminal justice system who are engaged in various acts of crime, even if it involves our own officers."

Mthethwa said the recent alleged police brutality incident in the North West was an embarrassment to the police service.

On Friday, a 36-year-old police officer accused of dragging an off-duty court interpreter alongside his car was charged with attempted murder, Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid) spokesperson Moses Dlamini said.

The sergeant, based at the Lomanyaneng police station in Mahikeng, North West, appeared in the Mmabatho Magistrate's Court on Friday.

The case was postponed to Wednesday for a formal bail application, said Dlamini.

Mthethwa welcomed the arrest of the officer by Ipid, and said officers should protect citizens in line with the Constitution.

"We condemn any act of police brutality, as such incidents are not what we want to see, or want to become accustomed to in a democracy that is bound by the rule of law and where we have many dedicated police officers who continue to serve with excellence."

Mthethwa urged the public to "afford the criminal justice system space to deal with the case", and said he had confidence that the courts would reveal the truth of what happened.

The officer was arrested on Thursday for allegedly assaulting a man in Setlopo Village and dragging him alongside a police vehicle.

The man, a court interpreter at the Molopo Magistrate's Court, was called over to the police vehicle after speaking to a boy who had allegedly been harassed by the same officers moments earlier.

"The driver grabbed the complainant by the neck and asked him if he knew what police were capable of these days. The policeman allegedly drove off and dragged the complainant for about 100 metres," Dlamini said.

The man suffered injuries to his feet and was taken to hospital by his neighbour.

The SA Police Union (Sapu) condemned the incidents of police brutality.

"The damage and embarrassment these incidents are causing to the police brand is so much that it will be extremely difficult to correct this situation," Sapu general secretary Oscar Skommere said in a statement.

Poor command and control in the SA Police Service was at an unacceptably high level. However, people should not generalise as not all police officers believed they were a law unto themselves.

"We have a small minority that is causing harm to the good image of the SAPS. Those few rotten elements will be dealt with accordingly," said Skommere.

Earlier this week, nine police officers were denied bail after being charged with murdering taxi driver Mido Macia, who was dragged behind a police vehicle in Daveyton, east of Johannesburg.

Macia was filmed being tied to the back of a police van and dragged along a street in Daveyton on 26 February. He was found dead in the local police station's holding cells hours later.

- SAPA



Jan Van Riebeeck - March 15, 2013 at 22:23

Report commentComments Policy

"we condemn" this "regrettable" action. We must "mobilise" and "engage" with the communities to prevent further "embarrassment".

Nathi, maybe you should do your job, or resign. Peel kop.

24

3

Reply to Jan Van Riebeeck | 1 comment (hide) | Delete



Sheperd Orl - March 16, 2013 at 08:00

Report commentComments Policy

I think it is time for the minister to resign...

0

1

| Delete



Mike Jones - March 15, 2013 at 22:31

Report commentComments Policy

So much embarrassment! I imagine the government can't wait for the Freedom of Information Bill to be implemented. Et voila - no more embarrassment.

23

0

Reply to Mike Jones | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



lacrimosewolf - March 15, 2013 at 22:32

Report commentComments Policy

Well what do we expect? That it should be outrageous, egregious, an indictment on SAPS? We're all heartily sick and tired of your "should", "must", "it cannot be". Tell us How and When you intend to solve the problem

20

0

Reply to lacrimosewolf | 2 comments (hide) | Delete



Feeble Gastro - March 15, 2013 at 22:57

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Rather how and when you SOLVED it.

4

0

| [Delete](#)



Edmirie Fourie - March 16, 2013 at 09:37

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Yes action is needed. Sick of this empty blah, blah, blah...

0

0

| [Delete](#)



John Smith - March 15, 2013 at 22:54

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Train the thick thug POLICE to become PEACE OFFICERS who maintain the PEACE and serve the people! from the minister to constables.

6

0

Reply to John Smith | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Ditoa-re Gypsy - March 15, 2013 at 23:07

Report commentComments Policy

Aaayi mani bayafana labosathane

0

1

Reply to Ditoa-re Gypsy | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Ditoa-re Gypsy - March 15, 2013 at 23:10

Report commentComments Policy

If I see a police van I will run for my life

8

0

Reply to Ditoa-re Gypsy | 1 comment (hide) | Delete



Bless Boswell - March 15, 2013 at 23:19

Report commentComments Policy

Hey, wait for me ...

4

0

| Delete



Ditoa-re Gypsy - March 15, 2013 at 23:22

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Yoh!! If they can toture another gov employee like that, who am I? They can make boerewors out of me.

5

1

[Reply to Ditoa-re Gypsy](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Bryan Culross - March 16, 2013 at 00:13

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Why should the police be any different to Zuma et al?

6

0

[Reply to Bryan Culross](#) | [2 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Climent Elvistro Makhuvele - March 16, 2013 at 01:09

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Pollice officers nowerdays days take law to their hands is like the power is on their hands which means we will all die just becoz of hatrecy

2

0

[Delete](#)



Dee Bone - March 16, 2013 at 05:23

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

fish rots from the head down

2

0

| Delete



joeballito - March 16, 2013 at 00:33

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

What these neanderthalls dont realise is that they should fire the culprits immediately and this arrogance would stop.No-one is held accountable,including the top brass,there lies the problem.

15

0

Reply to joeballito | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Truth.speak - March 16, 2013 at 01:22

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

This is what happens when you let low class human beings into positions of power

10

0

Reply to Truth.speak | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



popza.nzama - March 16, 2013 at 03:26

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Everything in life come in pairs.We have good police officers and bad police officers.Good police officers must be promoted and given position of power as a turn-around strategy.Police Unions must also be run by committed and exemplary police officers.It is high time that Police Unions show leadership by publicly rebuking officers who tarnish their image and take necessary steps to remove them from the police force.

4

1

Reply to popza.nzama | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Tello Moleko - March 16, 2013 at 04:59

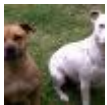
[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

i am police with ten years experience,what ive noticed is most blacks want to prove unknown point,racists and think they know better.most of them were not born during apartheid era but treat us as we were part of former police while we are on same age group,we black and white police were not there and dont know nothing about apartheid please.

5

2

Reply to Tello Moleko | 2 comments (hide) | Delete



Gary Doyle - March 16, 2013 at 05:21

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

So you are blaming apartheid now for police brutality and incompetence? You are assuming that all the citizens out there see you as an apartheid perpetrator and thus they treat you poorly as a policeman, that's crap! There are good policemen but alot haven't earned respect because of their own actions and incompetence in the public eye. Blaming the past for everything will only make things worse and you just look like another 1 shifting the responsibility.

2

7

| Delete



Eleanore Hill - March 16, 2013 at 09:01

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)



That's not what Tello said Gary. In a nutshell he is trying to say a lot of the new recruits have a major chip on their shoulder where they shouldn't have one.

0

1

| Delete



Gary Doyle - March 16, 2013 at 05:09

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Mthethwa trying to do alot of PR instead of tackling the root problem. Calling it an embarrassment and blaming a few bad cops but he's not taking responsibility like he should.

3

0

[Reply to Gary Doyle](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Steve Singers - March 16, 2013 at 05:15

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Less talk.....more action.

2

0

[Reply to Steve Singers](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



andrejv - March 16, 2013 at 05:45

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

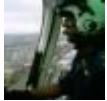
Start with the small and simple stuff. Show the public that you respect them. Fot instance- stick to traffic rules, keep left pass right, stop at stop streets, stop talking on your cellphones. I'm on the road the whole day and the blatant disregard for traffic rules tell me that you wont uphold any other

laws neither. Respect starts by firstly showing it and then earning it. Be an example and people might respect you.

4

2

Reply to andrejvv | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Vijen Lankesar - March 16, 2013 at 06:05

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

The reason why this is happening because this country has a serious lack of leadership.it emmates right from the president to govemantal org's like the saps.majority of top posts in saps are police who don't have the criteria to manage the placements they're in,as a result,discipline,morale,stress contributing factors come to play.its time this govt goes back to the drawing board

7

1

Reply to Vijen Lankesar | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Hazel Patronnellah - March 16, 2013 at 06:12

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

We are tired about this behavior, the pepertrators must rot in jail, we are no longer safe in their hands.

1

0

Reply to Hazel Patronnellah | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Erna Westdyk - March 16, 2013 at 06:52

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Unfortunately police brutality seems to be more prevalent than our 'esteemed' minister thinks, if one listens to how the public is treated by the police. Being dragged behind a police van isn't the only example of police brutality.

3

0

Reply to Erna Westdyk | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Tshepiso Diobe WakaMatambatshika - March 16, 2013 at 07:06

Report commentComments Policy

Its kinda embarrassing to think that u only think of the image of the police than the lifes of the citizens. This thing is happening everyday in many different forms, pity none of it is captured to expose these dogs. SAPS needs a lot of training to be competent to do their job with confidence without defeating the hands of law.

6

1

Reply to Tshepiso Diobe WakaMatambatshika | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Peter Zylstra - March 16, 2013 at 07:34

Report commentComments Policy

The biggest embarresment is nathi and his mob of untrained, uneducated so called police servicea. They are a disgrace to SA and should all be fired!

2

0

Reply to Peter Zylstra | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Ndangah-Brumilda Shedni Mmberegeni - March 16, 2013 at 07:42

Report commentComments Policy

If the image of police is embarrassment, because of brutality incident, the minister what he do is talking nd national commissioner, don't you think mistake was made by the government , by appointing people who knows nothing about police, eg, national commissioner,nathi mthethwa, look at the stracture of marikana nd look what happen, if nathi mthethwa nd president did go and adress the public do you situation will get out of hands, today they can even answer who gave the oder?shoot!. The srike of th farm workers, burning of roads,fraud and corruption in our government,abusing of public money, who is perfect , mybe nathi nd phinyega must wear uniform nd get out from the office and shows the community, how must police treat suspect nd people in the community, and all of you , you will then see how many criminal cases are they gona have, stop talking abr wat hapen , get a solution

3

0

Reply to Ndangah-Brumilda Shedni Mmberegeni | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Rhulani - March 16, 2013 at 07:43

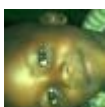
[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Honestly I hate police officers

1

0

Reply to Rhulani | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Thulasizwe Khumalo - March 16, 2013 at 08:01

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Let us all try to respect each other.

2

1

Reply to Thulasizwe Khumalo | 2 comments (hide) | Delete



Farzana Rahiman - March 16, 2013 at 08:26

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

respect is earned, ur saps and minister doesNt have respect for any1- as he does nothing! so i wont- as many others

2

0

[| Delete](#)



Edmirie Fourie - March 16, 2013 at 09:17

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Sorry I can't respect criminals and bullies.

0

0

[| Delete](#)



Tshepo Maredi - March 16, 2013 at 08:05

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

I get pretty annoyed when the word condemn is used in a statement, as though that automatically makes the problem dealt with and we're forced to be pacified. The SAPS is in shambles and the minister together with the commissioner never seem to clearly say what they're doing about it. It's sad to have to wonder if police officers will ever use me for their own amusement.

3

0

[Reply to Tshepo Maredi](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Errol Wagner - March 16, 2013 at 08:12

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

The minister should take responsibility. In another country he would have resigned a long time ago. But these politicians are good with words but when it comes to responsibility and action, they are sadly found wanting.

0

0

[Reply to Errol Wagner](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Desmond Webster - March 16, 2013 at 08:17

[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

Embarrasment is when you make a faux pas in public.Killing some one is a tragedy.Regret is when you could do something but did nothing!!Our whole system is embarrassing and regrettable

0

0

[Reply to Desmond Webster](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Deon Haasbroek - March 16, 2013 at 08:31

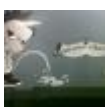
[Report comment](#)[Comments Policy](#)

I am a police constable.I worked in Jhb and then moved to a small town in easterncape. The police station where I work now is a total disgrace.....I wish the useless Nathi mtetwa wants to come and see what is going on here...

2

2

[Reply to Deon Haasbroek](#) | [1 comment \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Nizole Middle-Finger Khala - March 16, 2013 at 10:00

Report commentComments Policy

@Hassie, I'm sure that you've heard of the word POPCRU in your work area unless that you are still a casual in a police department. Also if you are the casual then a Bargaining Council is there for you and stop embarrassing yourself by thinking that you will try and expose Nathi on the media. There you are wrong Deon and that sometimes can put you in trouble.

0

0

| Delete



Nizole Middle-Finger Khala - March 16, 2013 at 08:32

Report commentComments Policy

I'm so scared of the policemen!

0

0

Reply to Nizole Middle-Finger Khala | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



wonga.m.tola - March 16, 2013 at 08:46

Report commentComments Policy

I feel very unsafe in my own country, even with the presence of the Popos. Last night I was so frightened when I saw a police van. I thought to myself, what if those idiots approach me and DRAG me for no apparent reason?? Hehehe bullies these days come in uniform. Blue uniform bullies.

0

0

Reply to wonga.m.tola | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



ANASKA - March 16, 2013 at 08:57

Report commentComments Policy

Mthethwa please do not use the words "alleged police brutality" when you are fully aware the SAPS is incapable of creating a safe South Africa - POLICE BRUTALITY IS A DAILY OCCURENCE - Wake up!!!!

0

0

Reply to ANASKA | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Altus Kirsten - March 16, 2013 at 09:00

Report commentComments Policy

A lot of talk, but no action. Keep warming that chair minister. That is all you are good at...sitting on your hands.

0

0

Reply to Altus Kirsten | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Nizole Middle-Finger Khala - March 16, 2013 at 09:28

Report commentComments Policy

I will disown my children if they want to join the police force!!

0

0

Reply to Nizole Middle-Finger Khala | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



mantlekilo - March 16, 2013 at 09:34

Report commentComments Policy

People in position of power and authority and who are found to have abused these positions and responsibilities should be subjected to harsher punishments. It is also time to change the name of



Correctional Services to Department of Punishment Centres and let them live up to their new moniker. Statistics prove that very little correcting takes place anyway.....

0

0

Reply to mantlekilo | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



HeinrichVenter - March 16, 2013 at 09:43

Report commentComments Policy

How do they expect police officers to act accordingly when they don't even come close to setting a good example?

0

0

Reply to HeinrichVenter | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



HeinrichVenter - March 16, 2013 at 09:44

Report commentComments Policy

Amen

0

0

Reply to HeinrichVenter | 0 comments (hide) | Delete

Logout

Comment 1500 characters remaining



Share on Facebook



Share on Twitter



Loading comments...