

DA shocked by police brutality

2013-03-15 17:27



Johannesburg - The DA says it is shocked by the latest case of alleged police brutality, in which a court interpreter was dragged alongside a car for 100m in Setlopo Village, Mahikeng, in North West.

DA MP Dianne Kohler Barnard said on Friday that President **Jacob Zuma** and Police Minister **Nathi Mthethwa** had failed to show leadership on the issue.

"The [SA Police Service] is past crisis point, and the South African public must know that the president and the SAPS leadership take this matter seriously."

She said there had been no response from Zuma on a call for the establishment of a judicial commission of inquiry into police brutality.

"Since our request for this commission more than a week ago, there has been no action from the president."

Earlier on Friday, Mthethwa's spokesperson Zweli Mnisi told SABC radio news that the incident was embarrassing and disgusting.

He said the "issue of command and control" at police stations needed to be looked at.

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) said on Thursday that a North West police officer had been arrested for allegedly assaulting a man in Setlopo Village in Mahikeng, and dragging him alongside a police vehicle.

The man, a court interpreter at 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.

A 36-year-old sergeant was arrested on Wednesday, and was due to appear in court on Friday, said IPID spokesperson Moses Dlamini.

- SAPA

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Anthony Hooper - March 15, 2013 at 17:33

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I've stated countless times: bring back studies into the police. They get promoted after writing exams. We will get a better more educated policeman.

The exams were stopped to redress the wrongs and balance the race rank structure.

It's been 19 years. Make them study for rank now! Their current training they receive is pathetic. Study it up...

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Colin Taylor - March 15, 2013 at 17:52

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Back in the good old days a policeman had to have matric maths and science to be accepted into the SAPS. Now you just have to be illiterate, overweight/unfit, xenophobic, corrupt, immoral etc etc... There are a handful of professional and hardworking cops in the force who are getting a bad reputation due to the pathetic recruitment and training process as well as the lack of discipline and punishment... Its a frikken joke.

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Patrick Mettle - March 15, 2013 at 17:57

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How can anyone expect a SAPS applicant to have matric or write exams when the president can't read? Examples are set by the leaders. Get away with fraud, corruption and get off with medical parole. If u can be a president with a std 6 why not a cop with folkall?

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Keg - March 15, 2013 at 18:08

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It's lucrative being a cop now. Can make too much money and do what you want, corrupt from the top down. Should all be axed and start again

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Bryan Culross - March 15, 2013 at 18:16

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If you only need a Std 4 or 6 or whatever to be president why do u need to be educated to be a policeman? Judging by the standard required for president it would seem that passing grade 1 is all that would be necessary for a policemen - in South Africa, at least.

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Enlightened Bowman - March 16, 2013 at 11:54

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you want to make them study and pass and exam, presumably, judging by your attitude, 30 % won't be a pass mark?

I think you're a racist with misplaced expectations that can not apply to this country or, continent for that matters sake.

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Muziwandile Sensei-Kaosu Twala - March 15, 2013 at 17:45

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Stupid pigs are draggin wrong folks.....Why dnt yu drag a murderer or rapist n see if we care.

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Keg - March 15, 2013 at 18:13

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To catch them takes some work and well.....

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Rsa Webs - March 15, 2013 at 17:46

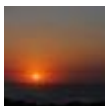
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Shocked?

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Harry Boesman - March 15, 2013 at 21:02

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Duh?

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Glenda Gert - March 15, 2013 at 17:47

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The DA will blame attack Zuma at every chance they get. Should Zuma go to the loo he will be attacked. FFS the man has been arrested what more do you want? I said it before, this woman is a media attention seeker nxa

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Sheperd Orl - March 15, 2013 at 18:05

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The DA has a role, which is to oppose the ruling party, whether right or wrong they just oppose.

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Keg - March 15, 2013 at 18:05

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He is the leader of this country so who else's fault is it? If he can't control his "employees" the buck stops with him. Where do you live lala land?

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Mantsho Tlali - March 15, 2013 at 18:54

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@Glenda Gert

Your incompetent, Do you know the Role of the Opposition Parties ? Go and Google and stop complaining about wrong people, A man was dragged and this is not the first time, it is Zuma's fault, He cannot solve any problem as soon as possible.

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Erna Westdyk - March 15, 2013 at 21:17

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@glenda gert - you just don't get it do yot? The simple fact that the police are bullying the people is a huge problem.

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Roelf En Susanne Marè - March 15, 2013 at 17:52

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@ Hooper : I agree 100%.The Min of Police admitted that there's not enough money for education and no money to teach policemen how to handle a firearm! What can we expect trustworthy cops! The new generation cops are a bunch of uneducated hooligans who are given a right to do anything also to do murder!

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Erna Westdyk - March 15, 2013 at 21:12

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We all know there's plenty of money. It's just not spent efficiently.

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Keg - March 15, 2013 at 18:02

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If the only reason you are a policeman is because it is a job you need to resign NOW!!! A policeman's job is to serve, protect and apprehend criminals if you are not willing to do any of these the you need to move. Days are gone when the public admires and respects the Police Force. Unfortunately the bad cops are the rule and not the exception

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Garth Labuschagne - March 15, 2013 at 18:10

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Why work when you can sit on your backside all day losing dockets...

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Keg - March 15, 2013 at 18:20

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Exactly

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Simphiwe Spijo Nxumalo - March 15, 2013 at 18:10

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who ever is saying back in the old days police were educated please stop lying we have Captains and W/Os from the former SAPF who can't even take a statement in English they only know Afrikaans it is even worse when reading Standing Orders and this has nothing to do with education but ones mentality and behaviour... wake up south africa our Police Department is a ticking time bomb there is a lot of bottled anger by police officers towards the government.

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Anthony Hooper - March 15, 2013 at 22:07

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Those current captains and warrant officers you refer to are also favours of free promotion pal, the one like us who wrote our diplomas serve as higher ranking officers.

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MastersVoice - March 15, 2013 at 18:11

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Our beloved president stands up in front of the world and declares our nation peaceful, while his police are murdering and stealing, women are being raped around every corner (it would seem), and his cronies are bleeding the country dry.

Our police are a shameful disgrace, and it is not surprising that we are sinking into a typical third-world excuse for a country!

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Terence Truter - March 15, 2013 at 18:18

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Well said my friend!

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Keg - March 15, 2013 at 18:21

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That poephhol doesn't know his elbow from his butt

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Thami Kraai - March 15, 2013 at 18:25

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This is ridiculous Phiyega should stop crying

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Madoda Yuri Siqebengu - March 15, 2013 at 18:29

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All of this will lead to SA citizens arming themselves against these KILLER POLICE.

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Mantsho Tlali - March 15, 2013 at 18:44

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Like it or not, Apartheid was not good, but its government was the best for South Africa, people were safe, women and children were better protected. The government was serious about people safety and their environment. This one we have now of ANC, is weak, corrupt and incompetent, nobody take it seriously, except their uneducated voters. And they are the one who suffer more than anyone.

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Ndlovu Khanyisani - March 15, 2013 at 18:50

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DA will always blame Zuma n always for nothing when policemen are killed in the line of duty who are you blaming then, come on people we have heartless criminals out there who will shoot at police at no cost but still blame Zuma for what, he is not a police. Just give them inservice training on how to handle such situation before you make comments then we will know what code have been breach.

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Mpho Muchana - March 15, 2013 at 19:06

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Zuma has nothing to do about the police , there are people who are in charger and the must deal with those thugs

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Tersia Louw - March 15, 2013 at 23:29

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Zuma is supposed to be in charge...

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alananthonygreen - March 15, 2013 at 19:15

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Oh my! They are shocked. Stop the presses

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Thando MakaLethu Mazibuko - March 15, 2013 at 19:19

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So now the DA also wants to pull the #iblametheANC card? Why am I not surprised? *yawn*

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Erna Westdyk - March 15, 2013 at 21:07

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So who, as far as you are concerned, is to blame?

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Keg - March 16, 2013 at 09:07

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Who runs this country? The ANC how does this not make sense. Does your loyalty blind you that much. Sheep?

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John Smith - March 15, 2013 at 19:23

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Now I see why cops get attacked.

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Sipho Mnguni - March 15, 2013 at 19:34

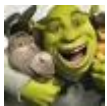
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Since Mido Macia's dragging and eventually death and this recently reported dragging I have been reading a lot of comments here with keen interest. Most of them claims that cops are uneducated and blah blah blah. I beg to differ. I have been a policeman for twenty-six years of my life. I have served under different Commissioners from under apartheid to democracy. What is being displayed by these rogue policemen is nothing new and has got nothing to do with education or obesity as some are alluding. It has got everything with personal idiosyncrasies. I am a final year LLB student and I am studying with a lot of policemen. I know a lot of policemen with more than on university degree. You are entitled to your opinions that policemen are uneducated, illiterate, obese and stupid. Fine! Perhaps I am inclined to agree with the DA on a judicial enquiry. It's not that I have never stopped by the police and encountered this police aggression and anger. The question that I have is why?

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Ravi T Reddy - March 15, 2013 at 20:27

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Hi Mnguni

I was a policeman, I had completed my LLB degree, had been admitted as an Advocate, and was told that I am not good enough to do anything but certify documents in the community service center. i eventually got fed up, as management refuse to listen, and even admonished me for teaching others during the night shift when it was quite. I am now a practicing Advocate of the High Court after completing my pupillage, and I for 1 can tell you that the standard police testimony is very poor, as a result many criminals are getting away. Please do not lose hope use your new found education to assist those that are less able. It is my opinion that the only reason these policemen behave in this manner is that they do not know better. They want to meet out justice which as you know is not their function. I know that sometimes you have senior management that is so incompetent that it is painful, but remember your duty is not to serve management but the man on the street. Keep the faith.

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lacrimosewolf - March 15, 2013 at 20:29

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Well said Siphho. But people have been crying out in forums like these for years about harassment, brutality, incompetence. P'haps it is not the correct forum but once the trust has been broken, very difficult to get people to file complaints. People's cries fall on deaf ears. "South Africa is safe", "disgusted", "embarrassed", "shocked", is all we get. As to the aggression and anger, yes the police live in a very violent world and can become de-humanised and disillusioned over time. Others are simply power-hungry sadists who now have a gun and a badge to exercise their dominion. Poor screening, poor training, poor monitoring, poor facilities overall. A lovely big gym doesn't quite meet what police as humans in a very unique job, need.

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Keg - March 16, 2013 at 09:18

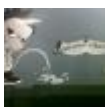
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Siphho good on you and Mr Reddy I agree with 99% of what you said, but they do things like this because they don't know better is not at all true. To drag someone behind a car and murder a detainee is not done because they didn't know better. They knew damn well what they were doing. They are power hungry, cruel and despicable people first and foremost these people should never be given a job in the SAP they need to be severely punished. There are great SAP members who do this job to serve their community with pride and want to better their country, most of the police officers out there are corrupt, evil and power hungry cowards who take advantage of people who fear rather than respect them, they are bullies on a power trip and need to be brought down to size. I blame the government for what is happening here, police officers should be severely tested mentally and physically before they are let onto the streets to serve us. I can gaurentee if you take the badges away from any of these cowards and let them stand face to face with their victims they would have the hiding of their lives. Cowards and an embarrassment to our country

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Nizole Middle-Finger Khala - March 15, 2013 at 19:36

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I don't feel safe anymore when I see the policeman!!

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manos.hadj - March 15, 2013 at 19:58

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That's because it is the anc fault.

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Peter Sabatha - March 15, 2013 at 20:01

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DA sucks.

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Erna Westdyk - March 15, 2013 at 20:59

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Not half as much as your anc.

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Tersia Louw - March 15, 2013 at 23:30

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Why do you say that, Peter?

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Thembinkosi Jozie - March 15, 2013 at 20:08

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What did u expect from zuma's police force with military ranks?Zuma and cwele have turned the police into a militia which is trained to protect zuma from prosecution and nothing else.Mthethwa piyega and jiba were appointed not to fight crime but to protect zuma from prosecution. After 1994 the police force was transformed to a police service. Then zuma turned it back to a police force and they were told to shoot to kill instead of arresting the suspects why are we surprised now?

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lacrimosewolf - March 15, 2013 at 20:34

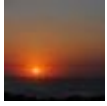
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To be fair, our police force has a very long history of being violent and violating human rights. It didn't help that two Chiefs of Police were caught out in extremely dodgy dealings. The sinister, dark-side of policing has been around a long time. There doesn't seem to be the will to correct this, rout out the bad elements, get rid of the policies, processes and procedures that lead to cover-ups etc. We are in a morass of despair; surrounded by crime and discovering that some of those who have promised to enforce the law are as criminal and violent. There is no trust any more.

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Harry Boesman - March 15, 2013 at 21:43

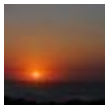
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Thembinkosi, I can see from your FaceBook profile what a Troll you are. Coward! Why don't you sign in under your real ID, so you may expose yourself for the frustrated political activist you are. You and your kind are forever polluting the news-site comments with your opposition-minded drivel. In short: Voertsek with your party-political verbosity! Why don't you start your own little political party. Then lose you deposit after the next by-election...

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Harry Boesman - March 15, 2013 at 21:34

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Being a policeperson is a CALLING, not a JOB. I know this, because I am an educator: One cannot resist and/or face the onslaughts of the detractors who constantly test your dedication and resolve unless you have the noble mission flowing through your veins. It has to be a major part of who you ARE, not merely what you DO. Police Officers who act in this way are not dedicated to a CALLING, but rather simply pursue a job-related career, or go after employment for the salary. Or, worse, they are power-hungry. In the horrible aftermath of the Apartheid history of sub-standard education and (white) job-reservation, I suppose we must expect this sort of phenomenon. It is a sad inheritance of our society's past, abhorrent though it may be. In the case in hand, if the alleged perpetrator is found guilty, hang him high. But, in recognition of our nauseating past, let us train those who are in the police force in the hope that we can access their consciences to make real, dedicated, policepersons of them. Who will actually serve the entire community, instead of themselves!

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Piero Mendace - March 15, 2013 at 21:37

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Maybe instead of criticising the Police we should dig a bit deeper and understand what is going on in this country. The Government had set a bad stage, we allow way to many foreigners into this country. The fact is whether it fits with our political image or not we cannot afford all these foreigners. Already one in four people are unemployed, why are we pretending we can afford all these people. This country is reaching very high stress levels and this is the result. This is not an action but rather a reaction to their feeling of helplessness. When they do their job they are criticised, when they don't they are criticised what do we want.

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Pfunzo Ddt Michael - March 15, 2013 at 23:24

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this is becoming a serious disease to police officials , is like they are no longer trained and commanded Mxm