

# Phiyega didn't know Marikana plan

2013-03-27 21:31



Rustenburg - National police chief **Riah Phiyega** was not in on a police plan to quell labour turbulence at Marikana mines, the Farlam Commission heard on Wednesday.

She revealed this while being cross-examined before the commission of inquiry into the events in North West in which the police shot dead 34 miners last year.

**George Bizos** SC, for the Legal Resources Centre and the Bench Marks Foundation, asked Phiyega: "Did you authorise the actions that were taken by the police on 16 August? Did you know the plan and the strategy and did you approve of it?"

She responded: "I did not participate in the plan. Those that had the responsibility to do so did. I did not know it."

Bizos asked: "You plead ignorance?"

The police commissioner said the command on the Marikana situation was handled by senior officers at a security joint operation command (JOC) centre.

"I know that there are people who must do the plan and they know the intricacies of it. These are the people who were in the JOC. I did not have to know those details," she said.

Bizos said: "Did you know the strategy was to be followed in pursuance of the [police intervention] plan?"

Phiyega responded: "I knew that whatever plan they had to do, they would do it within the prescripts, as they are supposed to do it.

"In my job, I did not need to know it [the plan]. I was not there on the 14th [of August, when the plan was drafted] and I didn't know what was in the plan, because I did not need to know."

Bizos asked Phiyega to explain why members of the police's tactical units outnumbered officers from the public order policing unit, which primarily deals with crowd control matters.

"As a leader of the police, wouldn't it be well-advised for you to ask why there were twice as many police officers, who are usually used in war-like situations, compared to those trained to manage crowds?" asked Bizos.

"Wouldn't that be an important question for you to ask: 'Why are all the warlike, killing people being invited in such numbers to Marikana?'"

**Ishmael Semenya**, for the police, objected, and said Bizos's questions to the witness were not warranted.

Semenya said units, including the tactical response team, the national intervention unit and the special task force, which were deployed to Marikana, were not "warlike units".

"They are not trained to kill people. They are trained for law enforcement," he submitted.

Phiyega said the tactical units were assigned to support the public order police (POP) officers.

"They were there to support [police] personnel when high risk confrontation situations occur on individual POP members or to work out situations," she said.

Bizos said the deployment of the tactical units was tantamount to "a declaration of war on around 3 000 South African citizens".

The cross-examination continues on Thursday.

On 16 August, 34 striking mineworkers were shot dead and 78 were injured when the police opened fire near Lonmin's platinum mine in Marikana.

Ten people, including two police officers and two security guards, were killed near the mine in the preceding week.



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Godfrey Welman - March 27, 2013 at 21:43

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Okay!!! there goes my team and I am suppose to be their leader. Just don't ask me what they plan, its not my business, I am here to cover their mistakes and collect my pay and bonus.

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Jack Frost - March 27, 2013 at 23:46

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Even if she did know it she wouldn't have understood it, because she is no good at quizzes. She's just the leader. You know who her role model is don't you?

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Teh Bhungane Hadebe - March 27, 2013 at 21:44

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Phiyeka was never a police nor security expert but a business minded woman who needs to be released from her duties to adventure herself in the field of her own studies

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WildCatSal - March 27, 2013 at 21:47

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Are you dead stupid or what..? Just another pawn in the wall!

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Fezile Russ - March 27, 2013 at 22:22

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EASY WILDCAT EASY MAN !!

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Zanny Brown Mthombeni - March 27, 2013 at 21:59

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Mrs Phiyega you need to have a plan cause your people are out of order, and if you don't know a plan in Marikana know April 2013 what Do you mean be serious Mama if you can't step down their a people who are will to make SA a better country.

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Erna Westdyk - March 27, 2013 at 22:00

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Why do we have a police commissioner and minister if they have no responsibility or accountability? Seems a bit of an overkill.

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Fezile Russ - March 27, 2013 at 22:01

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THIS IS A NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF I FOR ONE I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS SHE HIDING PPL I KNOW WHY TO KEEP HER JOB

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Mohaola Keke - March 27, 2013 at 22:02

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Can anyone tell me the duties of a police commissioner .

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Thembinkosi Jozie - March 27, 2013 at 22:58

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The commissioner is like a couch of a football team. So in this case the captain drew a game plan and executed it without the couch. No wonder we r not getting straight answers from the couch now

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dave.elmore.5 - March 27, 2013 at 22:03

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Whether you are for or against Bizos, he is asking some seriously pointed questions and the answers are coming up empty handed

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Jimmy Don - March 27, 2013 at 22:05

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Yes, all the inconvenient details are starting to emerge & surface now during the so called commission and it's clear that this lady is unfortunately totally out of her depth, incompetent and ignorant to say the least regarding her portfolio. Nevertheless the barbaric actions of the miners invited a barbaric response from the SAPS and that is exactly what they got in the end, case closed

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CliveK - March 27, 2013 at 22:07

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This once again highlights the stupidity of a non-cop being appointed to the top job in SAPS. What could she possibly have contributed to any discussion on the tactics to be used in quelling the volatile situation at Marikana? Absolutely niks, zilch, bugger all. This woman should do the honourable thing and tell the pres and her minister that she is totally unqualified for this job and that she will resign. Then perhaps Mr Pres will finally admit that appointing an ANC cadre to such a critical and specialised post is futile, and he will ask his minister to find a competent, honest and experienced cop to appoint as commissioner. Surely there are some left in SAPS? The current incumbent is heading to be an even worse disaster than her two predecessors.

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Jack Frost - March 27, 2013 at 23:48

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Like a non President being appointed to the role of President?

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blessing.khumalo.90 - March 27, 2013 at 22:08

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She did not know anything about policing since day one

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Org Potgieter - March 27, 2013 at 22:16

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She also admitted it, yet accepted  
and was appointed. Go figure.

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blissing.khumalo.90 - March 27, 2013 at 22:11

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Save the countries money and stop this commision it is clear the unruly babaric miners + insane blood thirsty police resulted in the loss of lives period

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Bee.honest - March 28, 2013 at 05:57

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I agree with you. It will end with no result and is a waste of time and money.

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Tso Waka Mokoena - March 27, 2013 at 22:15

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It wasn't necessary 4 her to knw the plan because,there are people who are responsible (JOC) 4 that kind of plans nd when 2 execute them....Mam Ria I so wish dat I could hear ur IOs testifying like u did 2day

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Eugenia Langa - March 27, 2013 at 22:29

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You are right Tso Shame I feel sorry for her.

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Nikki Dross - March 27, 2013 at 22:17

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1st it was Jackie Selebi the Mafia, then it was Bheki Cele the Cowboy, and now this Phiyega  
.....nc nc nc nc nc!!

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Ndumiso Mabaso - March 27, 2013 at 22:31

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to be honest i still value Mr Cele cos he made a change in the police force and to substantiate this, even criminals in the location were scared of him and his trt force. That also brought about low statistics in crime. Yet he was taken out on a job well done and replaced by a madam oops

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Charmaine McDonald - March 27, 2013 at 23:02

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If she said that she did not know about the plan, then she was not updated by the department in charge of drawing up the Plans of Action in these types of situations. She cannot be held responsible for other departments failures. As a WOMAN, she is doing the best she can to sort out the MESS that

the men were Assigned to do. South Africans must remember that Men cannot lead the Way Forward, and Understand that the Women are trying their best to "Clean Up" This Woman took the Oath to Serve God and The People. If you people have nothing nice to say, please keep your negative comments about my sister Riah, to yourselves. In Jesus Name, Amen.

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Benny Magedi - March 27, 2013 at 23:20

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you cant take a normal westernised lady and appoint her as a police co0mmander in sa

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Cane Corso - March 27, 2013 at 23:35

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There was no plan. This lady is falling on her sword to save her superiors. But not to worry. She will receive a golden handshake on her way to bungle up some other ministry like so many are doing right now.

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Bongsi Mjeza - March 28, 2013 at 01:13

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just that you guys r commenting but u on where not. if i where in her shoes,i would have done the same. miners where very dangerous with no one to stop them. i'm a miner myself, i was here though i wasn't part of the strike

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Chikomborero Dumba - March 28, 2013 at 06:02

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You have obviously never been a LEADER Charmaine and you know NOTHING about RESPONSIBILITY and ACCOUNTABILITY.

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Chikomborero Dumba - March 28, 2013 at 06:04

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This headline should read "Phiyega doesnt know the plan".

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Reply to Chikomborero Dumba | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



James Ilukena - March 28, 2013 at 06:19

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She was busy making love

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