

Phiyega doesn't know how plan failed

2013-04-04 22:45



Rustenburg - National police commissioner **Riah Phiyega** does not know how the police's plan to disperse striking Marikana mineworkers failed, the Farlam Commission of Inquiry heard on Thursday.

Police shot dead 34 mineworkers during a wage-related strike at Lonmin's platinum mine on 16 August last year.

Dali Mpofu, for the injured and arrested miners, said when Phiyega was previously questioned she said the police had a plan in place, but that it failed because it was disrupted. Mpofu asked Phiyega to explain how, and at what point, the disruption occurred.

"Let me not contaminate that space," Phiyega replied.

"The people who were there can give you [an account] of what happened."

Mpofu said Phiyega's answer suggested she did not know how the plan failed. He quizzed her on why police had not warned protesters of their intentions [to use live bullets, water cannons, rubber bullets, and stun grenades].

Apartheid police would give warnings prior to an attack and give demonstrators time to disperse before they acted, Mpofu said.

Phiyega said police had not been given a chance to communicate their plan to the miners.

"Part of the plan would have been for the cops to place the barbed wire, call the protesters and get them to place their weapons down, but the plan was disrupted," said Phiyega.

Mpofu asked how long it would have taken the police to warn the protesters what would happen if they failed to surrender their weapons and disperse.

Plan disrupted

In answering the question, Phiyega accidentally called Mpofu by his first name.

"Dali...", she began, before laughing at what she had said. Starting his cross-examination on Thursday, Mpofu pointed out that he knew Phiyega in a greater capacity than him being a lawyer.

"Advocate Mpofu, our plan was usurped," she finally said when she answered the question.

"That the plan was disrupted was a fact that I stand by."

A member of the public attending the hearings, being held in Rustenburg, shook his head in disagreement and uttered words of dissatisfaction at Phiyega's response.

She previously told the commission that what happened at Marikana was regrettable and unprecedented.

On Thursday, she clarified that everything prior to the shooting had a precedent and police had been planning to handle Marikana the same way they had dealt with other protests and events.

"In the morning, the situation was not unprecedented because an assessment [of the situation] had been done... Threat assessment progressed and that was taken into consideration before a plan was made."

She said snipers were deployed during the 2010 World Cup even though it was a peaceful event.

There was therefore nothing new in special task teams, national intervention unit and tactical response teams being sent to Marikana.

Phiyega's cross-examination was expected to continue on Friday.



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Trudi Roos Potter - April 4, 2013 at 23:00

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What does she and Minister of Defense do in their positions. Both are publicly saying they did not know what to do. And black people are dying. It is a disgrace. Nearly 20 years after they took over?

12

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phello.khiba - April 4, 2013 at 23:24

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she 1nce said u dnt have 2 b a drunkcard,2 own a tavern..she was wrong..u must b from the field of saps,2 answer mpofu's questions..its bad 2 b a political appointee,no interview.

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Ray Syst - April 5, 2013 at 00:34

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@phello.khiba - As I start reading your comment "she 1nce said u dnt have 2 b a drunkcard..." I stopped before reading the rest! Seriously!! Is this what SA education has done for you! Shame!

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Mpho Kgobane - April 5, 2013 at 05:20

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The thng is tht the anc govt is jst lyk any ada in the world.its a fact tht our govt is franchise prototype of western style of govt.tht being said we proud black ppl r nt ashamed to concede tht the lyks of zuma,malema,mbeki,mandela nd ada so cald powerful anc leaders lyk sexwale,ramaphosa etc were nd r stil groomed by tricky self-serving pale humanoids.they make sure tht their pupets feel the false sense of superiority nd make sure ths pupets r alienatd 4rm their ppl.its a closed net of a handful chosen so its nt suprising the minister hav no idea wat went wrng.she dusnt knw tht SA soldiers unknwngly wer protecting the financial interests of the zumas nd guptas families nd nt military asets as oficaly stated.how cn u protect military asets dat u donatd to CAR,such as the military

vehicles. White ppl behind the advice to the zumas to deploy troops to car knew tht thrz a certain level of trust between african countries nd by tht they cn go in diplomatically fronting their financial interest thru companies named imperial or aurora etc to get diamonds. the game is rigged. we cn complain as much as we want bt the fact is tht by doing tht we mask our self pity of nt being in tht closed net. so jst shut up nd jst keep downtroding the impoverishd blks nd it wil make u feel beta abt urselves. life is jst a game dnt take it too seriously

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george.mabena.146 - April 5, 2013 at 05:21

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@Ray syst spelling drunkard wrong doesn't make one a stupid. Anyhow he is much clever because the language that he is writing in is not his mother tongue. Speaking english fluently doesn't mean one is clever than the other, so beat it Ray.

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Ian Despy - April 4, 2013 at 23:12

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Who actualy does know anything in the cANCer government.....pray tell

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Carmen Coetzee - April 4, 2013 at 23:26

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shame i feel very sorry for her, she is in lava seat and seem to burning. she knows how hot hell is....she should just resign and enjoy the kitchen.

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Erna Westdyk - April 4, 2013 at 23:48

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She's being grilled.

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Tersia Louw - April 4, 2013 at 23:33

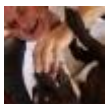
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Astonishing she doesn't know how the plan failed, even with the benefit of hindsight. Heaven help us.

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Ernest Foster - April 4, 2013 at 23:34

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One of the most common exclamations in the new SA "I DONT KNOW"

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Graeme Stockwell - April 5, 2013 at 06:24

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immediately after Eish - and Its not my Fault!

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Erna Westdyk - April 4, 2013 at 23:44

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Let me not contaminate that space, Phiyega replied. What on earth does she mean by that. Trying to fudge the issue with funny language!

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Cane Corso - April 4, 2013 at 23:54

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Groot woorde wat nie sin maak. Kyk, die aap praat. Wat moet ons nou met ons monde oop staan. Donners beledigend dat hul dink ons is so dom om hul twak te glo.

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Cane Corso - April 4, 2013 at 23:57

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Another one caught talking pure crapola. And these are the ones in the news. How many of da menestas, mec's and heads of departments are this utterly INCOMPETENT!?

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Cane Corso - April 5, 2013 at 00:15

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Eh, sorry!? What plen??? Nelson help us...

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pietopper - April 5, 2013 at 01:21

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Please do "contaminate that space". Start off by telling us exactly what the "plan" was, and how the "plan" involved live ammunition. Who was to give the order to use the live ammunition? Under what circumstances?

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precious.yummyum - April 5, 2013 at 05:19

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Phiyega has just been a disgrace in all her testimony. Who doesn't read a piece of paper before signing it? I hope she comes to a point where she at least admits to her short comings that may have led to this whole thing turning deadly.

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Tlotlo Phele - April 5, 2013 at 05:39

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True Mpho

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Tlotlo Phele - April 5, 2013 at 05:42

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Mpufu is just being a lawyer , being technical and all , we all saw the video and can understand why cops panicked, so they must also grill unions for falling to control it's members

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Espanyol Molefe - April 5, 2013 at 05:56

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Mama pls step down, we all knw why u r in that position, because of mangaung, u knw nothing abt being a police

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Chikomborero Dumba - April 5, 2013 at 07:11

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Phiyega doesnt have a clue as to the requirements of being commissioner period!

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Kgoete Lephuru - April 5, 2013 at 07:15

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Okay, shall we start with what she knows first, which isn't much!! Half the time she always replies she didn't know this or that. Was she hiding under the bed when all this was happening??

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