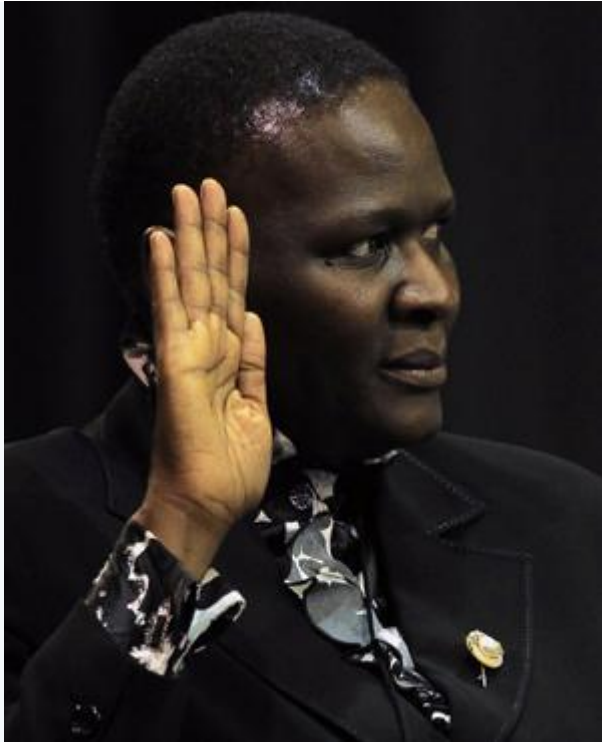


Plans to demilitarise police - Phiyega

2013-03-26 15:30



Rustenburg - National police chief **Riah Phiyega** said on Tuesday that plans were in place for the demilitarisation of the police under the National Development Plan (NDP).

She said this while being cross examined at the Farlam Commission of Inquiry in Rustenburg by evidence leader Mbuyiseli Madlanga, SC.

He asked her about efforts she had taken to bring the SA Police Service (SAPS) in line with recommendations contained in the NDP.

Reading several extracts of the plan, Madlanga said it called for "an urgent demilitarisation" of the police service.

"The re-militarisation of the police in recent years has not garnered greater community respect, nor has it secured high conviction rates," he read.

"Certainly, a paramilitary police force does not augur well for a capable developmental state.

"The commission believes that the police should be demilitarised. Do you see that?"

Phiyega agreed.

Madlanga continued reading: "Demilitarisation requires changes in the police insignia, military ranks and force orders, to create a civil police service as a first stage of community policing."

He then asked Phiyega to explain what steps she had taken, in a bid to employ the NDP's short term recommendations.

"We have noted the recommendations. We are engaging the NDP, looking at how we can implement those recommendations," she said.

Asked whether she agreed with the NDP recommendations, the police chief said: "I think you are asking me a binding and difficult question.

"I have said that the SAPS, like other sectors, have noted the recommendations and are looking at implementing them."

Chairperson of the three-member commission, retired judge **Ian Farlam**, urged Phiyega to answer the question.

She said: "It is difficult for me to say I agree or I don't agree. With certain reservations and discussions we will embrace the recommendations. It is a recommendation and we must embrace [it], we must find a way of working around it."

Madlanga asked: "Does that mean the SAPS is still studying the recommendation? Do you have a committee looking at the recommendation?"

Phiyega responded: "We are in the process of looking at the plan. In our main national management forum they have received letters from me, saying we will have a session to discuss this (NDP).

"This is work in progress. I am leading a team that is working on the matter."

Madlanga requested a copy of the letters.

The NDP is a product of the National Planning Commission, led by National Planning Minister Trevor Manuel, the ANC deputy president **Cyril Ramaphosa** and Business Leadership SA's Bobby Godsell.

Chaotic

Earlier, Phiyega said the police intervention plan for the troubled Marikana mines was good, but got disrupted during implementation.

Because of this disruption the outcome included the shooting deaths of 34 striking mineworkers, which was unintended, she told the commission.

Madlanga asked the police commissioner whether the police intervention at Marikana could be described as a success.

"Taking into account all the factors you have referred to, would you say that the operation was a success?" he said.

"On 16 August, we do know that 34 people were killed and more than 70 were injured.

"I want you to make a judgment and tell this commission whether based on the SA police Service's own tests, you can say the [Marikana] operation was a success?"

Phiyega said: "I think I need to be responsible when answering. I have said the plan was good, and it was disrupted.

"It is important for me to take all those issues into context.

"The outcome was intended. The plan was good, it was disrupted and we had an unintended outcome.

"We cannot have a simplified definition of success. It would be a broad definition of success."

Madlanga said the evidence-leading team would argue that the Marikana operation was chaotic and did not represent the best of responsible policing.

On 16 August last year 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.



zane.jacobsen - March 26, 2013 at 15:40

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Because having a military rank is the most important thing to worry about in the police.....

47

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[Reply to zane.jacobsen](#) | [10 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Alicialouise - March 26, 2013 at 15:49

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WHAT DOES THIS MEAN. IS PHIYEGA STILL IN CHARGE? GOODNESS WE CANNOT KEEP UP WITH ALL THESE CHANGES. WE ARE FALLING APART.

29

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| Delete



Adriaan Steyn - March 26, 2013 at 15:58

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yes indeed. How about the SAPS focus on catching criminals for a change?

30

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Revelgen - March 26, 2013 at 16:05

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Too true. Bheki Cele wanted to make himself a 'general', so he militarised the police. Fact. And so pathetic.

38

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Werner Nel - March 26, 2013 at 16:09

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Is it just me but when I look at the photo of Riah, and I don't "see" intelligence beaming from that face.

41

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Buzzbar - March 26, 2013 at 16:25

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These idiots (ad police commissioners). Cannot make up their minds. In 94 they demilitarized the police and changed is to a "service" with ranks like superintendent, commissioner etc... Then the saps turned to \$h1t and brave Bheki (cele) decided to demilitarize the police in an attempt to restore discipline (this in 2010). Now after 2 years it's back to being demilitarized.... The question is, who is getting the tender for the new rank badges and uniform accessories? How much will this cost the taxpayer again? Think of all the documents and system changes that now have to be changed AGAIN to accommodate this...

21

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[| Delete](#)



Neill Le Roux - March 26, 2013 at 16:27

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Does anyone realize the cost implications for demilitarization this if I am correct has now happened 3 times since the cANCer has taken over. I suppose millions of Rands of the tax payers everytime they do this.

Demilitarization Militarization Demilitarization Militarization Demilitarization Militarization. Cost cost cost cost Money money money money.

15

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[| Delete](#)



Art Brigg - March 26, 2013 at 16:32

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Hmmm. Wonder who gets the tender to redesign all the new stuff.

9

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| Delete



Andre Van Deventer - March 26, 2013 at 16:34

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Demilitarizing the police will lead to more ill discipline and more injustices because there will be less command structure and rules !

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Tums Down - March 26, 2013 at 16:45

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Eish, she didn't even read the NDP, but she "leads a team" that is working on the matter.. In other words, the team are also not done reading it..

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Kent Paulsen - March 26, 2013 at 17:22

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Nobody in the ANC, even our prez, read the NDP.

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Carl Davis - March 26, 2013 at 15:41

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Déjà vu...Have we not seen this a few years ago (and not all of the current SAPS members were issued with the "new" insignia. Come on, what do you want? Should we use the military (once they are back in SA from guarding "South African assets"))?

18

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Erich Goosen - March 26, 2013 at 16:36

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I am risking being labelled ignorant but have a problem with what demilitarisation will entail. Does it mean that less emphasis will be placed on discipline and physical fitness, more emphasis on human relations and community interaction. This exercise was conducted under the auspices of a previous Minister and Commissioner but did not yield visible signs of improvement. Will candidate policemen and women be screened better and will more advanced psychometrical testing be done. Will candidates of calibre be sacrificed merely to adhere to racial quotas? What will happen to the large percentage of police officers already employed who clearly do not meet the new requirements? Will the fast-tracking of promotion of police officers to senior positions still go on despite clear indications that some of them are seriously lacking leadership qualities? Ms Phiyega I think you should realise by now that there is a daunting task ahead which will require more grey matter than what you and Mthethwa can jointly muster.

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Jurie Nel - March 26, 2013 at 16:55

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Erich, I do not have answers for you. What I do see, however, is that when inept people are put into responsible positions, they seldom focus on the important issues - they tend to focus on the cosmetic issues, if they focus at all. I believe that we will see no improvement in any situation for as long as people are appointed to positions based on their political connections rather than on their suitability for those positions.

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Fikile Jantjies - March 26, 2013 at 15:47

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You got to love and respect the evidence leader! It is difficult to get oneself out of something you know you did intentionally. What SAPS does not understand is that our brothers were involved in this operation and they shared with us prima facie info of what happened on that day! It is only fair for people to own up and face the consequences, if any.

11

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Buntu Ludidi Two-Colour - March 26, 2013 at 15:47

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it is clear that Police Commissioner had filled big shoes that really need experience. The reputation of SAPS is not as good as it should be. We need leaders who really care about people of this country, I am sure that there might be areas where Ria could excel but that area is Police Department

7

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Jurie Nel - March 26, 2013 at 16:58

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What do you actually mean? Your second sentence is the only one which does not contain a contradiction. And it in itself is a pipe dream, under the current regime.

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Chikomborero Dumba - March 26, 2013 at 15:50

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Political appointee indeed. Says plenty of nothings, doesnt take responsibility, only wants to save her skin. Shame man!

22

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[Reply to Chikomborero Dumba](#) | [1 comment \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Jurie Nel - March 26, 2013 at 16:59

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Exactly. But I do pity her at the moment - she simply MUST see how incompetent she actually is.

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nicholus.nakanyane - March 26, 2013 at 15:52

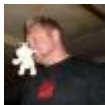
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This government is dead confused..they have no clue what theyre doing..this is exactly why other countries have rebels..rebellng against stupidity and tyranny..tlogang moo go tsene batho ba sa tlholegeng.

28

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[Reply to nicholus.nakanyane](#) | [4 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Heini Botes - March 26, 2013 at 16:04

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I agree with you whole heartedly....My question to you is: We all know those in government are so confused, stupid and corrupt, how is it that the cANcEr is voted into power every 4yrs?? How stupid must the supporters be then letting these thugs run a country?? Why rebel and tyran when the simple thing to do is just vote differently next general election?? Why must everything always be choas and anarchy?? I mean, fool me once, shame on you...fool me twice, shame on me!! Regards

31

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Buzzbar - March 26, 2013 at 16:29

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Heinie, in the rest of Africa, the people are starting to wake up. In SA, the majority of the electorate are too dumb to wipe their own a\$\$\$. Hopefully this will change in the next few years however there are only two options, the ballot box or the gun. When we look at the rest of Africa, it doesn't look promising....

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Heini Botes - March 26, 2013 at 16:37

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@Buzzbar....I've said it once and I'll say it again boet. Problem with South Africa is that the people work and pay taxes for a living are outnumbered 1-to-9 to people who vote for a living!

8

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nicholus.nakanyane - March 26, 2013 at 17:37

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Starve them and 1s in a while give them free food and ul control them.scare tactic is also ANC style..ur free to wear that DA shirt now,but come next year,u wont,if u do ur dead..thats ANC..

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Richard Smith - March 26, 2013 at 15:53

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They have been behaving like soldiers of late.

6

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beannie - March 26, 2013 at 17:31

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And why not. They are daily facing the criminal enemy in our midst.

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Unknown - March 26, 2013 at 15:55

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What? Remove all Bheki Cele's hard work of ego boosting and power tripping? How dare they make things more functional!

17

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Sheilan - March 26, 2013 at 15:56

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So she admits that militarising them was a mistake in the first place?

15

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



Kent Paulsen - March 26, 2013 at 17:33

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That is still going to come back and bite her in the bum

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Rendani Nemavhidi - March 26, 2013 at 15:56

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Sometimes it feels we are going around in circles. Doing plans and undoing them. Same in education and SMME development etc we seem indecisive. I pray God helps us define a proper vision appoint the right people and stick to it. Not everyone likes China but they are excellent at formulating a vision and follow it through with military precision. Pls let's take our country seriously and not keep on squandering opportunities.

22

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Heini Botes - March 26, 2013 at 16:17

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Starting in next years general elections!! Come 2014 Let's Do Right!

8

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| Delete



Johnnie Vercuil - March 26, 2013 at 15:58

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All the Government has to do is to teach the Police to be like human beings, so that the public can have respect for them.

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Reply to Johnnie Vercuil | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Desilusionada - March 26, 2013 at 15:59

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What does Demilitarisation means?

Back to the old ranks, no more marching (as if they do anymore), no more saluting, no more respect, no more uniforms, no more guns and/or ammunition, no more helicopters?

All of the above?

Why have Police? Why not just hire more Security Companies?

This demilitarisation, that is not part of my Thesaurus, is now going to ensure they can look after their own evidence safes?

Or prevent them losing more weapons?

Or put more crooks behind bars??....

13

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Reply to Desilusionada | 1 comment (hide) | Delete



Jurie Nel - March 26, 2013 at 17:01

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Eish! Your questions are too difficult!

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Sadick Monareng - March 26, 2013 at 16:00

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Is there any empirical evidence to back up the claim that demilitarisation will improve police occupational performance? If the middle police management is the most inefficient as pointed out by the minister, why dont we adopt the more evolved British style where police station commanders are voted in by their own local communities.

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[Reply to Sadick Monareng](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Democrazy - March 26, 2013 at 16:00

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...And de-politicise it too. Make it a business entity with accountability - socially and financially!

5

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



Jurie Nel - March 26, 2013 at 17:01

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This is the best idea I've seen today!

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theo.martinez.980 - March 26, 2013 at 16:03

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Didn't Zuma militarized the SAPS under "Shoot to kill" - commissioner Bheki Cele? And it failed! So now let's go back again. They are just pissing in the wind.

12

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[Reply to theo.martinez.980](#) | 0 comments (hide) | [Delete](#)



Gavin Venter - March 26, 2013 at 16:04

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let's paint a word picture about the future of the Police in SA

there's a break in at your house - you phone the police, nice music plays as you wait for a 'consultant' to take your call...

when a consultant finally becomes available you are advised that the call will be recorded for quality assurance purposes - which means it'll be deleted if things go south

after reporting the crime, you are given a 27 digit reference number as crime isn't a problem in SA, but the old 20 digit number system, ran out of numbers after only 6 months and told that due to the de-everything of the SAP, a consultant will be round to see you, in about 300 years

WELCOME TO THE JOKE THAT IS THE SAP UNDER ANC RULE.

14

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[Reply to Gavin Venter](#) | 0 comments (hide) | [Delete](#)



Marli Eisern - March 26, 2013 at 16:05

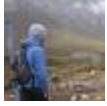
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They should go 1 step further and take away all the guns and firearms from the police in South Africa. In the UK Bobby's don't carry guns and it has a positive effect on general public. The military ranks are OK, they can call the head of police Field Marshall (Montgomery), Admiral or President for Life, it has nothing to do with the performance of the police.

2

15

Reply to Marli Eisern | 3 comments (hide) | Delete



Victor Luiz - March 26, 2013 at 16:37

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Are you serious? Take away the cops guns? Do you think the criminals will suddenly realize how insensitive they've been using weapons and start saying please and thank you during a hi-jacking?

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Spats Domingo - March 26, 2013 at 16:49

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Marli. In the UK the police are respected and dealing with a largely civilised society who for the most part shun violence and are unarmed. Here the police are dealing with a violent society and criminals that are armed to the teeth. Sure many cops here should not even be in uniform, but sending an unarmed officer to do his duty against these armed criminals in this country is just suicidal!

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tienie.mac - March 26, 2013 at 17:03

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If the police in Marikana did not have guns they would all be dead. In Britain they don't have a general public like in SA where people are turned into zombies and made invisible by sangomas.

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bhewgill - March 26, 2013 at 16:05

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So once again at the END of the DAY. Who gets handed the bill again, the SA economy.....

8

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



Richardson Mzaidume - March 26, 2013 at 16:09

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Tito Mboweni admitted that government doesn't know what it is doing. Need we say more? We have fat-cats running around having no idea whether they are coming or going.

13

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[Reply to Richardson Mzaidume](#) | [1 comment \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Heini Botes - March 26, 2013 at 16:18

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Problem is we have 60%+ voters knowing even less my friend.

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Burger Fourie - March 26, 2013 at 16:10

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"It is a recommendation and we must embrace [it], we must find a way of working around it."
So truthful. They will implement the NDP on paper and work around it while enforcing laws

2

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[Reply to Burger Fourie](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Francois De Lange - March 26, 2013 at 16:18

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The current government must make up their minds what they want to do with the SAPS. Every time a new (outside) Commissioner he or she gets a bee in their bonnett and just wants to make changes. This all at the cost of the Taxpayer and eventually leading to incompetence. The poor SAPS members do all this stupid things because they are not sure of their own futures. Should they be constable, comrade, captain, brother, sister, gabba, athur or mathur?

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[Reply to Francois De Lange](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



brettinlux - March 26, 2013 at 16:21

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The SAPS has to arrest some of the most dangerous criminals in the world. These criminals are well trained and well armed, so how can the SAPS not be militaristic? They already changed from a Force to a service and they saw what happened with that.

4

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Reply to brettinlux | 1 comment (hide) | Delete



Winston En Ria Worthington - March 26, 2013 at 17:18

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We were done in. SAPF still remains a NAME AND FORCE to be reckoned with. Bring them back and let them loose to prove what can be achieved by experienced loyal, professional, trained people that take no nonsense and who do a job thoroughly from start to finish. Those who still remember the words "Ons is die SAP...", and still firmly believe in "We Protect And Serve". To all of you out there, SF, Winged Stagger et al: Walk and Stay in the LIGHT!! Go well!! Regards; SMOKES.

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Andrew St John Rowland - March 26, 2013 at 16:21

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Oh, let's just round in circles. The police force WAS militarised. Then the government demilitarised it and made it the police service. Then the last police commissioner, Cele, decided to militarise it. Now they are going to demilitarise it again?! Just train them properly, for goodness' sake! Get your priorities straight!

7

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Reply to Andrew St John Rowland | 1 comment (hide) | Delete



Buzzbar - March 26, 2013 at 16:36

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It's all just About the next tender for the new uniforms and rank insignia...

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ANASKA - March 26, 2013 at 16:28

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This women should be ashamed of wearing the uniform as Chief of Police!!

3

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



Buzzbar - March 26, 2013 at 16:37

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

She should just be ashamed in general... Saps general or not.

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AntikZa - March 26, 2013 at 16:29

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So the SAP has been demilitirised and became the SAPS. Then militarised a few years ago and now again demilitirised. Yip sounds about right. Typical of this idiotic government.

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



Richard - March 26, 2013 at 16:30

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I thought is was demilitarized when they changed all the ranks to not sound like the military. Man can these guys waste time and money.

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



George Michaelides - March 26, 2013 at 16:32

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How did she become a "General"? what are her credentials.....or is it Zoomers buddies again...she dont have no friggin clue.....

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Skrywer John Murray McKay - March 26, 2013 at 16:34

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Horrrifying to think that Scooby Doo has more crime fighting experience than this woman.

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[Reply to Skrywer John Murray McKay](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



James Smythe - March 26, 2013 at 16:34

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The stupidity runs very deep!

These incompetents know nothing other than window dressing which they continually, not only i.r.o the mess of the SAPS, trot out claiming this represents a 'solution'.

Cosmetic changes can have no impact until the basics of training, discipline and management, along with the calibre and integrity of the members of the force/service and of the leaders are corrected - this is where the problems lie, not in the names used for ranks etc!

We see clearly the lack of understanding shining through in the likes of this woman - it is like a dog watching television.

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Reply to James Smythe | 1 comment (hide) | Delete



Nigel Burgess - March 26, 2013 at 16:48

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Very well put

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| [Delete](#)



Joe Irwin - March 26, 2013 at 16:35

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Well at least a civilian with absolutely no idea of what a military rank is will become a general overnight.

3

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Reply to Joe Irwin | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Gary Doyle - March 26, 2013 at 16:39

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Absolutely F**king useless, these c*nts change like the street names.

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



Nigel Burgess - March 26, 2013 at 16:41

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So predictable. She really has no idea how to run a police force, but realises she must be seen to be doing something, so she plays with window dressing while the real world is falling apart. Absolutely pathetic.

2

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[Reply to Nigel Burgess](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Philip Johnson - March 26, 2013 at 16:47

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Now they will be even more useless.

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Winston En Ria Worthington - March 26, 2013 at 16:56

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She will then be known as a mere general/common clerk. They shot themselves in the foot because the word general, as depicting her duties, has a military connotation to it. Even the word commissioner will then be defunct/taboo. What will the rest of them be known as? It gets more interesting and interesting... Animal Farm re-visited???

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[Reply to Winston En Ria Worthington](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Mafa Smith - March 26, 2013 at 17:03

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im so sad,my heart is bleeding,morons like this Rea Phinyega makes us all look dumb,blacks will allways be seen as useless all thanks to domkops like Riah...God help us

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[Reply to Mafa Smith](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



BANDIT - March 26, 2013 at 17:10

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The real problem is the recruitment process, currently quantity instead of quality is preferred, furthermore promotion policy is causing chaos!!!

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Dannie Seloma - March 26, 2013 at 17:10

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demilitarise or not will it make any diffrenc? hope so but again they r so use to there barbaric acts surely they will continue

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[Reply to Dannie Seloma](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Zirk Burger - March 26, 2013 at 17:15

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You can change the cover but the inside of the book will remain the same.

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Rita Nel - March 26, 2013 at 17:20

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This commission is a big circus to me. The whole issue is that the police defended themselves. Finish and klaar!!!The longer the commission carries on the more money goes into the pockets of the laywers and we as taxpayers get taxed to death.

2

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[Reply to Rita Nel](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Phillipus Johannes Petrus Kleynhans - March 26, 2013 at 17:25

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You know what "Military, Police' Correctional. ANC" None of them are qualified to run what they are doing. They are the pathetic clowns I've ever seen. The best is they are the biggest laughing stock the world has ever seen.

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Reply to Phillipus Johannes Petrus Kleynhans | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



beannie - March 26, 2013 at 17:30

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They only changed the name of the ranks a few months ago. Why can't these fools stop quibbling about silly things and just get on with their jobs. Sickening, its a case of meetings about meetings about meetings. Just give us an efficient police force, b*g*er what they call the ranks. Stop all of this smoke screens and mirrors. Phiyega is looking more stupid by the day. Get rid of her!

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Reply to beannie | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Blane Blandon - March 26, 2013 at 17:38

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This is going to cost the already heavily burdened tax payer a truck load of money

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Reply to Blane Blandon | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Nhlapo Pk Phoka - March 26, 2013 at 17:49

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This Beautiful lady with Mario Balloteli's hair cut is just clown/moron who can't even think how much this will cost our government or rather let me say this will be implemented at the expense of our tax. I fully agree with whoever said Military, Police' Correctional. ANC None of them are qualified to run what they are doing. They are the pathetic clowns I've ever seen. The best is they are the biggest laughing stock the world has ever seen.

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Reply to Nhlapo Pk Phoka | 0 comments (hide) | Delete

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