

30 August 2017 - TNA-Pg14 - National - Positive

We support Mbalula – Popperu

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THE Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popperu) has come out in support of Police Minister Fikile Mbalula – urging him not be deterred by threats made against him.

Commenting after Mbalula spoke out about alleged threats from within the South African Police Service (SAPS) against him and other Cabinet ministers, Popperu spokesperson Richard Mamabolo said there had been instability at the SAPS even before Mbalula became the police minister in a March reshuffle in March.

“Even before he was appointed there has been infighting. We feel that this not only delays progress but also diminishes the public’s credibility in the SAPS. This is a cause for concern,” he said.

When Mbalula “came in he removed certain people”, he said, while responding to allegations that Mbalula was the target of “Project Wonder”, allegedly launched by rogue agents and officers from Crime Intelligence, the Hawks and the SAPS.

Mamabolo could possibly have been referring to the former head of the Hawks, Bering Ntlengeza, who has lost



THREATENED: Police Minister Fikile Mbalula. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

a high court application to be allowed to return to work until an appeal against another court ruling – to set aside his appointment – has been concluded.

Other senior officers who might be disgruntled with Mbalula could also include the former acting national commissioner of police, Khomotso Phahlane, who was removed from his job soon after the new minister took office.

Mamabolo said Popperu wants to see a “functional” police ministry, which ensured that those who committed crimes were held accountable.

“We think no amount of threats should divert the attention of the minister from actually setting out to do his tasks. Nobody should think they are beyond reproach.”

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