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Clean rot inside police service

MPs were rightly shocked this week when they heard details in Parliament about the bungled bid to obtain top-secret security clearance for the head of crime intelligence Maj-Gen Pat Mokushane.

Acting police commissioner Lt-Gen Lesetja Mothiba has reportedly ordered that the senior management of police intelligence be vetted by the State Security Agency. It appears that because crime intelligence boss Mokushane allegedly tried to dupe him in the procurement of the secret security clearance, there is now a need to regularise clearance of all senior staff.

He has also ordered that there be a probe into Mokushane and Brig Leonora Phethle concerning the security clearance matter.

It is fortunate that these murky goings on in the top echelons of the police service have come out and that parliamentary watchdogs are going to be able to help in the process of a cleanup.

The history of the South African Police Service - that took over from the oppressive and racist South African Police - has regrettably been one that we cannot be proud of. While it is clear that there are dedicated and hardworking members of the service, we just do not get the picture of a cohesive, well led, ethical and entirely honest policing organisation.

Members get involved in crime, feuds with each other over jobs and resources and get up to all sorts of shenanigans. This clearance squabble is just the latest embarrassment.

In South Africa we have a huge problem with crime. We need to ensure that the police service works properly. Let us urge the police ministry to once and for all clean up the police service.

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Six point plan for police

Mbalula takes strong stand on gender violence at indaba

DIKELEDI RAMABOPA

WHILE rape, femicide and domestic violence remain a scourge against women, Minister of Police Fikile Mbalula yesterday urged police to take a severe stance against gender based violence and apply the six point plan effectively.

Mbalula held an action indaba on gender based violence and protection of vulnerable groups in Erasmus, Pretoria. He said women were often not given a chance to report domestic violence and sexual harassment, which was why changing this and making it less traumatic was a priority.

"The continued perpetuation of these crimes emanates from the cases that get withdrawn and not reported. Often victims say they were chased away from police stations or their case was not treated seriously or they were viewed with suspicion, re-victimised, humiliated or simply ignored by our police," he said.

Mbalula said that police should help communities and vulnerable groups to understand their rights and expectations so that they could account effectively.



TAKING A STANCE: The panel on gender based violence spearheaded by Police Minister Fikile Mbalula has vowed to take head-on the scourge of domestic violence as well as sexual harassment at an indaba in Pretoria.

"We must reduce the gap between reported and unreported incidents of sexual offences and domestic violence, this will be a boost to efforts to prevent such violence," he said. He said all police stations would have the six point plan posted on their walls so that they were exercised daily.

The six point plan includes that all victims be treated with respect, dignity and interviewed by a trained police official in a victim sensitive manner. It says that victims should be assisted

in a victim friendly room or an alternative room where the statement will be taken in private.

Mbalula said that victims of violence had to have confidence when filing a police report to receive justice and ensure the perpetrator would be punished.

"Each beating is a potential murder; each domestic sexual abuse of a child is a potential rape and infanticide. We are at a crossroads and the route we choose must be the one that rejects intimate

partner violence, a route that rejects harassment of the LGBTIQI community, we must reject gender based violence in all its forms. This rejection starts with the departments I lead," Mbalula said.

During the indaba, Mbalula emphasised that rape survivors had to have rapid access to a health clinic to administer emergency medical care, including treatment to prevent HIV and unintended pregnancies, and counselling.

"A woman who is beaten by her

QUICK FACTS

- » South Africa records a high number of serial rape and murder cases
- » From April 2016 to September 2016, a 60 003 domestic violence related cases were registered on the SAPS Crime Administration System.
- » From April 2016 to December 2016, there were 37 630 reported cases of sexual offences. Of these, 80% were reported cases of rape which showed a decrease of 6.5% from the previous year's trimester.
- » There remains significant under-reporting of sexual offences and domestic violence in South Africa
- » The government has convened more than 1000 conferences, prayers, summits and indabas

husband or boyfriend must have some place to go with her children to have safety, sanity and shelter. The government must make that available. I am instructing police management to make this a priority in our budgetary matters," he said.

Mbalula said that police had no time to waste and should have a clear action plan, with clear deliverables and responsibilities.

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