

10111 strike unresolved, 'because blacks use

THE government and the Police Ministry are complacent in resolving the 10111 wage strike because the emergency service is mostly used by poor black people, SA Federation of Trade Unions general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi said yesterday.

"Black people benefit from the 10111 service, people who call in are the working class and black... they are not the affluent. The higher middle class, the rich, including the billionaires, do not even know 10111," Vavi told reporters in Joburg.

"They have panic buttons and private security contact numbers and are guaranteed a response within five minutes... it is black people, the marginalised in society who use the service, that is why the minister does not care."

He likened the Police Ministry's handling of the wage strike to the

murder rate in Philippi's Marikana informal settlement, Western Cape, where 11 people were shot and killed over the weekend.

"Over 30 black people have been killed in Philippi over three weeks... will you see live TV images? Will you see the president or premier go there? Will you see them put up street lights or shifting resources to that area? None of that is going to happen... this is a black issue, a working-class issue."

The only time black workers mattered to the government was around election time, Vavi said.

South African Police Union

(Sapu) members at the crime call centre first downed tools in July after wage negotiations deadlocked.

The strike was temporarily suspended a few days later as negotiations resumed at the CCMA. The union then resumed the strike after accusing rival union Popcru of stalling the CCMA talks.

The workers have demanded salary upgrades to be at the same level as other call centre workers at the Department of Home Affairs, SA Social Security Agency, SA Revenue Service and the presidential hotline, among others. The salary upgrades were recommended in

2013 by a task team set up by former police commissioner Riah Phiyega.

Sapu stood its ground last week when police management instructed the striking workers to return to work by Friday or face disciplinary charges because the strike was unprotected.

This followed the agreement the SAPS said it had signed with majority union Popcru.

Sapu said it would not sign the agreement as it did not address their demands. It further threatened to take the SAPS to court.

The union said it would intensify its strike and march to the seat of government, the Union Buildings in Pretoria, on October 16.

"Sapu, as a true workers' vanguard, will never sell its members out to the highest bidder. The 10111 operators demand parity, justice and a living wage." - ANA



Zwelinzima Vavi

10111 operators calling for action

REFILWE MAGASHULE

THE South African Police Union (Sapu) insisted yesterday that it plans to go ahead with a protest march to the Union Buildings in Pretoria on October 16.

Sapu told a media briefing at the Johannesburg head office of the South African Federation of Trade Union (Safu) yesterday that it would not move from its demand for justice, pay parity and equal pay for equal work, for all members employed as operators at the 10111 call centre of the South African Police Service.

"10111 operators are demanding government treat them the same as workers in other government call centres," Sapu general secretary Oscar Skommere said.

The long running dispute between

Sapu and the SAPS started in July. There were protest marches which impacted on people not being helped as about 5 000 call centre operators downed tools.

Sapu and Safu accused police management of intransigence.

They said that instead of addressing the demands of the workers, management had rushed to get workers' status changed from being employed - in line with the provisions of the Public Service Act to the Police Act.

"This had the sole intention of getting the 10111 operators declared essential services so that they may not use their power now and in the future," they said.

Sapu and Safu accused rival union Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru) of being a "sweetheart" union.

"Management found a sleeping partner in the form of a captured Popcru," they said.

"These two signed an agreement on August 4 that forces workers to be declared essential services under the Police Act. This is while issues of equal pay for work of equal value had not been addressed," Sapu and Safu said.

Meanwhile, Popcru dismissed the allegations as misleading.

"We as Popcru have not exhausted all options in relation to addressing demands of workers with management. Sapu and Safu have jumped the gun.

"They are misleading the public in the hope of gaining public support. They know they have no power of achieving that," Popcru said.

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**10111 strike:
Vavi slams govt**

The South African government and the police department are complacent about resolving the 10111 wage strike because the emergency service is mostly used by poor black people, SA Federation of Trade Unions (Safu) secretary-general Zwelinzima Vavi, pictured, said yesterday.

CAPS In The Citizen BS 03/10/11 Neg

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"They have panic buttons and private security contact numbers and are guaranteed response within five minutes ... it is black people, the marginalised in society, who use the service, that is why the minister does not care."

He likened the police department's handling of the wage strike to the murder rate in Philippi's Marikana informal settlement, Western Cape, where 11 people were shot and killed over the weekend.

"Over 30 black people have been killed there in Philippi over three weeks ... will you see live TV images? Will you see the president or premier go there? Will [you] see them put up street lights or shifting resources to that area? None of that is going to happen ... this is a black issue, a working-class issue."

The only time black workers mattered to government was around elections time, he said.

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The union then resumed the strike after accusing rival union Poperu (Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union) of stalling the CCMA talks.

The workers have demanded salary upgrades to be at the same level as other call centre workers at the department of home affairs, SA Social Security Agency (Sassa), SA Revenue Service (Sars) and the presidential hotline, among others. The salary upgrades were recommended in 2013 by a task team set up by former police commissioner Riah Phiyega.

Sapu stood its ground last week when police management instructed the striking workers to return to work by Friday or face disciplinary charges because the strike was unprotected. - ANA

**Vavi hits panic button
over 10111 strike**

By CHRISTOPHER MOAGI

BLACKS only matter when there are elections.

This was what outspoken Saftu general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi said yesterday while addressing the media about the 10111 call centre strike.

Call centre workers have been on strike since July, demanding salary increases.

Speaking at a joint Saftu and South African Police Union briefing in Joburg, Vavi said: "The reason Police Minister Fikile Mbalula and deputy president Cyril Ramaphosa won't acknowledge our letters is simple. It's class!"

He said the people operating 10111 centres were black.

"The people who benefit from the service are working class and they are black," said Vavi.

"The higher middle class, the rich and even billionaires don't even know 10111.

"They have panic buttons, they have security numbers, and they are guaranteed to have a response in five minutes."

South African Police Union general secretary Oscar Skommere said: "We will defend our members up to the highest court in the land."

*SAPS
10111
- Gen - 12/10/11
- Sec - 12/10/11
- Day - 12/10/11*

SAPS is looking to freeze thousands of posts

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THE Police Ministry has dismissed reports that it plans to shed 8 000 jobs to curb its budget spending.

There has been speculation that the department was going ahead with plans to cut jobs in its performance report, which is believed to have been tabled before the National Treasury.

But Police Ministry spokesman Vuyiso Mhaga instead said their plans had been misinterpreted.

"All we are doing is freezing

strains. Currently, the SAPS is demanding to fill 139 000 vacancies to work to its optimum capacity.

"We are now sitting with about 195 000 posts filled and are short of about 3 000 (posts) to reach our target. For financial reasons, we will have to freeze those posts and not hire more personnel," said Mhaga.

But he could not say which posts had been frozen. The SAPS's national spokesperson, Brigadier Vishnu

ing new employees as they usually did.

"I don't know where this job loss rumour comes from, but what I know is that we lose staff due to medical reasons and deaths all the time and we hire new people to take over those positions. Imagine the troubles we would be in if we did not do that," Naidoo added.

But the acting police commissioner's spokesperson Colonel Athlenda Mathe said the SAPS was going through

Said to include office workers and not police officers on the ground

would only affect office workers and not police officers on the ground.

"We are looking at giving people additional work to do. In the case of someone dying or resigning, we will not fill that vacancy. Instead, an existing employee will take over those duties. It's a cost-saving measure, but that process has not started yet."

Francis Beukman, chairperson of the parliamentary portfolio committee for police, said he would have details today

when he meets the SAPS's top brass. His committee is busy scrutinising the annual reports of all the institutions and entities it oversees.

The Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru) said the shedding of jobs would be disastrous for the country's safety and security.

"We've read in the media of possible job losses and we're against any form of a job cut," Popcru spokesperson Richard Mamabolo said.

Gops angry about possible job losses

By SIFISO JIMTA

A WEEK ago, Police Minister Fikile Mbalula relaunched the feared Tactical Response Team, also known as amabereete.

This week news has surfaced that thousands of cops may lose their jobs in the next three years.

This comes after the police ministry said it will explore other cost-saving methods to avoid shedding jobs.

The Public Servants Association has threatened to take legal action against Mbalula as the SAPS is planning to cut at least 3 000 jobs.

The proposal is a response to Treasury's call for government entities to take active measures to curb state debt.

Popcru spokesman Richard Mamabolo said they are aware of the proposed job cuts.

"We are not pleased. The matter is disturbing as we are not only looking at the loss of jobs

tor as a whole," he said.

"We will be meeting with the minister to look into the measure and how we can save the jobs."

Police ministry spokesman Vuyiso Mhaga said they wanted to increase the number of officers on the ground, instead of cutting back.

"We are doing a budget analysis to decide what needs to be prioritised," he said.

"In terms of the personnel cuts, we are convinced that won't be a good thing."

Mhaga said increasing personnel will ensure safety and encourage foreign investment.

Meanwhile, the SAPS has submitted a 2017/18 annual performance plan informing the Treasury of a strategy to reduce its staff from about 194 000 to 191 431 by 2020.

South African Policing Union general secretary Oscar Skomere said reports of possible



STAFF CUTS: Riot police guard the entrance to a courthouse during a protest march. Some SAPS posts that become vacant after deaths and illnesses will not be filled. PICTURE: AP

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