

# 'Revise laws to deter criminals'

## Activists against female violence say laws have to change to be victim-centred rather than being overprotective of male perpetrators

ELFAS TOREEM

SCORES of men and a handful of women took to the streets in Mafikeng to read their voices to calls for an end to violent crimes against women and children.

Organised under the #NoInimyaname banner, the march was in solidarity with the one organised in Pretoria at the weekend.

The victim message that came out was that people felt the criminal laws favour perpetrators and not victims.

Those who spoke argued that the powers that be need to amend the laws and where possible, punishment should suit the crime committed.

March organiser Tebogo Mokone said it was a serious indictment of men that they are the perpetrators of most of the crimes.

"We are saying enough is enough of this lethal killing of women. As men, let's all come together and talk among ourselves," Mokone said.

"We ought to go back to occupy the role that God created us for.

"Men are supposed to be the loving and protective of women and children. Our wives, mothers, sisters and children should feel safe around us."

Mokone said there was also need for dialogue on issues that affected men that have for long been neglected.

"Men and women have to share ideas on how to build solid men. It has been tradition that men hardly talk about issues affecting them.

"They would rather talk of cars, football and women but never about themselves and this has left us with a crop of men who do not know themselves, let alone how to be real men."

Looking at the number of people who turned up for the event, Mokone said that it was a good start and they would look at creating more platforms where issues about men are discussed.

"We have to sustain the momentum



**MALE INTROSPECTION:** March organiser Tebogo Mokone says they will look at creating more platforms where serious issues about men are discussed. Instead of men talking trivially about cars and football. PHOTO: WELLMAN

Medhale said his organisation felt laws were softer on perpetrators who get a slap on the wrist.

"There is a need to be candid and apply just punishment for any crime. You kill someone, you get killed also.

"More so, our laws have to change to be victim-centred rather than being overprotective of perpetrators.

"Most of the time victims die and those who kill them are shielded by the law. This is wrong and has to be corrected."

Medhale's sentiments were echoed by Antony Mthibane, who said that laws had to be adapted to suit the current challenges.

"We all know that prevention is better than cure, but what is happening now is our judicial system seems to take this in reverse, where focus is put on cure rather than prevention.

"They talk of correction when someone has already been killed and this ignores those whose lives have been snuffed out."

"Let's stop people from killing because it is of little consequence to bring them into line when damage has been done."

One of the women who joined the march, Kaitwana Leshele, said that she wanted to see men stand up to take on perpetrators in society.

"All black African men should do a thorough introspection of themselves and be seen to redress their roles," Leshele said.

"We have men as naturally protective and as leaders but looking at what is happening we feel why are good guys silent when a few rotten apples taint their image?"

"Stand up and make a difference, reclaim your roles as fathers, husbands, brothers and sons."

A number of cases where women are abducted, raped and killed continue to be reported across the country.

effort@thenewage.co.za

and we will approach the Constitutional Court to reiterate the death penalty," Medhale said.

"This will be done without any degree of shame because no border should impede us from protecting our people."

village near Zeerust, said more drastic action had to be taken as a matter of urgency.

"We can't fold our arm as our sisters and mothers are abused and killed. As an organisation, we stand against abuse

and this means having peer education even at schools so that we reach those boys when they are still young.

"Other ideas are also welcome on how best we can all work together to build societies where we are all happy."

However, others at the march said more needs to be done to punish those who commit crimes, including violence against women.

Robo Medhale of the Young Information and Care Group, based in Mafikeng



25/05/17 THA Pg 3 DCSM NEGATIVE

# CPFs not working with SAPS

## Concern over the functionality of the CPF board, poses challenges affecting the organisation and its duties

OBAKENG MAJE

CONCERNS have been raised about the viability challenges affecting the organisation and duties of community policing forums (CPFs) in the North West.

CPFs are supposed to be platforms where community members, organisations, other stakeholders and the police meet to discuss local crime prevention initiatives but the provincial CPF board, which should lead the way, is non-functional.

The board briefly appeared before North West provincial legislature committee on public works and community safety over its current status on Tuesday.

Provincial chair Dixon Ngamlane said there was no good working relationship between the CPF and the South African Police Service. Ngamlane said the CPF board was under-resourced.

"The board was supposed to promote accountability of the police and play a pivotal role to link the police with the communities. We also have to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the police service to the communities. However, we do not have proper institutional arrangement of the CPF. There is non-resourcing and lack of funding. We also need vastness of policing areas, improvement of partnership with other stakeholders and to finalise the CPF policy. We call on the government to properly equip us with resources," Ngamlane said.

He said lack of resources had a huge impact on the CPF's functionality and



**CONCERNS:** North West provincial legislature portfolio committee on community safety and public works members, chairperson Boitumelo Moiloa, Wendy Matsemela, Alfred Motsi and Sello Motswenyane. PHOTO: OBAKENG MAJE

eventual fails to combat crime. Ngamlane said the lack of resources challenge was propagated by its legal status.

"The CPF's role is clearly clarified by Section 239 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa which states that any institution exercising a public power or performing a public function in terms of any legislation is an organ of state.

"CPFs often work best in wealthy areas, however, remain fragmented in far-flung areas. We need to be allocated a complete budget which will allow us

to fulfil our constitutional and legislative mandate in being part of crime prevention."

Portfolio committee chair Wendy Matsemela said crime continued to rear its ugly head because of a lack of communication between the community safety and transport management department, the SAPS and the provincial CPF board.

"We recommend that the SAPS provides an induction programme to CPF board members. We cannot continue to have crime taking place within our communities when we have CPF struc-

tures. The members of the CPFs also continue to commit crime while patrolling because they beat up the accused, which causes legal impediments.

"They need to be capacitated and be trained on how to deal with crime. Funding of their projects is also imperative because without funding, they will continue to be dysfunctional.

"We urge all departments involved to address this matter," Matsemela said. She said it was disheartening to see the CPF's members continue to volunteer their time without any stipends. Matsemela said crime had escalated

and was now at school doorsteps.

Community safety and transport management representative Nikiwe Num said: "Our department has funded close to 60 CPF projects thus far. We will also come up with a strategic plan to ensure that we improve a working relationship between the CPF board and the SAPS.

"According to our analysis, out of 82 police stations, only 15% of CPFs are fully functional, 70% are partly functional while 15% are non-functional. It is difficult for less than 7 000 police on the ground to combat crime against the population in the province."

Num said they would also submit an annual performance plan before June.

Acting North West police commissioner Gen Patrick Asaneng said: "We have a dysfunctional partnership with the CPF provincial board. There are pertinent issues that need to be discussed."

Committee member Boitumelo Moiloa said the SAPS should not prioritise areas. Moiloa said CPFs needed to exist in each and every ward.

"We cannot prioritise areas according to its crime rate. CPFs need to exist in every ward across the province. Community members know the perpetrators and need to work together with police to combat crime.

"We are not content with the CPF provincial board because they are dysfunctional. Bring other stakeholders to be part of crime combating and assist with funding," Moiloa said.

*nbakeng@newsnote.co.za*



25/05/17 TMA Pg 1 NewsAPS Pos.

## Hijacked vehicle recovered

ELFAS TORERAI

A 34-YEAR-OLD man was arrested after he was found in possession of a vehicle hijacked in Roodepoort, Johannesburg last year July.

The man was nabbed in the Sondela informal settlement in Rustenburg after police on patrol stopped and searched the vehicle.

Police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said police became sus-

picious after spotting a charcoal 1.4 VW Polo Vivo in Rustenburg.

"They decided to follow the vehicle and ordered the driver to stop in the Sondela informal settlement. The officers searched the vehicle and the driver. It immediately emerged that the car's licence disc had serious discrepancies," Mokgwabone said.

A further check showed the engine and chassis numbers did not match.

[elfast@thenewage.co.za](mailto:elfast@thenewage.co.za)

# Take kids' welfare seriously, cops told

## Scores of youngsters still being abandoned, Mbalula urged to 'choose to care' for them

**NONI MOKATI**

**P**OLICE Minister Fikile Mbalula, alongside the SAPS, has been urged to take up children's issues seriously ahead of National Child Protection Week which runs from tomorrow to June 2.

Shocking findings by child protection activists revealed that while child abandonment cases have slightly declined, a new trend known as "anonymous abandonments" is on the rise with little chance of children being reunited with their biological families.

"In the past it used to be that children were left in hospitals and at children's homes, and officials would have the mother's details. Now more and more children are left in the veld and in dangerous zones with nothing – not even a note," child activist Dee Blackie said yesterday at the Princess Alice Adoption Home in Joburg.

Blackie was speaking at the

launch of her research on the incidence of child abandonment in the country.

According to figures, two out of three abandoned babies die. It has also been found that of the 200 abandoned babies found in Joburg every month, only 60 survive.

In 2010, it was recorded that up to 3 000 babies were abandoned.

According to Blackie, as part of the research, a total of 26 organisations representing 32 NGOs which run Child and Youth Care centres took part in the study to ascertain real figures of how many children are in fact "thrown away" by their parents as no real or updated numbers currently exist in the country.

She said reasons cited by child protection officers for the increase in anonymous abandonment includes a lack of support or social services for foreign mothers in government departments of Justice, Home Affairs, Health, Social Development and the SAPS.

"Not only are these children abandoned, they must then contend with a disability or disorder that will impact them for the rest of their lives."

Blackie said the issue was further exacerbated by police who only recorded cases of child abandonment as "inquests" on their files.

"The only way we can get real statistics of child abandonment cases is if police start recording incidents of concealment of birth or children that have been found as being abandoned," she said.

Blackie added that of those abandoned new infants found dead, police and morgues usually recorded their deaths as "stillbirths" which is not true.

The research has meanwhile prompted the development of a new awareness campaign under the National Adoption Coalition of South Africa's crisis pregnancy brand, "Choose to Care".

Blackie said she hoped through the campaign they would raise awareness.

25/05/17 Pretoria News Pg 7 Mat SAPS PAS

# No mercy for thugs – Mbalula

## **SIYABONGA MKHWANAZI**

POLICE Minister Fikile Mbalula said no abused women would be turned away at a police station.

He also told Parliament that police would not tolerate the abuse and murder of women and children.

Mbalula was delivering his maiden budget speech as Police Minister in Parliament, where he defended the police and said they would intensify the fight against crime.

He told MPs that criminals must never be on holiday in South Africa. He wanted communities to reclaim the streets from criminals and police would drive the fight against crime.

There must be rule of law in South Africa. "When we say shoot to kill we don't say shoot innocent people, (but) shoot in defence of the innocent," he said.

He said criminals were running amok in the country and that has to stop.

Mbalula warned that rotten tomatoes would also not be tolerated in the SAPS.

The police have dedicated officers who fight crime 24 hours a day, and they would not tolerate anyone in the system who gave them a bad name, he said.

In the fight against crime, 80 new police stations would be built across the country at a cost of more than R583 million. This would improve the service by police in communities.

Jerome Maake of the ANC backed Mbalula, saying there was no time to treat criminals with kid gloves and the state would root out crime in all its facets.

Chairperson of the portfolio committee on police Francois Beukman said they welcomed Mbalula's commitment on the

process to appoint a new National Commissioner for Police.

This would happen after June 27, a few days before the contract of suspended commissioner Riah Phiyega comes to an end.

Zakhele Mbhele of the DA said the police at station level were understaffed, under-resourced, ill-equipped and poorly trained.

He said Mbalula would have to look at this. He said poor leadership was to blame for this situation.

Mbhele also said the violence against women and children in recent days pointed to problems in the system and these must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Manzoor Shaik Emam of the National Freedom Party said he agreed with Mbalula on tough action against criminals.

He said criminals must not be taken lightly, and government should deal with them.

25/05/17 ~~THE~~ Pretoria News pg 7 Hawks

# 560 convicted of serious graft

## **MAYIBONGWE MAQHINA**

THE Anti-Corruption Task Team (ACTT) has revealed that 560 public servants have been convicted of committing serious corruption offences involving R5 million or more since 2014.

Briefing the standing committee on public accounts on Tuesday, Hawks acting head Yolisa Matakata said 130 officials were convicted in 2014/15 and 206 the following financial year.

A further 224 officials were convicted in 2016/17.

Matakata said the Asset Forfeiture Unit recovered R11m from the officials convicted of corruption and related offences.

In 2015/16, R1m was recovered – and R1m has so far been recovered in the 2016/17 financial year.

Matakata said the value of

recoverable amounts stolen from the government was estimated at R1.5 billion in 2014/15, R136m in 2015/16 and R206m in 2016/17.

In this financial year, the amount was standing at R126m.

Matakata said the value of potential loss prevented was R106m in 2016/17. “The value of contracts, administrative decision and actions set aside was R4bn in the past financial year.”

Matters referred for civil litigation amounted to R3bn in 2016/17, while corruption money frozen was R2bn in 2014/15, R238m in 2015/16 and R1bn in 2016/17.

The task team was saddled with 77 enquiries; 85 had case numbers, 37 were being handled in courts and 55 had been finalised with convictions.

Matakata listed capacity and budget constraints as one of the challenges faced by the ACTT.

“With all those challenges we will continue to use the resources at our disposal optimally.”

ANC’s Mnyamezeli Booi asked why amounts investigated by the ACTT were far less than the R48bn in irregular expenditure identified during audits by the auditor-general.

NPA head Shaun Abrahams said there was a disjuncture in amounts declared by the AG, compared with what was investigated by ACTT. He said they depended on matters referred to the investigative authorities. “If not reported to us, we don’t know about them. The role of the AG is absolutely critical in communicating with ACTT. In fact, the AG should be part of ACTT.”

SIU head Andy Mothibi revealed plans to re-establish a special tribunal to recoup money speedily through litigation.