

Marikana 'hitmen and ringleaders' behind bars

HLONI MASHIGO

THE police have made a major breakthrough in the mafia-style killings of mineworkers in the Marikana area.

The announcement was made by Police Minister Fikile Mbalula who said law enforcement agents had arrested three hitmen, bringing the number of Marikana arrests to nine. He said investigations were continuing and that more arrests are expected. Mbalula spoke at a media briefing in Rustenburg yesterday.

The arrests are linked to a spate of murders that happened over five years in Marikana. They are said to be a result

of a feud between the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu) since 2014 after the Marikana massacre.

"SAPS operations are focused on taking down the syndicate heads, not just minions employed to kill," Mbalula said. The men were arrested during Operation Fiebla, a recently established police campaign aimed at bringing criminals to book.

Mbalula said that in the case of Marikana the operation nabbed both the hitmen and the conspirators who hired them.

"Usually only the hired gunman gets

arrested while those who conspire get away with it."

Mbalula showered praise on the police for the work they had done in the investigation.

"For those who are still out there and think we will not find them, we will." The police said that there were 11 reported cases of murder and attempted murder between May and October last year.

Mbalula said yesterday that nine of the 11 people attacked in the period May to October had died.

The police conducted an operation on Saturday and arrested six people, among them the hitmen. They said a court date



Fikile Mbalula

had not been set as investigations were ongoing. Lt-Gen Baile Brenda Motswenyane said she was excited by the breakthrough in a complicated investigation that took the help of the community to succeed.

National police commissioner Lt-

Gen Khehla Sitole said that the police were implementing a focus on strategic criminals at the head of crime organisations.

"What is also anticipated to continue further is the modus operandi counter strategy," Sitole said.

He said this counter strategy would be linked to the prevention strategy.

"We will also couple it with root cause analysis, so that we are able to remove the root cause and finally we will be following the so called hitmen from the North West, Eastern Cape up to KwaZulu-Natal."

Amcu did not comment at the time of going to print yesterday.

Police make platinum belt arrests

The STAR 12/02/2018 Pg 2 - P05 National SAPS

CITIZENS cannot live side by side with criminals, Police Minister Fikile Mbalula said yesterday.

"As citizens, we can't live side by side with criminals, we must stamp the authority of the state and protect our people," he said in Rustenburg.

Announcing a major breakthrough relating to killings at the North West platinum mines, he said: "Last night (Saturday), police embarked on a 'Take Down' Operation where six suspects were arrested in Moolinooi, Wonderkop and Idutywa in the Eastern Cape.

"These suspects have been the brains behind the killings of Marikana people and in the surrounding areas."

The suspects were expected to appear in the Brits Magistrate's Court today.



Fikile Mbalula

workers and Construction Union (Amcu), while one was unemployed."

Six cases of murder were reported in Phokeng, and two cases of murder and one of attempted murder were reported in Marikana.

In Moolinooi, a case of attempted murder was reported. "Following a thorough and responsive investigation, three suspects were

policemen and two Lonmin security guards, were killed in the preceding week.

In September last year, several Amcu members were killed in Marikana, prompting union leader Joseph Mathunjwa to hire private investigator Paul O'Sullivan to probe killings of union members and offer a R100 000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Amcu killers.

Mathunjwa accused the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) of being behind the killings in view of its declining membership at Lonmin, an accusation NUM has denied.

Amcu had also written letters to the National Prosecuting Authority complaining about how the cases had been handled.

But Mbalula denied the

Six bust for mine killings

NATIONAL SAPS

By MASEGO SEVUSI
POLICE Minister Fikile Mbalula said cops have made a major breakthrough in relation to the North West platinum belt killings.

They have arrested six more people believed to be the brains behind the killing of members of the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union.

Mbalula and National Police Commissioner General Khehla Sitole were joined by North West Provincial Commissioner, Police Minister Fikile Mbalula says more arrests will be made.

Baile Motswenyane as they addressed the media yesterday.

They spoke about an operation related to a massive takedown at Rustenburg Police Station.

"Through an investigation and in a short space of time in Septem-

ings," said Mbalula. "Some of these individuals were found in Marikana while others were found in Eastern Cape.

"There are others that we are still looking for."

He said the arrests were a major breakthrough.

"The significance of this is that the people arrested are not people hired to kill but these are actually the masterminds behind the killings," he said. Mbalula saluted the determination and hard work of the police officers involved.

"They ensured we get rid of these criminals who think they are untouchable," he added. The arrested people are accused of killing several Amcu members in a short space of time in Septem-



Police Minister Fikile Mbalula says more arrests will be made.

Photo by Rapula Mancai

6 in court for deaths of unionists

Dragnet closing in on assassins

By **Bonifacio Tshela**
North West Correspondent

Six people are due to appear in the Brits Magistrate's Court today in connection with the gunning down of prominent union leaders in Marikana, North West.

Addressing a media briefing at the Rustenburg police station yesterday, Police Minister Fikile Mbalula said several union leaders were shot dead by known assailants.

Mbalula said the police had proved "people of interest" who have allegedly been orchestrating, planning and ordering the systematic killings.

An intensive police investi-

gation dating back to last year resulted in "six masterminds" allegedly behind the killings, arrested on Saturday night.

Three believed to be the trigger pullers were arrested in Eastern Cape.

The sporadic killings started in 2012, and were believed to have been fuelled by rivalry between the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu) and the

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We send the message SA is not a banana republic



Police Minister Fikile Mbalula addressed the media in Rustenburg yesterday about the Platinum Belt killings. / TIRO RAMATLHATSE

National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

"There has been conflict between Amcu and NUM which resulted in the gunning down of prominent leaders, about nine of them," Mbalula said.

He said that this was an internal feud, and that the alleged hired assassins had already been arrested.

"And there will be more arrests. We never got to the conspirators; it ends with the guy who pulled the trigger," Mbalula said.

"The importance of this is that we are not talking about the man hired or assassins, but we are speaking about the people who were behind the killings.

"... we arrest the person who has pulled the trigger, but we don't know who sent the man who pulled the trigger."

National police commissioner General Khehla Sitole said they were changing the focus to ensure they were systematic in arresting those who plan "these activities".

"We continue to send the message that South Africa is not a banana republic.

"Our new focus is on strategic criminals. We are dealing with them because they are causing harm to the communities," he said.

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Amcu murders: kingpins held

BREAKTHROUGH: SOME ARE POLITICIANS AND UNION LEADERS, SAYS MINISTER OF POLICE

→ **Of nine suspects, six are allegedly masterminds, three shooters.**

from **Jennifer Okoye**

Minister of Police Fikile Mbalula has announced that the "brains" behind the killings of Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu) members have been arrested.

"Last night [Saturday], we took down [the] brains behind the killings. We still have few to chase," he said.

Several union members were killed in rapid succession in September last year.

Soon afterwards, Amcu leader Joseph Mathunjwa announced that the union had hired private investigator Paul O'Sullivan to probe the killings of union members in the platinum belt.

Yesterday at Rustenburg police station in North West, Mbalula

said a total of nine people have now been arrested in connection with the union-related murders in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and in Marikana in the North West.

Six of them were the "masterminds" and the others were the "trigger-pullers".

However, he refused to reveal their identities, saying the public could expect to see them in court.

Describing the murders as "systematic", Mbalula said arresting the masterminds was a breakthrough in the investigation.

Some of them were politicians and union leaders, he added.

"We never normally get to the conspirators.

"It always ends with the guy who pulled the trigger and that's it, which is why I am very elated that for once we have got them," he said.

"We must not only arrest the trigger-puller, but also the person who ordered the killing.

"We have been in the Eastern Cape, in KwaZulu-Natal and now we are in the North West," he said.

According to Mbalula, Amcu leaders were being killed because



HUNT STILL ON. Minister of Police Fikile Mbalula says a few suspects are still on the loose. Picture: Gallo Images

of internal strife. He warned those involved in the political killings who haven't

been arrested yet that "they are not untouchables and we will find them. And our police officers are

working hard to ensure they are brought to book."
-jenniffero@citizen.co.za

Rising runner wants attackers jailed

Middle distance runner Thabang Mosiako, 22, was attacked allegedly by a group of North West University students last week, friends say it was racially motivated

NEVILLE KHOZA

RISSING middle distance runner Thabang Mosiako hopes the man who attacked him and almost caused the end of his career will soon be arrested.

The 22-year-old student was beaten up allegedly by a group of North West University students last week after an argument that started in a restaurant.

Mosiako, who is still recovering at home, said he had already opened a case and was still waiting for the police to conduct their investigation as they were still looking for the CCTV footage.

Mosiako's friends who witnessed the attack, said it was racially motivated and was so brutal he was left unconscious. "The police are still investigating the case and hopefully it will be done soon,"

Mosiako said yesterday.

"The thing is I can't identify the culprits as there was a group of 10 or 12 students. I only know two of them.

"But let's wait for the police to do their job. Now I'm recovering from home and will go to the doctor tomorrow for a checkup."

The national 5000m title holder was set to travel to Algeria for the African Championships next month but may not be able to do so now.

A report said eyewitnesses told local news soon after the incident that the argument started at Varsity Cafe, when Mosiako intervened by defending a waiter who was being verbally abused by three of his attackers.

When he left the restaurant, a group of about 12 students were waiting for him outside. The police arrived at the scene to stop the

attack and later left, only for Mosiako and his friends to be ambushed again by the same group of people on their way back to campus.

The attack caused an uproar on social media, with students calling for mobilisation against racism in Potchefstroom.

One Facebook post said: "I urge all of you who value the lives of your fellow black brothers and sisters to make it your personal mission to make sure these racists are immediately apprehended and face the full might of the law.

"It is not the first time that black students are targeted and assaulted in Potchefstroom. It seems this area is a major haven for racists and extremists allied.

"Spread the word! Let us mobilise against racism and racial profiling against young black males!"

provinces@hewlett.com



RECOVERING: Middle distance runner Thabang Mosiako wants his attacker arrested. www.komhantier.com

Search on for racist attackers of star athlete

The STRIKER - 10/02/2011 Pg 1 - N29

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THE NET is closing in on about 10 white youths, believed to be North West University (NWU) students, who severely assaulted and left star athlete Thabang Mosiako unconscious.

Mosiako, 22, was attacked along with his friend and fellow athlete Rantso Mokoape, 23, outside the university's Potchefstroom campus eight days ago.

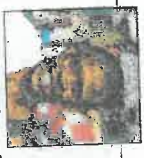
The attack, labelled by Mokoape as racially motivated, left the national 5000m champion in hospital. "I'm relieved he has been discharged. He is now recovering at home, slowly but

surely," said Mokoape. NWU and police said at the weekend the attackers were yet to be identified.

Mokoape told The Star that late last week, the varsity protection service showed him footage of the assailants' car driving in and out of campus.

"You can tell from the video that it's either a student driving or someone who knows a student at the university," he said. "I believe they'll be caught very soon."

Mokoape said the altercation erupted at a cafe not far from the campus. Three of the men were insulting a cashier when Mokoape was in the queue. He asked the man to desist from



TAKEN TO HOSPITAL: SA 5000m title holder Thabang Mosiako

sweating at the cashier, while also clarifying that he wasn't fighting them, Mokoape said.

"When I went outside they were waiting for me. They started hitting us, even when we fell to ground," said Mokoape.

This round of attacks stopped when police arrived on the scene. Mokoape said this group of officers refused to come to their rescue. "When the police came, I told

them these guys are assaulting us. But they didn't listen to our story. We understood that they wouldn't help us and ran away."

But the group ambushed them again near campus, and that's when Mosiako was knocked unconscious. He was rushed to hospital with head injuries.

Mosiako is the South African 5000m title holder. Mokoape said his training partner feared he might not perform as well in the future.

He was due to travel to Algeria for the African Championships next month. "He's nervous about the prospect of not performing. I can see he's stressing a lot," Mokoape said.

Professor Dan Kgwadi, the NWU vice-chancellor, said a probe was about to establish the identities of the attackers. "I really do not want to exonerate students of this allegation. We must identify them by name and student number. We're working on that."

Lamasting the attack, Kgwadi said: "It's regrettable, undoruntable and embarrassing that we're still experiencing this at this stage in the country."

The police's lieutenant Colonel Adele Myburgh said she would have a full update of their investigation today. She confirmed a case of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm was opened.

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THA-pgs-12/02/18 - Departmental - POS

More traffic vehicles on roads!

Twenty vehicles comprising sedans and bakkies were purchased and handed over yesterday to beef up the ageing fleet and increase patrol

ELFAS TORERAI

THE traffic police were in buoyant mood as they received keys to new vehicles handed over in Makhikeng yesterday morning.

The community safety and transport management department purchased 20 vehicles comprising sedans and bakkies to beef up an ageing fleet and also increase the traffic patrol pool.

The bakkies are intended for use in rural areas where the services of traffic cops have hardly reached.

The vehicles were handed over on the back of a bloody festive season that saw the number of fatalities in the province increase by 11%.

Two accidents, one on the Mahikeng-Lichtenburg Road and another on the N12, pushed up the number of fatalities after recording seven and six deaths respectively.

The two accidents happened in the last week of the festive season period and were largely caused by wild animals.

One traffic cop, Setshiro Mosiane, said he had served for 31 years and had seen it all.

"Working with motorists is the best thing I love about this occupation," Mosiane said. "It's very healthy and to me it



BUOYANT: Community safety and transport management MEC Mpho Motlhabane hands over keys. WANGENYU

serving people and helping in preserving lives are some of the functions that keep me healthy and motivated. With this new vehicle, it can only get better," he said.

"Interacting with the community,

Having served since the former Boputhatswana era to date, Mosiane said it was imperative that traffic cops got adequate tools for the job.

"I served in areas such as Tlhabanehu,

Mahopane and now I'm in Rustenburg. I couldn't have joined a better profession and I want to appreciate the support we receive from the government," he said.

We want to use these vehicles to reach far flung areas in our province because for too long, only urbanised places had been serviced

Community safety and transport management MEC Mpho Motlhabane said the new vehicles were expected to take services to rural areas.

"We want to use these vehicles to reach far flung areas in our province because for too long, only urbanised places had been serviced," Motlhabane said. "All the bakkies will go to rural areas while the sedans will patrol the national roads."

Motlhabane further said the 20 vehicles would be distributed across all the districts.

"The vehicles may not be enough but we are working to increase and replen-

ish the existing fleet in the next financial year. With more visibility on the roads, the likelihood of reducing accidents and fatalities is very high."

The other headache facing traffic law enforcement in the province is the high number of pedestrian fatalities.

"The department has already started with activities towards making them safe month and we want to reach out to all people, pedestrians and motorists alike. We need to reduce the number of fatalities on our roads through working together."

"To all those entrusted with these vehicles, please make sure you use them to carry out your duties not for shopping and some other errands," Motlhabane said.

In the past, there had been complaints that some traffic cops used the vehicles for joy rides, using the blue lights to bully other road users.

After handing over the vehicles, Motlhabane let a road block in the Ramatlabama area.

"Holding a road block here is costly money that we are shifting our attention more towards rural areas in the spirit of villages, townships and small dorms. People in every part of our province have to feel safe," he said.

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MEC Motlhabane expresses satisfaction with the construction of Kgomo tso Registering authority

12/02/18 NWECONOMIST Pgs Dcs & Tm Pas



MEC Motlhabane expressed his satisfaction with the new buildings.

NW ECONOMIST: MEC. Motlhabane expresses satisfaction with the construction of Kgomo tso Registering authority North West motorists living on the borders of the Province and Northern Cape are expected to receive vehicle registering services sooner

than the time frame scheduled upon appointment of the contractor for the construction of the Kgomo tso Registering Authority.

This follows a mammoth progress registered on the first phase of the construction at the

registering authority site which is estimated at 70 percent completion already. On his site visit, Community Safety and Transport Management MEC, Dr Mpho Motlhabane said the progress was overwhelmingly impressive as he committed to putting more

pressure on the department for the second phase of the project to begin in earnest too. "The progress registered here is remarkable. We need contractors who are service delivery orientated like the one who's responsible for this project.

The quicker you complete this project the sooner our people start to get services on their Province. Most of our people this side ends up registering their vehicles in Northern Cape because of lack of services.

With this eminent completion, motorists will now enjoy government services at their door step and this is service delivery at its best," said Motlhabane. The R2,6 million construction project has created 11 permanently contracted job opportunities for the duration of the project. All of whom are recruited from Kgomo tso village in the Greater Taung Local Municipality. Over 40 unemployed people benefited from this project, particularly the

women and young people who got temporary jobs on sub-contracting basis. The Registering Authority is expected to benefit communities from more than 20 villages surrounding the Kgomo tso village with an estimate of more than 5000 vehicle population. "We will ensure the effective and efficient renewal of motor vehicle licenses, registration of new vehicles, de-registration of stolen and recovered vehicles or vehicles permanently unfit for use as well as notifications of vehicle changes in respect of vehicle particulars and re-registering of stolen and recovered vehicles," said Motlhabane. According to the MEC, the phase two of the project will include the construction of the testing ground for the vehicle testing station and the satellite office for Taung Law Enforcement Station.

12/02/18 NWECONOMIST Pgs Dcs & Tm Pas

EXCO pushes for traffic training college programme

NW ECONOMIST: The Executive Council (EXCO) of the North West government met last Thursday for its normal monthly meeting to discuss progress made on various key issues relating to the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP). The post EXCO media briefing was addressed by three MECs who included Sello Lehari of the department of Education and Sport Development, Wendy Nelson of the department of Finance, Economy and Enterprise Development and Dr Magome Masike of the department of Health.

A variety of key issues

affecting the governance of the province was addressed and EXCO resolved to implement and re-arrange programmes in line with the needs of the region.

EXCO firstly announced the approval of a proposal for the establishment of a traffic training college in the province. The provincial department of Community Safety and Transport Management has been entrusted with the responsibility to ensure that it deals with all administrative requirements that will pave the way for the introduction of the college. The details thereof will be communicated to the public

once due processes would have been followed and finalised by the responsible department.

Secondly EXCO received and accepted progress report on the hosting of the provincial OR Tambo Public Service Excellence Awards to be held on February 14 at the Rustenburg Civic Centre. The awards ceremony is held to recognise and reward the public service excellence in the delivery of services.

All the provincial departments have hosted their excellence awards ceremonies, which served as a build up to the provincial awards ceremony.

EXCO also approved reports

on the outcome of the SAMA, SATMA and Mahika Mahikeng Cultural Music Festival.

The EXCO resolved that this year, the VTSD music awards should be held as part of a build up to the SAMA. The EXCO further appreciated significant improvement registered in the 2017 Mahika Mahikeng Cultural Music Festival. The festival was bigger and better, and should grow even bigger in 2018.

The establishment of an academy of librarianship through Ikatisong School of Governance in the Office of the Premier has been approved by EXCO. The

Department of Culture, Arts and Traditional Affairs (CATA) will lead the processes and will work with the Department of Education and Sport Development to ensure that schools that have libraries also benefit from the training.

EXCO further approved the expenditure report which by December 8 2017 stood at 68, 47 percent and infrastructure excluding Conditional Grants and including Conditional Grants at 69.41 percent and 62.27 percent respectively.