

# Nowhere to hide for cop killers

## Police minister calls on senior personnel to hunt down criminals who slew six officers in Ngcobo police station

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THE police have vowed to bring to book the armed suspects who killed six police officers in Ngcobo in the Eastern Cape yesterday morning.

The officers were mowed down by a group of killers who entered the Ngcobo police station yesterday morning and randomly opened fire.

Another victim, a retired soldier who lived close to the police station, was hit and killed by a stray bullet while near his home. Provincial police commissioner, Liziwe Ntshinga said gunmen in balaclavas stormed into the charge office and shot at the officers taking all the firearms from their slain victims.

Ntshinga said the gunmen disarmed the female officers and locked them in a room. Five others, who were injured, were later taken to hospital.

"I have been awake since the early hours of this morning when we heard about the tragedy at the station. I was fortunately not working night shift, otherwise I too would have been killed," a police officer said at the station.



**IN COLD BLOOD:** Four police officers were killed inside the Ngcobo police station while two others were taken away and killed 6km away. Another person, a retired soldier died when he was hit by a stray bullet. PHOTO: TNA/TTA

Eastern Cape police spokesperson Capt Khaya Tonjeni said a police vehicle that had been stolen by the killers had been found.

"We can confirm that at least 10 firearms were stolen from our safe and from the police members," Tonjeni said.

Police Minister Fikile Mbalula, who went to the police station following the attack, has called for calm in the area.

"I have instructed Gen Khehla Sitole (national commissioner of the SAPS) to hunt down these barbaric criminals and bring them to book. They must regret the day they sat and planned to attack the state," Mbalula said.

Gen Sitole said no stone would be left unturned in hunting down the killers.

"I have activated a task team com-

prising of experienced detectives of the SAPS and the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation to investigate this attack," he said.

The team would be supported by specialised teams with the added support of the Airwing, he said.

"The community must share information with the police to ensure the investigation is expedited," the chairperson of the portfolio committee on police, Francois Beukman, said.

Meanwhile, police in Gauteng have opened a case of murder and house robbery after a sergeant, aged 42, who was deployed at the Union Buildings, was shot and killed in his house in Loate in the North West yesterday morning.

Police spokesperson Mavela Masondo said the police officer was asleep with his wife and two children, aged 14 and seven years, when they were attacked by three armed criminals.

"They shot the police officer several times in his upper body and he died at the scene. The suspects took a TV, laptop, two cellphones and cash before fleeing," he said. The wife and children were unharmed.



“Shocked and outraged by the reported killings of six police officers at eNgcobo in Eastern Cape. The killing of our law enforcement officers robs us of dedicated servants of our people whose only sin was to serve and protect. “Sad and tragic loss to their families. Shooting at law officers is a criminal act. We have all had enough of criminals running amok and we will find and bring them to justice.” – Fikile Mbalula



“No words can adequately express the profound grief, pain and heartache that I feel today on receiving news of this heinous act committed by ruthless, disrespectful, cruel and cold-blooded killers. “On behalf of the SAPS, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the families, relatives, friends and colleagues of our fallen heroes.” Lt-Gen Liziwe Ntshinga the Eastern Cape provincial commissioner said.



“I am appalled and deeply saddened by the cold and callous attack on our colleagues this morning. “I have activated a task team comprised of experienced detectives of the SAPS and the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation to investigate this attack,” the National Commissioner of the SAPS, Gen Khehla John Sitole.



“These killings serve as a stern reminder of the PSA’s warning to the SAPS that its intention to reduce its staff complement by 3000 employees by 2020 is not in the interests of the country while police officers are being murdered at an alarming rate in the line of duty. “Every police officer killed in the line of duty robs the country and its citizens of another custodian of their safety.” – PSA general manager, Ivan Fredericks



“These criminals have declared war on the state and South Africans and their treason should be met with the full might of the law. We cannot allow anarchy to prevail. The killing of law enforcement officers and workplace deaths in general are starting to be a crisis for the country. The relevant departments need to leave no stone unturned to stop this deterioration in the country.” – Sizo Pamla, Cosatu national spokesperson.

# Suspects held during operation Fiela

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**MAHIKENG MAIL-Mahikeng-** As part of reasserting the authority of the state, Operation Fiela II is continuing in the North West province after the launch by the MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Dr Mpho Motlhabane on February 2 in Klerksdorp.

The operation is aimed at addressing laws, order, peace, security and stability as well as to reclaim the space or areas controlled by criminals and to create a conducive environment for all people in South Africa to participate in social and economic activities.

During the weekend of February 16 and 19 operations took place throughout

the North West Province. The operations were conducted through a multi-disciplinary approach by various joint law enforcement role players including provincial and local government structures. 204 suspects were arrested for various crimes ranging from liquor related offences to serious crimes like murder and robbery. 45 undocumented

persons were also nabbed by the police during their operation.

During the roadblock that was established between Mahikeng and Bray a suspicious truck was searched and nine illegal immigrants were found hiding in the back and in the Mahikeng CBD another 14 illegal immigrants were also arrested. They were all detained and

processed.

Various counterfeit goods were confiscated and in Mahikeng four bogus doctors were also arrested for conducting illegal abortions without any medical training. The operation also led to confiscation of various drugs, twenty-two cell phones, electrical equipment, four cattle, copper pipes, eleven vehicles, a toy gun, perishables as well as fuel.

The North West Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane indicated that the operation will continue in other parts of the province in order to stamp the authority of the state in the community and to ensure that members of the community are and feel safe. Operation Fiela II will continue until the end of July 2018.



Mahikeng and Mmabatho Police officers conducting a search in the Bradford long distance taxi rank.

## Traffic examiners, driving school owners arrested



**MAHIKENG MAIL - MAHIKENG -** The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) in the North West's Serious Commercial Crime Investigation Unit is celebrating the successful arrest of five traffic examiners, four driving school owners and three driving school instructors aged between 29 and 66 for corruption in Potchefstroom and Mogwase this week with more to follow.

According to Captain Tlangelani Rikhotso, spokesperson for the North West Hawks, the Unit successfully terminated a project-driven investigation which was aimed at dismantling fraud and corrupt activities at traffic stations and driving schools within the province. "The Hawks received information alleging that driving school owners collude with examiners of learners and drivers licences, by issuing learners and drivers licences to members of the public at a pre-determined fee. The examiner would allegedly mark the answers on the learners'

tests with a sharp object, which would only be seen by the person who paid," stated Capt Rikhotso. Applicants would allegedly also get a driver's licence without being tested, after paying a fee of R5000.00 to R10 000.00. Suspects appeared before the Potchefstroom and Mogwase Magistrate Courts on Tuesday, 20 February 2018, facing charges of fraud and corruption. The Provincial Head of the Hawks, Major General Linda Mbana congratulated the investigating team who ensured that corrupt traffic examiners and driving school owners are brought to book.