

# Taximan's widow wants justice!

By DULILE SOWAGA

THE WIDOW of a taxi boss killed in taxi violence in Khuma, near Stilfontein, North West is praying for justice.

Jeffrey Bambani (54) was murdered in August 2015 by a gunman while watching TV with his two grandchildren.

The chairman of the Greater Stilfontein Taxi Association was said to be very outspoken during meetings with rival taxi groups.

Suspect Simphiwe Mkunukeli (50) was arrested but skipped bail and fled to his home town of Cofimvaba in the Eastern Cape.

But the law has caught up with him. Last Wednesday, he appeared in the Stilfontein Magistrates Court. The case was transferred to North West High Court for trial.

Jeffrey's widow, Modiehi



Modiehi Bambani doesn't know why her husband was shot. Photo by Dulile Sowaga

Bambani (49), said she hopes that after such a long time, justice will be served.

Modiehi said on the day her husband was killed, a man came looking for him but he was not around.

The man introduced himself to Jeffrey's makoti as "Ntsu". "Minutes later, Jeffrey entered the house with

his grandkids to watch TV.

"Suddenly, we heard a loud noise and I went to check, only to find him lying motionless with blood coming from his head," said Modiehi.

A police statement said the killer entered through the kitchen. The killing is linked to the taxi violence between the Greater Stilfontein Taxi Association and the Khuma Taxi Association.

People believe the suspect used a gun belonging to a member of a rival taxi group.

"All I want is for the law to take its course. We don't know this man and the person who hired him or why he wanted to kill my husband," said Modiehi.

The case has been postponed a few times but the trial is now expected to begin on 21 August.

# BRT COST CONCERN

## City A Re Yeng buses nearly empty – minister

**RAPULA MOATSHE**  
rapula.moatshe@inl.co.za

THE cost of running the city's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) at a loss was raised as "a great concern" at the Southern African Transport Conference at the CSIR yesterday.

Transport Minister Joe Maswanganyi expressed concern regarding the future of the A Re Yeng buses during his opening speech.

Maswanganyi called on at least 600 delegates to explore solutions to the problems related to the business viability of BRT systems in cities. Deviating from his prepared speech, Maswanganyi said he had seen almost empty A Re Yeng buses constantly travelling on city roads.

He suggested BRT buses were running at a loss by not attracting more commuters to use them.

"I have seen the BRT buses from Hatfield and Sunnyside with two people on board. I don't know whether I should continue to subsidise such a bus."

Maswanganyi threatened to withdraw the government's financial support for the buses and divert it to taxis if the situation didn't improve. "How do you continue to subsidise a bus travelling with only a driver? Who am I subsidising? The bus driver or the bus?"

He challenged the delegates of scientists and academics to come up with solutions to the problem.

"If it is not working tell us and next year we will stop it. Say 'minister this thing is not working because of one, two, three'. Maybe we didn't do thorough feasibility studies when we conceptualised the BRT system. It is a matter that all

of us here have to look at," he said.

Transport analyst Paul Browning said there was generally a great concern about the amount of money spent on the BRT system.

He said the matter had been raised by the National Treasury and would receive attention at the conference.

MEC for Roads and Transport Dr Ismail Vadi said: "Current BRT usage is not that great. We have already invested around R15 billion in the system in the three metros, but Gauteng usage is not more than 75 000 people per day."

Vadi said the BRT roll-out was happening in the cities. "When fully in place, the BRT will comprise 700km of dedicated bus lanes."

He said it was important to ask some serious questions about the system. "Should we have gone for something more affordable and more viable? Do we need such fancy stations?"

According to Vadi roughly 63 000 passenger trips were being undertaken daily, with over 80 million passenger trips having taken place since Gautrain's inception in 2010.

At least 140km of new tracks will be laid in the province in the next 25 years, while 19 new Gautrain stations are being planned.

Six of these will be located in the capital, three in Ekurhuleni and 10 in Joburg.

Tshwane transport MMC Sheila Senkubuge didn't reply to queries regarding the business viability of the A Re Yeng buses.



An A Re Yeng bus leaves Church Square.

PICTURE: OUPA MOKOENA

“Should we have gone for something more affordable and more viable? Do we need such fancy stations?”

**Ismail Vadi**

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Transport Minister Joe Maswanganyi delivers the opening address at the Southern African Transport Conference at the CSIR International Convention Centre.

PICTURE: JACQUES NAUDE

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# Mapodisi a kgalemelelwa go tlhoka go tlotla pina ya bosetshaba

Archie Babeile

**M**aloko a sepodisi sa Afrika Borwa a neng a tlele go netefatsa tshireletsego mo kopanong ya Mottatsatona wa lefapha la Temothuo, Dikgwa le Tsa Ditlhapi, Mogenerala Bheki Cele, le baagi ba Los-My-Cherry, ba kgalemilwe ka bogale ka go palelwa ke go tlotla pina ya bosetshaba ya naga.

Cele o ne a kopane le baagi ba Los-My-Cherry go buisana ka merero ya temothuo. Mottatsatona yo, yo o kileng a nna mokhomishinara wa bosetshaba wa sepodisi, o ne a swabisitwe ke gore mangwe a mapodisi a ne a tlotla, fa baagi gwe ba ne ba tsamayatsamaya fa go opelwa pina ya bosetshaba.

O ne a emisa puo le baagi, mme a kopa gore go bidiwe monaya-ditaelo wa maloko a sepodisi gore a thagelele fa pele ga gagwe.

"Ke tshwenyegile thata ka gonne fa re ne re opela pina ya bosetshaba, ke bone lepodisi lengwe le tsamayatsamaya. Selo se se ntseng jalo ga se a tshwane-la. Ke bone mongwe a roise futshe," ga rialo Mogenerala Cele.

"Tsamayang lo ye go neelana maele. Selo se setona mo tirong ya lona ke go obamela molao. Fa lo ya go katiswa selo sa ntsha se lo se rutiwang ke gore o tlogela bowena, mme o tshela ka molao o

o gagametseng.

Ke kopa gore mo nakong e e tlang fa go opelwa pina ya bosetshaba, mongwe le mongwe wa lona a eme fo a teng a bontshe tlotlo. Go dilo di le pedi tse lo tshwanetseng go di tlotla go gaisa – folaga ya naga le pina ya bosetshaba".

Fa a fetsa go kgalemiwa, monaya-ditaelo yo o ne a diragatsa tlotlo ya saluti, mme a tisa mongebo o molesane mo sefathegong sa ga Mogenerala Cele.

# Mbalula unleashes big guns on airport crime

**TANKISO MAKHETHA**

tankiso.makhetha@ini.co.za

**POLICE** Minister Fikile Mbalula believes most crimes at OR Tambo International Airport are inside jobs and has vowed to bring changes to security personnel there.

This comes in the wake of three suspects, including a police officer, who appeared in the Kempton Park Magistrate's Court on Friday in connection with their alleged involvement in a R20.7 million heist at the airport in March.

The trio – France Manaka, Simon Tlhokwane and Philokuhle Ntanzu, have been charged with robbery with aggravating circumstances.

“Those police officers who are corrupt and who have been doing their things in a clandestine manner, we will



**ENOUGH: Fikile Mbalula**

find them in the plan we will be rolling out as of next week,” he said.

Mbalula was speaking after his meeting with State Security Minister David Mahlobo at the airport yesterday to assess the security there.

He said many of the crimes committed at the airport were inside jobs, while adding that police and some security officials accepted bribes.

Mbalula said the initiative was aimed at exposing corrupt officials deployed at the airport.

He explained that they would be reshuffling officers and security guards at the airport after realising there were loopholes in its security system.

“That’s why we rotate people here, because some of the people have been here for 10 years and they don’t want to leave.

“Clearly there are benefits to being based at the airport. But they too have to be checked... not just the police officers but everyone (working) here,” he said.

“We have noted all the gaps in terms of what is happening at the airport, which is mainly issues of corruption and collusion.”

The minister added that leadership would play an important role to help curb crime at the airport.

“All our police entities are going to conduct a joint operation with regard to what needs to be done.

“I can assure you that criminals are not going to be on holiday. We are going to make it very unpleasant, and not only that, but we are going to clean out this place to zero (crime),” said Mbalula.

“The criminals who come here are heavily armed and dangerous, so we can’t respond to them with broomsticks.

“We have realised that most of the time they manage to escape when the reports come in. That’s why we are going to unleash our Tactical Response Team. We will give them what they want.”

# Mbalula plans to put an end to OR Tambo airport heists

11/07/17 Sowetan pg 6 DOP POS

Minister to send in specialised police units

By Neo Goba

Those intending to commit crime at OR Tambo international airport in Johannesburg will have to think twice before doing so as specialised police units will be deployed to keep a watchful eye on any suspected criminal activities.

This stern warning was issued by Police Minister Fikile Mbalula yesterday.

"We have noted all the gaps in terms of what is happening at the airports, which is mainly issues of corruption and collusion. Leadership is key in terms of what needs to happen and it can assist us to cap when we have detected crime long before and we have sort of agreed on what needs to happen," he said.

"All our police entities are going to conduct a joint operation with regards to what needs to be done here at the airport.

"I can assure all of you that criminals are not going to be on holiday, we are going to make it very unpleasant [for them] and not only that, but we are going to clean out this place to zero."

Mbalula was speaking yesterday afternoon at the airport following a meeting with State Security Minister David Mahlobo, Ekurhuleni mayor Mzwandile Masina and Gauteng MEC for community safety Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane.

Mbalula's remarks came just hours after a truck containing valuable goods was hijacked on the highway after leaving the airport and the truck driver and his assistant held hostage.

However, the police managed to recover the truck and the goods, but the robbers were able to flee the scene.



An aerial photograph of OR Tambo International Airport in Kempton Park, a target of criminal gangs who regularly rob travellers and goods storage facilities. / SUPPLIED

Mbalula said they had identified all the weaknesses at the airport and that part of improving security and curbing corruption would be to rotate and vet police officers who are deemed to not be doing their jobs.

Three men, including a policeman, appeared at the Kempton Park Magistrate's Court on Friday in connection

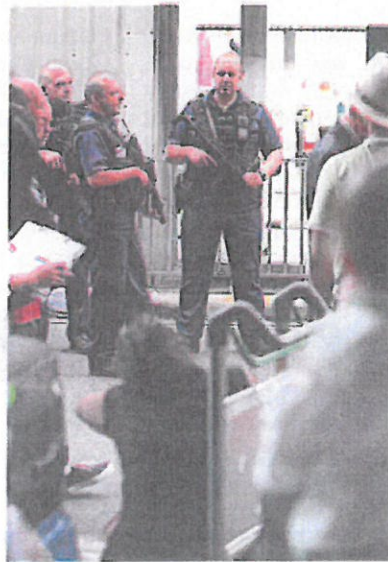
with their alleged involvement in a R20-million heist at OR Tambo in March.

Simon Thlokwane, France Manaka, 26, and Philokuhle Ntanzi, 30, face charges of robbery with aggravating circumstances.

Mbalula said the heist could have been avoided had competent police officers with integrity been deployed at key sections at the airport.

He accused some police officers of taking bribes from criminals in broad daylight but said they were following all possible leads to root out police officers who might be implicated in criminal operations.

Two weeks ago, an armed robber was killed in a shootout and another arrested after they held up security guards in the cargo area at the airport.

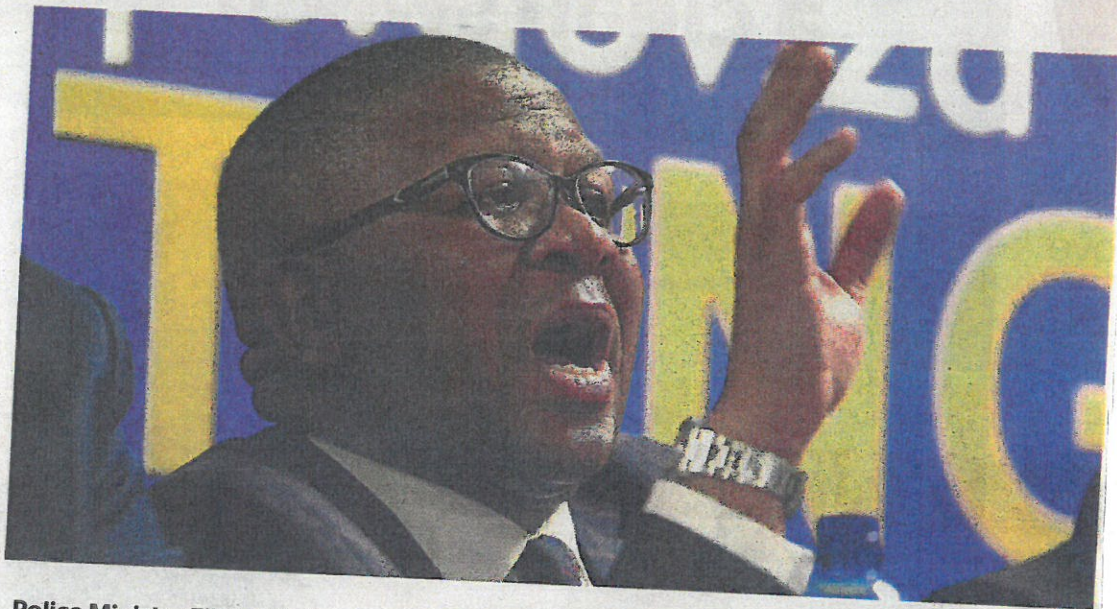


Police Minister Fikile Mbalula says he wants competent police officers with integrity deployed to OR Tambo airport.

/ ANTON HAMMERL

**Criminals are not going to be on holiday**

# Targeted theft could be work of syndicate



Police Minister Fikile Mbalula says that investigations are ongoing to uncover if burglaries at key state institutions are an inside job. / SIMPHIWE NKWALI

## State agencies suspect inside job

By **Bongani Nkosi** and **Graeme Hosken**

A daring syndicate is allegedly behind the spate of break-ins into key security and justice institutions.

"We can say there seems to be a trend where information is stolen from state institutions engaged in sensitive investigations," Gareth Newham, head of the governance, crime and justice division at the Institute for Security Studies, told Sowetan yesterday.

Newham spoke in the wake of yet another burglary at the offices of the Gauteng North Director of Public Prosecutions on Sunday night.

The burglars managed to gain access to the highly secure building by bypassing

multiple CCTV cameras and security guards on duty.

Once inside, they allegedly made their way to the second floor where they entered two offices diagonally opposite each other, making off with computers and other electronic devices without alerting the guards. The thieves were believed to have gained access to each office by climbing through small windows above the doors.

National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) spokesman Luvuyo Mfaku said two laptops were stolen at offices occupied by prosecutors.

"No dockets were stolen. At the moment we don't know what those laptops contained. Our IT [department] is investigating that," said Mfaku.

The NPA is the second institution targeted in as many weeks. The Hawks, an elite unit of the police, were burgled last week and several computers from the finance,

supply chain management and human resource management were stolen.

Police Minister Fikile Mbalula said: "Investigations are ongoing to uncover the internal job that might be involved."

State Security spokesman Brian Dube said indications that the break-ins were an inside job needed to be addressed before blaming the spooks for failing to protect state offices. "It's clear in all these instances there's likelihood of inside information. It's highly likely that there's involvement of people who work inside those structures."

Newham said: "We should be very worried because it means there's a group of people who find it relatively easy to break into institutions. If institutions established to fight corruption are not secured, a lot of us are not secured," said Newham.

■ [nkosib@sowetan.co.za](mailto:nkosib@sowetan.co.za)