

'If you beat her you're a tsotsi'

MATIBONGWE MASHINA

POLICE Minister Fikile Mkhulu says the police office regards rape, murder and other forms of gender-based violence as a fundamental threat to national security.

"I have instructed my office to deal with it in that manner as a priority crime," Mkhulu said during a debate on violence against women in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) yesterday.

"I have also instructed my office to ensure the visibility of having femicide and domestic violence classified as a special category crime," she said.

"An assault against women must carry a heavier sentence than assault against men," she said.

Mkhulu sent a strong message to the police on how to deal with women who were victims of crime.

"Women must be told to fight things at home," he said. "No woman must be turned away without proper investigation. And statements should be taken in a police station."

He also said that female victims of violence must receive legal, medical, social and psychological support.

"The police and court processes should be streamlined as to ensure as much visibility and police presence as possible in the strategy to effect change."

"All of this is currently taking place in a heightened pace. Our communities are participating in police for peace activities to interfere with their reluctance to interfere in domestic disputes and, in particular, their reluctance to arrest and prosecute offenders."

He said that no domestic violence cases, including those against children, would be treated lightly.

"I assure women and children that we will do everything to protect and keep you safe to prosecute and punish the criminals," Mkhulu said.

He issued a warning to men who abused their partners.

"Women and girls, full stop! Property is not your girlfriend, it is your partner, you are a wife or partner, you are a tsotsi! You coward!" he said to applause from MPs.

Mkhulu called on men to rise up against the brutality meted out to women and children.

"We must make a distinction between women and those in control of men, wives, sisters and grandmothers," Modise said.

She said the rights of women and children were every human's rights.

Modise called on mothers not to force girls into marriage because their fathers wanted lobolo.

01/06/2017 (FES)
The Star Page 6 SAKS (NATIONAL)

ANOTHER WOMAN SLAIN

Pretoria News | Neg Dop | 01/06/17

Gender-based violence threatens national security – Mbalula

VIRGILIATTE GWANGWA
virgilitte.gwangwa@net.co.za

ONGOING efforts by police to root out femicide in the country got a boost when the bullet-riddled body of an unknown woman was discovered in the city yesterday morning.

Police spokesman Capt. Maseko said they were seriously disturbed by the discovery of yet another body.

"It happened at a time when the provincial and national police are investigating disappearances of women which have increased drastically over the past month," Maseko said.

Yesterday's body was discovered by farmworkers on their way to work near a Kamieskrans plot.

The 35-year-old woman had two gunshot wounds on her upper body and was wearing a black skirt and jacket. Police estimated her age between 25 and 35.

"We are that we'll do everything to protect and keep you safe from criminals," Maseko said.

Farmerworkers were reporting for duty when they noticed a body lying on the side of the road in the early hours of yesterday.

"They called the police and when they arrived at the scene, they discovered that it was the body of a woman with gunshot wounds on her upper body," he said.

Maseko said paramedics were summoned to the scene and it was there that they certified the woman dead. "The motive for this murder is still unknown and a case has been opened."

Among other women who had recently been reported missing and were then found killed was 22-year-old Karabo Mokoena, who went missing in April. Her decaying body was found covered with gunshot wounds in a dam a week later.

The body of 28-year-old Bongeka Phungula, a graduate from the Durban University of Technology, was found in the same area with gunshot wounds to her head a week later.

Popi Qwebe, 24, from Zola 2 in Soweto, was also found killed on the same day. Both had also been raped, police said.

Yende, reported missing two weeks ago, was found dead in an office at Ekom where she worked. Her decomposing body was retrieved by the police after staff complained of the stench of rotting flesh coming from the premises.

Both police and Eskom security personnel, with dogs, searched the premises with a fine toothcomb when she disappeared after being caught up in a robbery.

Towards the end of last year, police retrieved the body of 38-year-old Mosisa Moilele, from Stinkwater, Pretoria, after she was murdered by

backyard. He confessed six months later.

The body of Stellenbosch University student Hannah Cornelius was found after she was hijacked and killed in the city.

Counting police have set up a task team comprising 16 detectives to probe the spate of killings of women.

Maseko said the new discovery disturbed society and law enforcement. He said they were looking for anything of about a missing woman, or the killing of one, should come forward with information. He said a high-level investigation was being launched into the latest killing.

"We are looking for information to combat crimes committed against women and children, and to investigate other similar crimes already committed in the province," he said.

The rising incidence of kidnapping, rape, sexual assault and other crimes against women has spread fear. Women have expressed their fear of being both indoors and outdoors.

They have called on the government to restore order and ensure safety was guaranteed.

President Jacob Zuma said other politicians, including those in government, have spoken out against the femicide, saying it was not normal for men to kill as they did. It could not become normal, they said, vowing to do what they could to stop it.

Some men in society also took up the fight against femicide, marching through the streets in a campaign lasting two weekends ago, branding a #NotInMyName campaign and saying men had to protect women.

"Real men don't rape, real men don't abuse and don't down with women abuse!"

Similar protests have been staged in other parts of the country.

Police have also called on communities to stand up against all forms of abuse, especially that levelled against women and children, who were vulnerable in the face of violence.

Meanwhile, Police Minister Fikile Mbalula said his office regarded rape, femicide and other forms of gender-based violence as a fundamental threat to national security.

"I have instructed my office to deal with it in that manner – as a priority crime," Mbalula said during a debate on violence against women in the National Council of Provinces.

"I have tasked my office to evaluate the viability of having femicide and domestic violence classified as a special category. An offence that carries a sentence for common assault," he said.

Mbalula sent a strong message to the police on how to deal with women who were victims of crimes at home," he said. "Not to turn away without proper investigation. And statements should be taken in a private room," he added.

He also said female victims of crimes must receive legal, medical, social and psychological support.

"I assure women and children and women that we will do everything to protect and keep you safe from crim-



PICTURES: JACQUES NAUZE

The 88 Ford Ranger bakkies are handed over to the police at the Tshwane SAPS Academy.

Pretoria News 9/11/2023 17:00
Public order police get a boost with new resources

SAKHILE NDLAZI
 sakhile.ndlazi@nc.co.za

THE new fleet of 88 vehicles and 25 high-end cameras for public order police will bolster and strengthen responses to violent protests, rallies and other events.

Acting national police commissioner Phahlane yesterday unveiled the Ford Ranger bakkies which will be used to patrol the country's hot spots to deal with hostile crowds.

In the years, the public order policing unit had played an important role in demonstrating their capacity and ability to restore peace and stability in times of violent protests – with, at times, minor injuries.

The last time the unit received a boost in resources to help them combat crime was in 2010. Phahlane said this was part of the bigger plan of rolling out programmes of strategic crime prevention, community safety and violence thus ensuring #CrimeMustFall was realised.

Also, 10 helicopters will be fitted with cameras that will allow police to adequately monitor the public order protests and any zoom in on the most minor details.

Phahlane said the cameras would make it easier to nab criminals during protests. An estimated 100 million was spent on both the vehicles and the cameras.

The Police Ministry had learned numerous lessons from the Marikana tragedy and was using those lessons to improve its capabilities in public order policing.

"This capacitation process is in part, our acknowledgement and response to the Farlam Commission of Inquiry's recommendations which we regard as very important. We have strengthened our intelligence, legal and detective resources to support the public



Acting national police commissioner Lieutenant-General Khomoto Phahlane at the Tshwane SAPS Academy yesterday.

order police operations," he said.

"In South Africa, service delivery protests have increased greatly since 2022, and they continue to do so daily."

To effectively deal with the challenges, it is essential that the SAPS required adequate training and resources.

Phahlane said the enhancement of the existing public order policing units through additional capacity, the restructuring of previous units closed during various restructuring processes, and the establishment of new units, would ensure equal distribution of human and other resources.

The new units will include a public order policing unit which would serve four clusters and 22 police stations.

This would enhance the units' reaction time. Less time and money will be spent on travelling and accommodation, since the units would be closer to the hot spot areas.

Attendees are 27 official, principal public order policing units and one public order police reserve unit.

With the implementation of the strategic plan, the public order police capacity will increase to 50 police units, 1000 vehicles and four reserve units.

Attendees were treated to a demonstration by the public order police during a protest.

Police showed their capabilities by using tear gas, water cannons, rubber bullets to disperse a group of make-believe protesters.

... ..

'SA to be free of crime by 2059'

Pretoria News Pg 3 SAPS national PCS

SAKHILE NDLAZI

sakhile.ndlazi@eni.co.za

SOUTH Africa will only be able to enjoy a crime-free society by 2059, says the national crime prevention strategy, according to the latest trends and future predictions.

Statistician-General Pali Lehohla yesterday said this was despite decreasing crime levels in the past two years.

"SAPS crime statistics show that total crime as a percentage of the population (per capita crime) has been steadily decreasing since 2005. However, the rate is too slow. At this rate, the goal of eliminating crime will be achieved in 2059 instead of 2020," he said in the National Development Plan.

Lehohla was speaking at the latest crime statistics on the extent and circumstances surrounding housebreaking, burglary and home robbery.

The report, entitled "Exploring the extent of and circumstances surrounding housebreaking/burglary and home robbery" is part of a series of reports produced by Statistics South Africa.

It is an in-depth analysis of the Victims of Crime Survey data collected in 2015/16 in conjunction with data from the SAPS and focusing on housebreaking and home robbery.

"Housebreaking/burglary accounts for over 50% of all crimes experienced by households, followed by home robbery which was experienced by 17% of households."

He said there had been a growing perception that crime was on the increase, despite a recorded decrease over the last five years.

"An increasing proportion of households are reporting crime occurring alone in their neighbourhoods during the day and at night than they were five years ago."

"These perceptions may have emanated from the fact that home robbery reporting has been increasing," he said.

An estimated 670 000 households in South Africa experienced housebreaking/burglary while about

160 000 households experienced home robberies in 2015/16.

He said there was a declining trend in the proportion of household crime experienced by male-headed and female-headed households. "The risk that female-headed households are one to three times than when the household head is female,"

Lehohla added that educated males are more at risk. "The odds of experiencing home robbery were more than five times compared to households where the head had no education."

"This may be due to economic well being associated with the high level of education," he said.

Although the prevalence of housebreaking/burglary and home robbery declined during the last five years, the report says that there is a perception that crime was increasing.

While reporting of home robbery has been increasing, this was not the case with reporting of housebreaking.

In 2015/16, just over half of housebreaking/burglary (53%) incidents and 68% of home robbery incidents were reported to the police.

Lehohla said, when reporting rates are low, under-reporting results in a skewed picture.

VQCS estimated that in 2015/16, under-reporting for housebreaking was 41% and 51% for robbery.

"According to the survey, most residents did not report crime because they did not think it would not do anything," he said.

The results also show that the odds of a white-headed household reporting housebreaking to the police were 10% higher than those of a black/African-headed household.

In about 19% of the incidents of housebreakings/burglaries and home robberies reported to the police, the perpetrator was a woman.

The conviction rate among suspects of housebreaking/burglary was 14.3% and 22% among those accused of home robbery.



Pali Lehohla, Statistician-General for Statistics South Africa, briefs the media. PICTURE: JACQUES NAUDE