

Police bosses disagreed on appointment

Minister's decision riled national commissioner Phiyega, sources say

ANGELIQUE SERRAO
angelique.serrao@inl.co.za

THE SECONDMENT of a senior police officer to the ministry is said to be one of the reasons why suspended national commissioner General Riah Phiyega and Minister Nathi Nhleko fell out.

The Star has learnt that Major-General Bethuel Mondli Zuma, who headed the Nkandla investigation, is facing criminal charges for losing his service firearm under suspicious circumstances in August last year. Zuma, who is not related to President Jacob Zuma, had been appointed Gauteng police commissioner, but Phiyega

withdrew his appointment when it emerged that he was facing criminal charges for drunk driving and defeating the ends of justice.

The Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court acquitted him of the charges.

Phiyega said at the time that she became aware of the charges against Zuma after announcing him as commissioner.

But it emerged recently that one of the allegations before a ministerial committee looking into misconduct charges against Phiyega is that she misled the public when she claimed that she was not aware of the charges against Zuma.

It has been reported that

several documents disputing her statements have emerged, including a declaration believed to have been signed by Zuma four days before his appointment.

The Star has learnt that in April this year, Nhleko requested that Zuma be moved to his office to head special projects, one of which was the Nkandla investigation. Zuma was the head of border policing at the time.

Senior officials said the request was not supported by Phiyega, partly because of the new criminal charges Zuma is facing. The new charges relate to an incident last year when Zuma lost his state-issued laptop and 9mm Beretta.

He reportedly told police that

after spending the night at Regal Inn Xpress in Pietermaritzburg, he put his firearm in his laptop bag and went shopping, leaving the bag in his Hilux.

The next day he noticed the bag was missing. However, the vehicle was locked and there was no sign of forced entry.

The laptop contained information on border policing and ports of entry.

The National Prosecuting Authority has issued a request for Zuma to appear in the Pietermaritzburg Regional Court on January 18 to face a charge of the negligent loss of his firearm.

Nhleko's spokesman Musa Zondi said Zuma was instructed by the minister to assist with

special projects.

Zondi denied there was tension due to "functional and operational objectives". "We find it strange that this matter is being raised now via the media when Major-General Zuma has always been at the SAPS and no issue was ever raised."

Zondi said the minister was aware that Zuma had reported the theft of his service pistol and a laptop computer. He had been given a bill of R17 000 to pay for the stolen items.

"It is a matter that is before our courts, consequently it would be imprudent for the minister to be drawn into details of this matter, which is *sub judice*," Zondi said.



CENTRAL TO DISPUTE: Major-General Mondli Zuma was facing criminal charges when he was appointed.



Head-on crash kills passenger

ONE PERSON was killed and three were injured when a bakkie and a car collided on the N2 near Paddock on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast yesterday. KZN Road Traffic Inspectorate spokeswoman Zinthe Mngomezulu said the vehicles collided head-on and that one of the occupants from the bakkie was killed. Robert McKenzie, spokesman for KZN's Emergency Medical Services, said two of the injured were critical while the third was in a serious condition. The injured were taken to Port Shepstone provincial hospital. A case of culpable homicide was being investigated, Mngomezulu said. - ANA

20 years for burglary and rape

A MAN was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for rape and housebreaking, KZN police spokesman Thulani Zwane said yesterday. "The Vryheid Regional Court convicted and jailed 26-year-old Sigin Ricardo Ntombela," Zwane said. The case related to an attack on January 14, when Ntombela broke into the Bhekuzulu home of a 42-year-old woman after midnight. Ntombela woke her, pulled out a knife and raped her. He stabbed the victim in the back before fleeing. She survived. The Vryheid Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit later arrested him. - ANA

Trio jailed for sex crime

TWIN brothers and an accomplice have been sentenced to a combined 55 years in prison for the gang rape of a woman in North West. Police spokesman Major Pelonomi Makau said twins Thabang Godfrey Montsho and Kgantsetile Sydney Montsho, 26, were sentenced to 20 years each. Their accomplice Buti Aaron Mareko, 18, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in the Itoseng Regional Court for rape. In 2010, a 27-year-old victim from Bodibe Village and her four male friends were on their way home at night after attending a church service, Makau said. They were approached by the trio, who threatened them with knives, before forcing the woman into a deserted house, where they took turns raping her the whole night. She alerted the police. Mareko was arrested the same day and the brothers a few weeks later. - ANA

Guards held for robbery

THE POLICE have arrested three security guards after they allegedly beat up a Mayfair Joburg, shopkeeper, 27, and robbed him of his money. The suspects, aged between 22 and 37, are employed as guards, police said yesterday. They were due to appear in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday. - ANA

Child-support defaulters traced

FATHERS who were maintenance defaulters in Cape Town will be forced to pay their dues after members of the Western Cape's Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS) arrived at their homes on Wednesday night with warrants of arrest. Kicking off around 10pm, the province's Department of Justice, Correctional Services and the SAPS headed the southern suburbs arm of Operation Isondlo, which forms part of the JCPS's commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children and "Count me in" campaigns. Their maintenance turnaround strategy is focused on recovering child support arrears and tracing defaulters. The regional head of the Department of Justice, advocate Hishaam Mohamed, said some fathers had been identified and were known as the "top eight" because combined they were R360 000 in arrears for child support. This was out of a total of R1 million owed by defaulters in the suburbs that were targeted. - ANA

Gold smuggler quizzed

GOLD, worth almost R3 million was confiscated at King Shaka International Airport last week, the South African Revenue Service said yesterday. Sars customs officials found the gold in the pockets and a money bag of a male passenger disembarking from Dubai. The man hid 48 gold bars weighing 5.6kg under his clothing. He was questioned. - ANA

Government intervenes to end Pikitup strike after 10-day deadlock

ANNA COX
AND KATE MORRISSEY
anna.cox@inl.co.za
kathleen.morrissey@inl.co.za

A POLITICAL solution has been reached to end the unprotected strike Pikitup embarked on 10 days ago, leaving Joburg filled with rubbish, overflowing bins and an overwhelming stench.

It was reached only through the intervention of the Gauteng government following a deadlock between Pikitup and its employees.

Yesterday morning, the City of Joburg said it did not intervene as it was an internal matter between the employees and their employer.

Later in the afternoon, however, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Jacob Mamabolo said an agreement had been reached between the city, the South African Municipal Workers Union (Samwu), Pikitup and the province.

He said the truce had nothing to do with the bargaining council processes, which would still have to be followed.

Mamabolo said it did not replace the labour processes and it did not mean this was setting a precedent.

"We started talks on Monday. There were long days and nights, but we agreed on core issues," he said.

"We understand it was an unprotected strike, but we acknowledge the legitim-

ate demands of the workers," he added.

It was agreed that:
● A senior advocate will be appointed to ensure a proper and conducive climate for negotiations and who will also work towards fostering trust between the parties.

● The Joburg city manager will conduct a city-wide investigation into salary disparity among workers, and Pikitup workers will be prioritised as they are the lowest paid.

● A cost exercise will be completed to see how this will impact on the city's budget.

● By February 1, investigations will be completed into the factors leading to the strike, including the relations between Pikitup managing director Amanda Nair and her employees.

● The no-work, no-pay conditions will be discussed.

● The senior advocate will assist with criminal charges laid against workers during the wildcat strike.

● The hostilities will cease. With regard to the demand that Nair be removed, Mamabolo said he was sure relations could be improved and saved.

"It will give both sides the opportunity to present more specific demands - not to place blame on anyone," he said.

"We have taken into consideration the implications of the strike on Joburg residents and we have decided to start these talks to alleviate the unnes-



OVER AT LAST: MMC for the Environment and Corporate Services Matshidiso Mfikoe, MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Jacob Mamabolo, Samwu Simon Mathe and Cosatu's Dumisani Dakile sign an agreement that ends the Pikitup strike at the Housing Department. Pikitup workers on duty last night were due to return to work and additional trucks will be employed to clear the backlog in coming days. PICTURE: CHRIS COLLINGRIDGE

sary pressure residents find themselves in because of the strike.

"We know the round table for discussions is best," he added.

The workers who were on night shift were now expected to return to work and cleaning would continue as normal.

Additional resources such as trucks and staff will be dispatched to catch up on the back-

log of refuse removal across the city as from today.

Samwu deputy general secretary Simon Mathe said: "We remain convinced that our demands leading to the protest action are genuine, and as mandated by our members, we will allow this process to unfold."

"We therefore urge Pikitup workers to return to work."

"We further urge Pikitup

management not to victimise workers who were part of this protest action.

"We thank the Gauteng province for intervening in finding a resolution," Mathe added.

But the violence has taken its toll, with four Red Ants workers shot while cleaning up the streets as replacements for the striking workers. Strikers and police also clashed heatedly dur-

ing the protests in Braamfontein, and a soccer star's BMW was among the strike victims.

Yesterday, the smell from rotting rubbish in the Joburg CBD was unbearable as the mounds of uncollected filth grew higher.

Other parts of Joburg felt the effects from the strike too, with businesses affected.

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Cops search for 35 missing Orange Farm boys

ILANIT CHERNICK
ilanit.chernick@inl.co.za

SEVEN teenage boys, who disappeared from Orange Farm and surrounding areas last week, have been found - all beaten and some circumcised.

However, 35 boys had not been found, police said.

"The boys went missing over different days last week, several at a time. They were found through a number of police operations around Gauteng.

They are aged between 13 and 17," said spokesman Captain Johannes Motsiri.

"We aren't sure where the others are but we're looking into the possibility of initiations," he said.

Motsiri said police were searching legal and illegal initiation schools for them but couldn't say for certain if all the missing teenagers were somehow connected.

"As soon as we find concrete information that leads to

allegations that they were forcefully taken, we will open a case."

Motsiri said one of the boys, aged 13, was found in Boksburg yesterday.

"He was severely assaulted but not circumcised. He was taken to a clinic. We have advised his parents to bring him back to open a case once he is treated," he said.

Motsiri said only two cases of kidnapping had been opened by yesterday.

@LanC_02

FOR THE RECORD

IN THE STAR on Wednesday, we published a piece headlined "Sanco hoping for jobs boost". Due to a misunderstanding, we published a picture of a ranking official

in the South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco) with the wrong caption. This was misidentification. Instead of using a picture of Sanco president Richard

Mdakane, which is what the caption said, we used a picture of Skhumbuzo Mpanza, the general secretary of Sanco. We regret the error and apologise to both.

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clooneym@outlook.com

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