

Phiyega questioned

WELLS

THE Marikana Commission of Inquiry will resume this morning with national police commissioner Riah Phiyega continuing her testimony. She will be cross-examined by advocate George Bizos.

Phiyega has been on the witness stand since March 14. She told the commission that between 2009 and 2012, the South African Police Service handled a total of 33521 public incidents, of these 30326 were peaceful and 3195 saw damage to property and resulted in arrests.

Phiyega was taken to task over the capacity of the police in dealing with public protests peacefully and grilled over the Marikana mine strike which ended with the deaths of 44 people.

She insists that the police shot at the miners to defend themselves from being attacked. Bizos suggested that the police planned the shooting.

He questioned why public order policing officers were outnumbered by other units, such as the Special Task Force which he described as 'trained to kill' units.

Phiyega stands by her statement of August 17 in which she said the incident represented "the best of responsible policing".

Advocates Dali Mpofo and Dumisa Ntsebenza, are next in line to cross-examine Phiyega.

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