

# Specialised units were driven by revenge – Mpofu

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THE killing of two police officers in Marikana led to the deployment of specialised forces who were driven by revenge, the Marikana Commission of Inquiry heard yesterday.

This was a picture painted by Advocate Dali Mpofu, representing the survivors of the bloody August 16 2012 shootings.

Mpofu based his argument on the police's failure to mention some of the civilians who were killed during the violent wage dispute at Lonmin mine in Rustenburg, North West.

He said this showed how little the police thought of those civilians – some were allegedly killed reporting for duty and others are believed

to have been accused of being police spies.

At least 10 people, including Lonmin security guards, had been killed prior to the Marikana shootings.

“I will argue that the deaths of two police led to a hype of activity and the deployment of special forces to Marikana.

“Had there only been civilians affected, it would not have been the case,” Mpofu charged.

“This frenzy, including the unauthorised and unnecessary deployments, were sparked by the fact that police were killed.”

But police witness, Major-General Charl Annandale, who returned to the hot seat yesterday, denied that police thought their colleagues' murders were more signif-

icant than the deaths of the other people.

Annandale said public order police and members of

the national intervention unit had already been stationed in Marikana, even before his arrival.

“I do not say there is no seriousness in the death of the civilians,” Annandale said as he tried to ward off

claims that he had come driven by revenge.

Annandale went to Marikana on August 13 in his capacity as commander of the special task force after hearing of the escalation of violence which included the attack on two officers.

This was followed by more police deployments, but three days later, 34 miners were gunned down by police.

Police have argued self-defence but the miners insist that they were merely trying to get home to the nearby Nkaneng informal settlement through an opening between an inyala and barbed wire.

Mpofu took issue with tensions that played themselves out among the police which could have contributed to a “botched operation”.

North West deputy commissioner Major-General William Mpmembe had insisted on negotiating with the strikers while other officers wanted their immediate dispersion.

Other lawyers have argued that Mpmembe could have saved the day but was ignored even when he warned of bloodshed on August 16. –

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# Some Marikana cop action fuelled by vengeance – Mpofu

THE DIVISIONS among police officers deployed to Marikana during a wage strike at Lonmin influenced the outcome of the unrest, the Farlam Commission heard yesterday.

Dali Mpofu, for the arrested and injured miners, said allegations that some officers threatened North West deputy police commissioner Major-General William Mpembe following the killing of two of their colleagues would have affected the way they performed their duties. The officers blamed Mpembe for the deaths.

“We had people there with machine-guns who were threatening to kill each other... We can’t say that wasn’t a factor in the incident,” said Mpofu.

Yesterday, the commission heard that, according to a statement from Lieutenant-Colonel Solomon Vermaak, the threats against Mpembe were made on August 13, 2012.

The policemen allegedly said Mpembe would lie down and die with the officers the striking mineworkers had hacked to death.

Mpofu was cross-examining Major-General Charl Annandale, who headed the police’s tactical operations team during the Marikana unrest.

Annandale said while he was aware of the threats, there were no divisions in the police team.

Mpofu asked Annandale how many of those arrested were linked

to the weapons found on the scene. Annandale said he was not sure as he was not there when the arrests were made.

Mpofu asked Annandale how police decided on the quantity of ammunition and equipment to be brought in to disperse striking workers.

“Certain factors were considered. We looked at the risk factors, potential danger. We reviewed previous unrests, the geography, and how many armed people there were,” said Annandale.

The commission heard of the account, given by Brigadier Adriaan Calitz in a statement, of the way police dealt with about 3 000 armed

protesters. Annandale told the commission he had believed a smaller group of about 500 people would cause problems for the police. He said police had hoped the larger group, of about 3 000 people, would disperse.

Earlier, Mpofu told Annandale that police had shot striking miners in revenge.

“The reason why there was this frenzy and you drove all the way from Pretoria uninvited was sparked by the killing of the two policemen,” said Mpofu.

“Some of the actions were prompted... by revenge.”

Mpofu questioned why more police officers from other provinces

had been deployed to Marikana only after the policemen were killed.

Annandale denied Mpofu’s submission. “There was no frenzy... I went to Marikana to acquaint myself with the situation and to find out what resources were needed,” said Annandale.

“The provincial commissioner asked me to stay on. It was later confirmed by the national police commissioner that I should stay and assist with these problems.

“The deployment of more officers was not a result of the two policemen’s deaths.

“It was as a result of the escalation of the violence and the deaths of five people.” – Sapa

# Marikana massacre 'sparked by killing of cops'

POLICE shot dead striking Marikana miners out of revenge, the Farlam Commission of Inquiry heard yesterday.

"The reason why there was this frenzy and you drove all the way from Pretoria uninvited was sparked by the killing of the two policemen," Dali Mpofu, for the injured and arrested miners, told Major-General Charl Annandale during cross-examination.

Annandale headed the police's tactical operations team during the Marikana unrest.

"Some of the actions were prompted... by revenge," said Mpofu.

Police shot dead 34 striking

miners on August 16. Ten people, including two policemen and two security guards, were killed in the preceding week.

Mpofu asked why more police officials from other provinces were deployed to Marikana, in North West, only after the two policemen were hacked to death.

Annandale denied Mpofu's submission.

"There was no frenzy. I went to Marikana to acquaint myself with the situation and to find out what resources were needed," said Annandale.

"The provincial commissioner asked me to stay on.

It was later confirmed by the national police commissioner that I should stay and assist with these problems.

"The deployment of more officers was not a result of the two policemen's deaths. It was

as a result of the escalation of the violence and the deaths of five people."

The commission is in-

vestigating the circumstances surrounding the 44 deaths near Lonmin's platinum mine in Marikana.

● About 15 people protested yesterday outside the Rustenburg Civic Centre, where the commission is holding public

hearings. The group of local community members said they opposed the commission's proposed move from Rustenburg to Pretoria.

Most of the legal representatives involved in the commission, including Mpofu, have called for it to be moved to Pretoria, arguing that it is expensive for them to travel to Rustenburg.

But legal representatives for the Bapo Ba Mogale community have opposed the move.

Oral arguments on the matter were heard two weeks ago.

Commission chairman retired Judge Ian Farlam will consult with Justice Minister Jeff Radebe before making a decision. Sapa

**'Some actions were prompted by revenge'**