

Marikana: Ingrypings vooraf misluk – offisier

Die Farlam-kommissie het gister gehoor ingrypings deur die polisie om gewelddadige betogings deur stakende mynwerkers voor die Marikana-slagting in Augustus 2012 stop te sit, het misluk.

Lt.kol. Joseph Merafe, bevelvoerder van die Noordwes-eenheid vir openbare orde-polisië-

ring, is gister kruisondervra.

Ao. Sello Leepaku en ao. Tsietsi Monene is dié dag in 'n konfrontasie tussen die polisie en stakende mynwerkers by Marikana naby Rustenburg doodgekap. Drie mynwerkers is ook toe dood.

Merafe was dié dag by Marikana, maar nie drie dae later

toe 34 mense dood is nie.

Volgens hom was daar reeds voor 13 Augustus geweld.

“Dit sal 'n fout wees as ons sê niks het voor die 13de gebeur nie. Veiligheidsbeamptes (van die myn) is op 12 Augustus doodgemaak, hul motors is aan die brand gestek en hul vuurwapens is afgeneem,” het

hy gesê.

Merafe meen die gevalle het opgebou tot die geweld tussen stakende mynwerkers en die polisie op 16 Augustus.

34 mense – hoofsaaklik mynwerkers – is dié dag dood en nog 78 beseer toe die polisie op 'n groep stakers losgebrand het.

– Sapa

NKOSAZANA DEFENDS NKANDLA

Chris Makhaye

NKOSAZANA Dlamini-Zuma yesterday defended the upgrades at President Jacob Zuma's private home in Nkandla which cost taxpayers' millions of rands.

Dlamini-Zuma, who is divorced from the president, said ordinary people were not interested in the Nkandla issue but were more worried about service delivery.

She said this in Clermont near Durban before going on a walkabout in the area where she urged residents to vote for the ANC on May 7.

"It is only the media that is worried about the Nkandla

'Ordinary people interested in service delivery only'

security upgrades. When you go around Nkandla and everywhere else, people are not talking about it. They are talking about services that should be brought to them," said Dlamini-Zuma who is now chairwoman of the African Union Commission.

Her comments come as political parties are gunning for Zuma over the spending of taxpayers' money on non-security upgrades at his

Nkandla home. Parliament has appointed an ad hoc committee to probe the multi-million rand upgrades.

Dlamini-Zuma slammed former ANC leaders spearheading the 'No Vote' campaign. She urged residents of Clermont to ignore calls to spoil their votes.

"Our humble request to you all is to continue to vote for the ANC. It is only the ANC that has the programmes and

experience to change your lives for the better," she said during a door-to-door cam-

campaign for the ruling party.

She declined to answer questions about her political

ambitions and speculation that she was ready to relinquish her AU position and return home.

Some ANC insiders claim that Zuma supporters prefer that he be replaced by Dlamini-Zuma when his term of office ends in 2019.

Dlamini-Zuma was accompanied by KwaZulu-Natal MEC for health and eThekweni ANC regional chairman Sibongiseni Dhlomo and dozens of ANC election volunteers. They visited the home of Smangele Khuzwayo, 59, the younger brother of Zazi Khuzwayo, the anti-apartheid hero who was killed by Inkatha hit squads in 1987.

POLICE interventions to curb violent striking Marikana mineworkers in August 2012 failed, the Farlam Commission of Inquiry heard yesterday.

North West public order policing (POP) commander Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Merafe was being cross-examined by evidence leader Charles Wesley at the commission's hearings in Pretoria.

"If you measure the success of the operation in terms of cost, damage to property, injuries to people and loss of

Police interventions failed, commission told

life, do you consider what happened there a success or a failure?" Wesley asked Merafe.

Merafe responded: "What happened on the 13th (August 2012) wasn't a success for the police. What happened was not a success at all."

The senior policeman was at Marikana on August 13 but was not on the scene on August 16, when 34 people were shot dead.

Two police officers – War-

rant Officers Sello Leepaku and Tsietsi Monene – were hacked to death on August 13 in a confrontation between the mineworkers and police at Marikana, near Rustenburg in North West. Three mineworkers were also killed.

Merafe said there had been random acts of violence before August 13.

"We would be mistaken if we say that before the 13th,

nothing was happening. On August 12, (mine) security officers were killed, their cars were torched and their firearms were taken," he said.

"Information we received was that those security guards were not killed by individuals, but by a group. On the 11th there was a shooting that took place at Wonderkop (Marikana)."

The hearing continues. – Sapa

Police admit failure again

By **SIMON NARE**

THE police plan adopted to deal with the strike which led to the Marikana massacre was a failure.

This is what Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Merafe told the commission of inquiry yesterday.

Under cross-examination by evidence leader Advocate Charles Wesley, Merafe admitted that the police shouldn't have taken action against the strikers at the time they did.

Merafe, who had served as a

public order policing officer for 27 years, agreed with Wesley that it was a bad idea to send cops with no training or resources into the crowd.

Merafe was the third senior police witness to admit that the operation was a failure.

It is expected that President Jacob Zuma will extend the commission as the current extension ends on Wednesday. Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa and ANC deputy president Cyril Ramaphosa still have to testify.

R12 500 in sight for strikers

Tense progress during platinum wage talks

Dineo Faku

THE HAGGLING between the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu) and platinum producers over ways to end the platinum strike went on all day yesterday and continues today.

The key to ending the three-month platinum belt strike – the elusive R12 500 pay figure for entry-level miners – is now in play and the talks are now

about how, not whether, the R12 500 monthly wage will be implemented.

The talks come after the country's biggest platinum producers tabled their latest revised offer on Thursday.

A measure of the tension as both sides try to overcome a dispute that has done nothing but harm was that all players remained tight-lipped, fearful of losing whatever advantage they held.

"Talks progressed today between the producers and Amcu, and are scheduled to continue tomorrow," Charmaine Russell, the spokeswoman for the platinum companies, said yesterday.

Amcu president Joseph Mathunjwa and national treasurer Jimmy Gama did not answer their cellphones.

A Department of Labour spokesman said it would not comment on anything, let alone

reports that Minister Mildred Oliphant had been leaning on both sides to find a settlement.

However, Amcu insiders said the union was focused on reaching a settlement with employers and sought clarity on the revised offer before it would give feedback to its members.

"Amcu cannot call off the strike until a settlement has been reached. Workers cannot return to work with nothing," Narius Moloto, the general secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), said yesterday.

Moloto said Amcu, a Nactu affiliate, was not happy with the offer by the companies.

"The positive thing about these talks is that the throwing of stones at one another is not there. I think both parties have come to sober senses," he added.

Platinum producers could ill afford the revised wage offer at current metal prices, and this would further reduce their cash-generating ability in the absence of a material rise in prices, analysts have said.

"A rejection of the offer would prolong the strike and

lengthen the recovery period for the platinum producers post the strike," Kagiso Asset Management research head Abdul Davids said yesterday. "However, the mineworkers' precarious financial position worsens with every passing strike day and they will be the ones who are worst affected if the strike continues."

Progress in the talks helped lift South African shares higher yesterday, with Anglo American Platinum adding 0.95 percent to R509.99, Lonmin rising 0.82 percent to R51.75