

Suspended SAPS chief accused of trying to jeopardise probe

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SUSPENDED police chief Riah Phiyega and several top SAPS brass allegedly read the interception file of the recording of her conversation with former Western Cape provincial commissioner Arno Lamoer “to circumvent the investigation against her”.

The Star has seen a secret document penned by Crime Intelligence operatives to acting national police commissioner Khomotso Phahlane, asking him to investigate the allegations.

The file contains sensitive information of a conversation between Phiyega and Lamoer during which she alerts him to an investigation by the Hawks and Crime Intelligence against him and which had become a

subject of an investigation.

Phahlane’s acting spokesman, Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi, confirmed yesterday that a case has been opened against Phiyega and several senior police officers.

He, however, declined to explain the reason for the investigation.

The Star understands that a case was opened at Sunnyside police station on Friday. The document reads: “The allegations that are contained in this Information Note are also part of an ongoing Crime Intelligence inquiry that has reached such a sensitive stage that the decisive intervention of the acting National Commissioner is now warranted.

“On or about October 26, 2013 in the afternoon, General Phiyega convened a meeting at the



MORE CHARGES: Riah Phiyega read a secret document.

Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria.

“The purpose of the meeting was, among other things, to discuss the strategy of dealing with the pending criminal charges of defeating the ends of justice that had been laid against General Phiyega at

Bishop Lavis, Western Cape.

“Also discussed was the strategy to respond to the media queries regarding the same matter, and if needs be, to interdict the publication of any newspaper article relating to the case that had been opened against Phiyega.”

The suspended police commissioner was accused of defeating the ends of justice and was investigated by police watchdog, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid), for allegedly alerting Lamoer about investigations against him for having links to a criminal.

“The aforementioned circumstances absolutely did not warrant the disclosure of the contents of the file, and the only reason the file was brought to the meeting can only be said to

have been to tamper with the contents thereof and to circumvent the investigations against General Phiyega.”

According to the document, a delegation of senior officers from SAPS Legal also joined the meeting to discuss crediting the allegations against Phiyega.

It further states that an officer was instructed to peruse the interception file in question and to advise on the technical errors that could be used to discredit the allegations against Phiyega. The officer’s name is known to The Star.

“They compromised the investigation. Some of the people who were in that meeting did not even have security clearance.

“She was breaking the rules to get what she wants. That file was supposed to be sealed

because it was subject to an investigation,” said a crime intelligence operative who did not want to be named.

Phiyega said yesterday: “I have learnt via the media that criminal charges have been instituted against me for defeating the ends of justice with respect to the Lamoer matter. My lawyers are in the process of confirming the existence of these charges and I will respond to them accordingly.”

She added that the Lamoer matter was subjected to investigations by Ipid and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

Both organisations found no compelling reasons to pursue this matter.

The NPA recommended that Police Minister Nathi Nhleko pursue an internal disciplinary hearing against Phiyega.



Krejcir’s estate agent in court

AMANDA Papoutsis, the estate agent accused of smuggling a cellphone to convicted Czech fugitive Radovan Krejcir, has made a brief appearance before her case was postponed to January 28 pending further investigation. She is out on bail of R3 000 bail. Papoutsis was accompanied by two women and a man. They stood outside the high court in Pretoria in a jovial mood after the case was postponed. Papoutsis was arrested at Zonderwater Correctional Centre in October for allegedly smuggling an iPhone hidden in the sole of one of the shoes brought for Krejcir. It is believed she had been in touch with Krejcir’s family, who are in Europe, and had been asked to take him a pair of shoes. The 45-year-old mother-of-three apparently went to visit Krejcir in prison to get him to sign documentation allowing his Bedfordview property to go on the market. The phone, hidden in the sole of a shoe, was discovered when it rang while Papoutsis, along with prison warders, were walking to Krejcir’s prison cell. – *Sakhile Ndlazi*

Top ANC official suspended

PROVINCIAL secretary of the ANC in the Western Cape Faiez Jacobs has been suspended for allegedly assaulting a staff member at its Cape Town headquarters, the party said on Tuesday. “The ANC in the Western Cape acknowledges that there was an incident at our offices on Monday which involved the provincial secretary and a staff researcher,” provincial chairman Marius Fransman said in a statement. “ANC officials met to discuss the incident and have decided to refer the matter to its internal disciplinary process with the aim of speedily resolving the matter,” he said. The ANC said Jacobs had been placed on precautionary leave pending the outcome of the disciplinary proceedings. – ANA

Advocate up for fraud

A SENIOR legal counsel arrested for fraud has been granted bail in the Orkney Magistrate’s Court. The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) said advocate Lentswe Sydney Tlhwagane, 51, appeared in court in North West on Tuesday after he had allegedly assisted a Mozambican national to obtain a passport. Hawks spokesman Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi said the Mozambican was behind bars following his arrest last week for rhino poaching. He is alleged to be part of the rhino poaching syndicate that was cracked last week when 13 suspects, including three police officers, were arrested. Tlhwagane, who was released on R2 000 bail, will be in the dock again on January 26. – ANA

DA calls for initiation control

THERE are no proper mechanisms in place to ensure that illegal initiation schools are reported by the community, the DA in North West said yesterday. “The Department of Traditional Affairs should establish a toll-free number where community members can call to alert the authorities if any initiation schools have been opened in their areas,” said Tutu Faleni, the party’s spokesman on traditional affairs and culture. Faleni was commenting after 12-year-old Steven Lerumo Gaolathe was found dead at an initiation school in Rooigrond near Mahikeng on Saturday. “Lerumo’s body had sjambok wounds and burns. The Children’s Act 2005 clearly states that at all times, the child’s best interest should be placed first and they should not be subjected to any form of maltreatment and abuse during this process,” Faleni said. “The DA condemns any unlawful and abusive treatment of children at initiation schools,” he added. – ANA

Dangerous escapees on the run

FREE State police have launched a manhunt after two inmates escaped from Goedemoed Prison on Tuesday. Police spokesman Warrant Officer Zwelli Mohobeli said that around noon, two suspects, Johannes Pheko, 40, and Theodarus Botha, 56, allegedly overpowered a warder, stole his firearm and fled in his white Opel Corsa bakke with the registration FMB 954 FS. “The suspects were serving prison terms for crimes of murder, rape, assault, robbery and indecent assault,” Mohobeli said. They were believed to be in the area of Botshabelo on Tuesday. “They are presumed dangerous and must not be apprehended. If spotted, their whereabouts must immediately be reported to Detective Warrant Officer Michael Fabu on 082 375 6253 or the nearest police station.” – ANA

Post office shut for not paying its rent

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BRYANSTON residents have been left frustrated after the post office in their area was closed because it was in arrears with its rent.

The building was vacant and the doors were padlocked yesterday. Mail, documents and boxes were piled on the floor inside.

Many residents, unaware that the post office was closed, came to collect their mail, only to be turned away by the security guard, who told them to go to the Bryanston West branch.

A woman, who did want to be named, said the Bryanston West branch wasn’t aware that the residents’ mail was being delivered there.

“I have been told that I must collect my mail at Bryanston West post office, but when I went there, the staff said they didn’t know anything about it and that it hasn’t been delivered there,” she said.

“It is so frustrating to run from one post office to the next and not be able to collect my parcels.”

Her sentiments were echoed by other customers who were unable to get their post.

“I won’t pay my postal fees if this is going to happen,” an enraged man screamed when he discovered the post office was closed.

Problems began about three months ago when the Bryanston post office was unable to pay its rent and the landlord shut its doors.

The South African Post Office has admitted that the closure of the branch was due to the non-payment of rent, but spokesman Khulani Goma said mail would be sent to the Bryanston West post office.

The SA Post Office was put under administration last year. In October this year, it paid its staff only 70 percent of their salaries and then the balance six days later.



STINKING: Refuse rots after Pikitup workers on an illegal strike trashed the city’s street, with residential dustbins uncollected. PICTURE: MATTHEWS BALOYI

City ‘cannot get involved’ in strike

Labour action seen as an internal matter between Pikitup and its employees

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THE CITY of Joburg will not intervene in the Pikitup strike.

This was the message this morning from city spokesman Nthatisi Modingoane who said the 10-day wildcat strike was a matter between Pikitup and its employees.

“We cannot get involved in their internal matters,” he said.

Many Joburg residents are questioning why the city has not intervened as the rubbish is piling up and starting to become a health hazard.

Four Red Ants clean-up workers were shot on Monday in an incident apparently linked to the strike. Police and strikers have

clashed during protests outside the Pikitup head office in Braamfontein and rubbish trucks have been stoned.

There does not appear to be any end to the strike in the near future with both parties refusing to back down. Pikitup says it will only start talks once the workers return to work, while the unions say they will continue striking until winning their demands. The unions want Pikitup MD Amanda Nair to be removed and workers’ salaries to be increased.

There is some cleaning being done in the inner city by the Red Ants who have two teams of 250 people cleaning different areas. They work from 3pm to 3am, but many parts are still filthy.

Chief executive of the Red

Ants, Johan Bosch, said it was a massive task, which was why it was taking so long.

“The problem is that the plastic bags have been broken and we are having to rake the rubbish up, bit by bit. There is a huge backlog,” he said.

Bosch said the teams were continuing despite the shooting of four of his members, but security around the teams had been stepped up.

There are conflicting views of what happened. Bosch said his members were shot at and the shooter had been handed over to the police. The police, however, yesterday said it was a member of the Red Ants who grabbed a gun from his own security team and started shooting randomly.

“We are investigating this further and will be demanding to know where the suspect is that we arrested. What the police are saying is not true and we will take legal action against them once we have found where the suspect is,” said Bosch.

In the meantime, the festering mounds of trash are becoming a health hazard. At the beginning of the week, the squalid stench only carried on the air after the sun rose enough to warm the piles. Now the CBD oozes the odour even at night.

Taxis hooting their way through this morning’s traffic in Bree Street pulverised the reeking trash under their wheels. Bins overflowed along the street in front of the Johannesburg

High Court and flies swarmed the trash piles. Hawkers set up their tables less than a metre from the rubbish.

“It’s killing us so badly. It’s affecting our lungs. We can’t even eat here,” said Thabang Mokoena, an employee at hair salon Studio 88.

“The garbage on the streets of Joburg CBD makes the entire place smell like an egg salad threw up on a d**n fart! This Pikitup strike tho!” tweeted Harbours (@vilakazi_pearl).

Chief Superintendent Wayne Minnaar said while the trash wasn’t affecting JMPD’s ability to work, “from a health perspective, I think it’s a concern”.

@annacox
@bgirledukate

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SEVEN boys from Orange Farm who disappeared last week have been found beaten, while some have been circumcised.

Orange Farm police told The Star this morning that there were still another 35 teenage boys who

Missing teenage boys found beaten, circumcised

had been reported missing.

Police were not sure if the boys were abducted or went willingly.

“The boys went missing over different days last week, several at a time. They were found through a number of police oper-

ations around the province. They are aged between 13 and 17,” said Orange Farm police spokesman Captain Johannes Motsiri.

“We are not sure at this stage where the others are being held but police are investigating and we

are still looking into the possibility of initiations,” he said.

Motsiri said police were continuing their search at a number of legal and illegal initiation schools for the remaining teens.

He said one of the teenagers

who was reported missing last week, a 13-year-old boy was found in Boksburg yesterday.

“He was severely assaulted but not circumcised. He was taken to a clinic and is being attended to by doctors. We have advised his parents to bring him back to open a case once he is treated,” he said.

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BUCS WELCOMED HOME LIKE THE CHAMPIONS THEY AREN'T

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Calling all Matrics

As the matrics have started writing their final exams, The Star would like to celebrate this special time by publishing articles of their success. If you know of matric pupils who believe will do particularly well this year, or who have overcome any type of hardship to get their matric certificate, let us know. We're looking for names of children and their schools, the reasons why you believe they will do well, contact details and photos.

Please send these details to: tebogo.monama@inl.co.za, starnews@inl.co.za or post them to **Teboego Monama**, The Star, P O Box 1014, Johannesburg 2001 or drop them off at the newspaper's offices at 47 pixley ka seme street (was Sauer Street), call 011-633-2548, or fax to 011-836-6186

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FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR JOHANNESBURG

Today 3th	Fri 4th	Sat 5th	Sun 6th	Mon 7th
18/29	18/28	17/32	18/33	18/34
60%	60%	30%	30%	30%

TOMORROW'S WEATHER SA Weather Service Tel 082 162

GAUTENG P/Cloudy/T/Showers

Today's Temps Min Max °C

Pretoria	20	32	P/Cloudy/T/S
Klerksdorp	16	32	Clear/Rain
Vereeniging	19	27	P/Cloudy/T/S
Potokwane	18	31	P/Cloudy/T/S

SUNRISE: 05:07
SUNSET: 18:47
MOON: LAST QUARTER DEC 03 09:40

WORLD TEMPERATURES Minimum Maximum °C

Amsterdam	7	9	Cloudy
Athens	1	14	P/Cloudy
Auckland	14	23	Rain
Barcelona	9	16	Clear
Beirut	10	18	Rain
Berlin	4	9	P/Cloudy
Brussels	7	10	P/Cloudy
Cairo	13	24	P/Cloudy
Chicago	0	6	P/Cloudy
Harare	18	28	P/Cloudy
Lisbon	10	20	Cloudy
London	0	5	Cloudy
Nairobi	16	25	P/Cloudy
New York	5	11	P/Cloudy
Paris	8	12	P/Cloudy
Rome	8	17	P/Cloudy
Sydney	15	22	P/Cloudy
Taipei	16	19	Rain
Tel Aviv	9	19	Rain
Tokyo	8	16	Rain
Tunis	11	19	Wind

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