

# Criminals are animals, says Cele

## TLALANE TSHETLO

CRIMINALS are animals and do not deserve human rights. That is the message from National Police Commissioner Bheki Cele, who was speaking yesterday at the launch of the SA Police Service (SAPS) Festive Season Campaign.

Cele said criminals were brutal and heartless: "They come into your house, rape the wife and force the husband to watch. You cannot tell me that is a human being."

He said those who raped and killed innocent people should not

## ANGRY: 'Killers, rapists don't merit human rights'

be granted human rights.

Cele urged police officers not to get shot by criminals and to use deadly force to protect themselves. He said last year 105 police officers were killed, and in 2007 107 officers were killed in the line of duty.

Cele told the officers: "If anybody uses a camera to shoot you smile – but when they use something else to shoot at you, use deadly force before

they can do anything – and please don't miss."

Deputy Minister of Police Fikile Mbalula backed the commissioner regarding use of deadly force. "The shoot-to-kill is not a government policy and Section 49 (of the Criminal Procedures Act) is not the alpha and omega," he said.

"The criminals' graves are coming. Those who are lucky will

spend the festive season in orange overalls," he said.

On corruption, Cele said: "We are working hard to root out all corruption in our force and our officers are working hard also to ensure officers who commit criminal activities are also arrested."

"In Sandton last week we arrested two officers for drug-dealing and a week ago in Pietermaritzburg we

arrested four police officers."

Currently 1 300 police officers were in prison.

"Communities should be vigilant and report all crimes. We also need to stop buying stolen goods," said Mbalula.

Primedia and representatives from CrimeLine, Business Against Crime SA, the National Community Police Forums, SA Banking Risk Information Centre, Tracker, the SA Council of Shopping Centres and the SA Federation Against Copyright Theft backed the campaign.