

Trigger-happy cops blasted!

By ORIS MNISI

MPUMALANGA public works MEC Sasekani Manzini has slammed police for opening fire on protesters.

The cops shot at residents with rubber bullets during a people's march to hand a memorandum over to Manzini yesterday.

The residents were complaining about potholes on the roads connecting the R40 to Greater Manyeleti, Dwaarsloop, Acornhoek and Thulamahashe.

They were shot at outside the entrance to the Acornhoek cop shop, leaving a dozen wounded.

The MEC said: "I want to apologise for what happened. I was speaking with the cluster commander, Major-Gen-

eral Dina Mashele, and we were shocked by what the police have done.

"You did nothing wrong. Your march was peaceful."

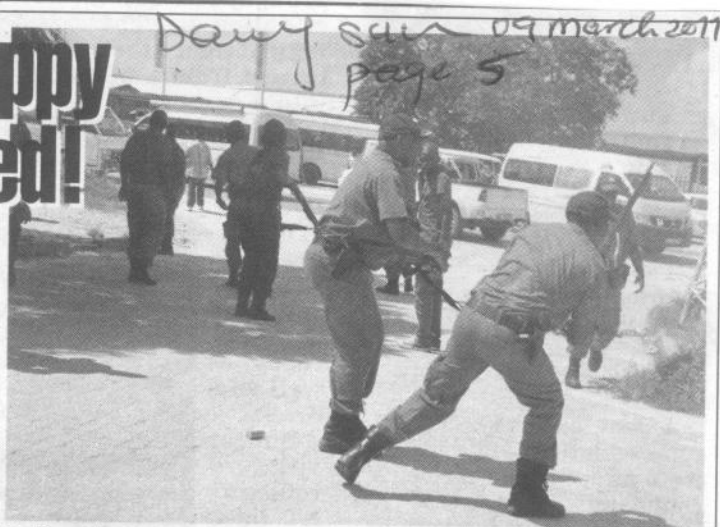
Protest leader Elliott Mabunda said the marchers had protested peacefully when the cops opened fire on them.

"Cops shot at us for no rea-

son at all.

"But we are happy that the MEC has seen their fault. We trust her statement that action will be taken."

Mashele referred questions to police spokesman Brigadier Leonard Hlathi, who could not be reached for comment.



Police shot at residents with rubber bullets during a peaceful march yesterday.

Photo by Oris Mnisi