

# GOOD LOOK AT SAFETY

By **MISCHECK MAKORA**

**SECURITY** in parliament was put under the spotlight on Tuesday.

Members of the public works and police portfolio committees agreed to meet urgently, even though parliament is in recess, to discuss the suicide of an international relations official, Lennox Garane, who shot himself in his office last week.

Among the issues raised by MPs was the fact that senior officials, including MPs, were not searched by police at entrances as they bullied cops who attempted to do so.

Major-General Leon Rabie said Garane entered the building through the access control basement and showed his access card, but didn't put his bag through the x-ray machine.

DA MP Dennis Ryder said: "There are MPs who refuse to be searched and ask cops: 'Do you know who I am? I'm an MP'. We submit ourselves to airport security protocols, but don't want to do it in parliament."

Police Minister Bheki Cele said he was aware of the bullying and had witnessed it. He admitted there was a need to train officers to understand what they needed to do at pla-

## MPs call for tight security



**From left: Major-General Leon Rabie, Police Minister Bheki Cele and National Police Commissioner Khehla Sitole brief the public works and police portfolio committees on safety in parliament.**

*Photo by Lindile Mbontsi*

ces of national security.

"These members must be trained. This should include MPs and ministers too. They should know for this institution to work properly, all of us should learn to be co-operative."

The MPs urged the police and public works department to work towards fixing some x-rays in the par-

liamentary precinct that are not working.

However, ANC MP Leonard Ramatlakane said militarising parliament should be avoided.

"Corrective measures have to be taken to deal with these aspects, but we should avoid using a huge hammer to kill a fly."