

MPS TOLD TO OBEY RULES

MEMBERS of Parliament and senior parliamentary staff were yesterday urged not to play the “clout card” to bypass security at the national legislature.

In a briefing to Parliament’s portfolio committee on police about concerns regarding security at Parliament following the suicide of a staff member recently, police and MPs raised a troubling phenomenon of senior staffers and MPs asking officers “Do you know who I am?” when they’re asked to show their accreditation or

BY ANA REPORTER

pass their bags through metal detectors.

Police Minister Bheki Cele urged Parliament to educate MPs and staff about security measures and the need to be screened.

“If this member asks a constable ‘do you know who I am’, that guy is already pushed out,” said Cele.

“Just imagine where the police officer says, yes, you

are honourable Groenewald, so what? There will be war in Parliament...”

The committee received a briefing from police highlighting security gaps at the legislature. These included a failure by the Department of Public Works (DPW) to put in place physical security features to help police do their job.

Earlier, SAPS Major-General Leon Rabie told MPs that parliamentary worker Lennox Garane, who was armed with a gun, was allowed to enter the



PROTOCOL: SA Parliament

premises without putting his bag through a scanner.

The police officer on duty has since been suspended.

Rabie said an assessment of security following Garane’s death showed three metal detectors were not working.