

■ SECURITY



NATIONAL Police Commissioner Khehla Sitole answers questions about security in Parliament following a recent shooting incident in the parliamentary precinct. | **PHANDO JIKELO** | African News Agency (ANA)

Public Works policy ‘stalling projects’

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THE PROCUREMENT policy of the Department of Public Works has been slated by the police as it has led to the stalling of major projects, including the upgrading of security at Parliament.

National Police Commissioner Lieutenant-General Khehla Sitole told MPs yesterday that they wanted this policy to be dumped because it was a serious blow to their efforts to ramp up security.

Sitole's comments came after senior

Parliamentary staffer Lennox Garane committed suicide in his office after apparently bringing in a firearm.

The police confirmed that Garane's bag had not been scanned.

Sitole told the joint committees on police and public works that if the police wanted to upgrade security, they had to go to public works to get approval.

But if security was compromised the police would take the blame, and not Public Works, Sitole said.

"Can this policy be taken on review to allow us to move forward?" he asked.

Public Works Director-General Sam Vukela said they also wanted a review of the policy.

"We welcome the issue of the policy review. We think it's an important element," he said.

However, ANC MP Leonard Ramatlakane said the two departments should report back to them in the next few weeks on improved security measures at Parliament.

The chairperson of the portfolio committee on police, Francois Beukman, said they wanted the police and Public Works to report back next month.