

Minister defends police demo tactics

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THE Minister of Information, Posts and Telecommunications, Cde Nathan Shamuyarira, has defended police tactics during Tuesday's demonstrations in Harare.

In an interview with the BBC last night, Cde Shamuyarira said the police did not act immediately against the demonstrators because they were waiting for support unit reinforcements to arrive.

He said that when the reinforcements arrived about 10 minutes later, the police acted immediately to quell the violence.

Cde Shamuyarira said that 80 demonstrators were arrested and added that neither the Government or Zanu (PF) were in any way involved with initiating the demonstrations.

The demonstration had been started by

university students and Zanu (PF) youth leaders from the university had joined their fellow students.

"The demonstration was carried out on the students' own initiative and it expressed the anger of the people of Zimbabwe over the death of Cde Machel at the hands of the enemies of Southern Africa," he said.

The violence and destruction of property had been precipitated by remarks by certain whites who were pouring scorn on their efforts.

The minister said that the Government regretted the violence and destruction to South African and Malawian property during Tuesday's demonstration.

Commenting on the situation in Mozambique, Cde Shamuyarira said that the

Mozambican authorities were capable of handling the situation in the country and added that Zimbabwe would continue to provide support to that country.

He said that deployment of more Zimbabwean troops in Mozambique would depend on developments there and on the extent of bilateral relations with the Mozambican government.

"The situation in Southern Africa has always been delicate and I hope that with the sudden death of Cde Machel, the United States and the United Kingdom will awaken to this fact," said the minister.

Cde Shamuyarira said that judging from the evidence from the Press and broadcasting media, South Africa was responsible for the plane crash which killed the Mozambican president and 28 other passengers.

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