

## NEARLY 5000 RECRUITS BEGIN POLICE TRAINING

Almost 5 000 recruits officially began their training to become police officers at nine colleges around the country on Monday. The 4993 would be the first to undergo training for a full two years, instead of the one-year period previously required. Half their training would be spent at police colleges, the other half in the field gaining practical experience. In Pretoria Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa welcomed 1845 recruits into the force, saying he wanted officers who had a “passion and commitment for their duties. “We are not in the business of recruiting people for filling posts.” He said the force did not aim to create “individual heroes”, but expected the recruits to work as a team to combat the country’s crime problem. Speaking after addressing the recruits, Mthethwa said he hoped the extended training would help prevent corruption in the South African Police Service. “If we don’t get them right here, then we have significantly missed the boat.” He hoped the additional training would improve the police’s detective, forensic and intelligence gathering capabilities, which were required to improve the conviction rate when a criminal matter was brought to court.

(The Citizen Newspaper)