

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **Gender-Based Violence: PSA calls for stronger action against perpetrators**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is calling for stronger action to be taken against perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), after 115 suspects were arrested in Limpopo over the past two weeks, for this crime. According to the Provincial Commissioner, the suspects were arrested for rape and other crimes committed against women and children. Whilst the Family Unit and Child Protection Unit is commended for this success, the number of arrests is concerning as it proves that the women and children are not safe in Limpopo. It was noted that most of these cases involved people who knew each other, with the crimes taking place shortly following the Country commemorating the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

The PSA, however, welcomes the decision by the MEC of Community Safety in the Province, to increase police visibility around Institutions of Higher Learning during the registration period. The appointment of the Waterberg, Mopani, and Vhembe District Commissioners is welcomed although there is a need for officers on the field if the battle against crime is to be won.

The PSA calls on Government to introduce legislation that will prohibit those found guilty of GBV to either work or have any business dealings with Government to demonstrate its commitment and seriousness to eradicate GBV. The President has called GBV the second great pandemic in the country, so there is a need to demonstrate seriousness to root out this illness. Women and children must feel safe and free in Limpopo which is currently not the case.

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