

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **National Police Day: PSA pays tribute Police officials**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

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In their daily duties, members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) and other policing arms are exposed to unique challenges, while ensuring the safety of millions of citizens. This calling has been compounded by the devastating impact and additional workload owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These workers are faced with a serious lack of manpower and infrastructure to perform their duties. They have lost colleagues to the pandemic whilst placing their lives in danger of an unseen foe. Similar to other frontline workers, police officials have had to maintain and even increase service delivery whilst also guarding their personal health.

The number of SAPS members killed in the line of duty remains unacceptably high, with SAPS management indicating that 77 officials were lost during 2019/20. In commemorating National Police Day on 27 January 2021, the Public Servants Association (PSA) expresses gratitude towards the men and women who have chosen a career dedicated to upholding safety and security. The PSA also pays homage to police officials who have lost their lives to COVID-19 and in the line of duty.

The PSA, as representative Union of thousands of police officials, calls on communities to collaborate and cooperate with law enforcement agencies in combatting crimes that are robbing South Africans of more than just possessions and dignity. The PSA remains committed to protect and promote police officials' rights and interests while they serve the country and calls on Government to acknowledge the contribution of these workers by honouring the salary increases that were due to them on 1 April 2020.

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