



MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls for collaboration between security cluster, business, and communities to arrest increasing murders in the country**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) noted with extreme concern the quarterly crime statistics for South Africa with highly disturbing figures of 6 545 murder cases being reported and reflecting that 19 279 people were murdered in the country since the beginning of the year.

Although South Africa's statistics seem less when compared to other risky countries, the numbers are worrisome as these relate to the safety of citizens. These alarming statistics can be attributed to various factors, including easy access to guns, gender-based violence, porous borders that enable easy access for undocumented foreigners and criminals, homelessness, substance abuse, a violent culture, and inadequate visibility of law enforcement. The shocking murder figures are not just numbers but people, including parents, children, and breadwinners leaving dependents to fend for themselves and condemning them to poverty and potential abuses. There are various murder cases, where the killers were on bail or parole, pointing at the efficiency of the justice and rehabilitation system. This is a growing crisis that demands urgent attention for all sectors of society.

The situation is extremely concerning and will also deter tourists from visiting the country that is home to twelve UNESCO World Heritage Sites, boasts multiple cultures and with a rich heritage and biodiversity. Multi-national companies will hesitate to invest in a country that fails to protect the right to life as their investments may not see expected returns. These factors will result in economic stagnation as more jobs will be lost and tax revenues will decrease.

The impact of these daily tragedies extends beyond the immediate families affected. It reverberates throughout communities, instilling fear, and despair. South Africans must unite in confronting the underlying issues contributing to this crisis, including poverty, inequality, and unemployment. There is a need for joint initiatives between the security cluster, business, and communities to reduce violence and improve safety in communities. Mental health resources and support systems must be provided to people affected by trauma and loss. It is every South African's responsibility to contribute towards a safer environment for all South Africans as we owe ourselves and children that much.

END

