

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>PSA calls for independent investigation into probe of KwaZulu-Natal Police Commissioner by a retired Judge not IPID</b>
<b>DATE</b>	18 March 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has noted with concern the unfolding controversy surrounding the Independent Police Investigative Directorate's (IPID) investigation into KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi.

The PSA is concerned about apparent contradictions in the IPID's handling of the matter and calls for an investigation that is beyond reproach. The police watchdog has made a dramatic turnaround, now claiming that a complaint against Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi came from an anonymous source, despite an earlier letter dated 12 March 2025, signed by the IPID's acting national head of investigations, which explicitly linked the complaint to the Minister of Police. Such inconsistencies raise concerns about governance and the risk of undue influence, reinforcing the need for absolute transparency and credibility in law enforcement oversight.

The PSA has consistently raised concerns regarding the effectiveness of the IPID's leadership and governance challenges. Longstanding administrative issues include the failure to implement a 2004 Department of Public Service and Administration directive to upgrade Personal Assistants. The IPID also failed to implement benefits due to investigators under the *IPID Act of 2011*. These ongoing challenges highlight the need for urgent intervention to restore operational efficiency and compliance with policies.

In addition to administrative shortcomings, the PSA is concerned about the extent of the Executive Director's control over investigations. Section 24(1) of the *IPID Act* states that investigators, subject to the control and direction of the Executive Director or relevant provincial head, must perform duties as conferred or imposed upon them by law and obey all lawful directions from persons in authority. This provision grants significant oversight to the Executive Director, which raises concerns given the challenges facing the agency. If an institution mandated to uphold accountability is perceived as lacking independence, it undermines public confidence.

The allegations against Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi require an impartial, transparent, and independent investigation, free from political or institutional interference. Given the concerns regarding the IPID's governance, the PSA urges President Cyril Ramaphosa to appoint a credible retired judge to lead the investigation. This will ensure that the inquiry is conducted with integrity and that the outcome is not compromised by internal governance issues or external influence.

The credibility of South Africa's law enforcement oversight institutions is at stake. If the IPID is unable to execute its mandate effectively, it risks eroding public trust in police accountability mechanisms. The PSA urges the Minister of Police and President Ramaphosa to take urgent steps to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the IPID to ensure that all investigations are conducted fairly and without bias.

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