

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA calls on Minister to address resource challenges at the Border Management Authority (BMA)**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), as the majority union representing employees at the Border Management Authority (BMA), strongly supports the efforts of the Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Leon Schreiber, to secure much-needed resources to enhance the BMA's capacity and effectiveness in executing its vital mandate.

The PSA recognizes the critical function of the BMA in managing South Africa's borders, especially in addressing the pressing challenges of illegal immigration, maintaining the rule of law, and facilitating economic growth. The under-resourcing of the BMA, as highlighted by the Minister, places unnecessary strain on its operations and hinders its ability to effectively secure South Africa's borders.

While the recent allocation of R150 million from the Criminal Assets Recovery Account (CARA) is a step forward, it is clear that this funding is insufficient to address the significant resource shortfalls, including the additional R4.3 billion and personnel required to bring the BMA to full operational capacity. The PSA is concerned that the limited resources currently available including vehicles, motorcycles, quad bikes, and safety equipment will not adequately address the complex and growing demands of border security.

Furthermore, the PSA emphasizes the importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of BMA officials. As the frontline defenders of South Africa's borders, these officials must be adequately equipped with tools such as bullet-resistant vests, firearms, and other safety equipment. Protecting those who protect the nation is a priority for the PSA, and we call on the government to expedite the procurement and deployment of critical resources to safeguard the lives of BMA personnel.

The PSA commends the BMA leadership under Commissioner Mike Masiapato for making meaningful strides despite the constraints and notes the importance of continued collaboration with other law enforcement entities. However, collaboration alone cannot substitute the significant investment required to build a capable and effective border management system.

The PSA urges the government to prioritise the funding of the BMA to ensure it can fully execute its responsibilities. Border security is not only critical for addressing illegal immigration but also for protecting the sovereignty of the Republic and fostering economic development through secure and efficient trade routes. The PSA remains committed to supporting BMA officials and advocating for their safety, well-being, and operational effectiveness. It will continue to engage with the Minister of Home Affairs to ensure that the BMA receives the necessary support to address its capacity challenges and fulfil its critical mandate.

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