

MEDIA RELEASE PSA commends SA Police Service leadership for decisive action against illegal trading in KwaZulu-Natal

DATE 21 November 2024

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) commends the South African Police Service (SAPS), led by Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, and the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Thami Ntuli, for their proactive approach in combating illegal activities that endanger public health, safety, and economic stability in the province.

The recent discovery of warehouses in Durban stocked with expired foodstuffs, counterfeit goods, and hazardous items is a stark reminder of the dangers posed by illicit trade. These goods, many of which originated from outside the country, included expired food products such as cooking oil, ginger beer, sweets, spices, and milk. Significant quantities of counterfeit clothing and high-end branded items were also found. The PSA applauds SAPS for acting swiftly on intelligence and exposing these criminal activities, which undermine South Africa's trading laws and jeopardise the safety of citizens.

The PSA strongly condemns the sale and distribution of expired and counterfeit goods, violating trading laws and putting the lives of South Africans at risk. The substandard and dangerous nature of these products, including food items with no expiry dates or visibly rotten goods, poses severe health risks. This illegal trade also impacts the economy by undermining legitimate businesses that adhere to regulations and contribute to the country's development. The PSA views such activities as tantamount to treason, as they sabotage efforts to build a stable and thriving nation.

The PSA calls on communities, including the Union's members, to play an active role in supporting law enforcement by reporting suspicious activities. A united effort between the public, SAPS, and government is crucial in preventing illegal practices. South Africans are urged to remain vigilant and report any activities that undermine the laws and put lives at risk. The PSA supports recent measures introduced by President Cyril Ramaphosa, including the formal registration of spaza shops and the ban on harmful pesticides often misused in food production. These initiatives, coupled with stringent law enforcement, are vital in ensuring that only safe and legal goods reach South African consumers.

The PSA applauds the leadership demonstrated by the KwaZulu-Natal Premier and SAPS Provincial Commissioner, whose efforts in spearheading intelligence-driven operations have yielded results. Their dedication reinforces the importance of prioritising public health, safety, and lawful trading practices. Combating such threats requires ongoing vigilance, interdepartmental cooperation, and public engagement. Together, we can build a South Africa where citizens are protected from harmful practices, and businesses operate within the confines of the law.

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