



**MEDIA RELEASE:** **PSA concerned about SA Police Service financial management**

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**EMBARGO:** None

**ENQUIRIES:** communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has established that South African Police Service (SAPS) management has embarked on a marathon to spend R20 billion within two months.

SAPS management reported to the SAPS Portfolio Committee that only 80% of its budget of R100 billion was spent as of 31 January 2022. It is highly illogical and near impossible to expect SAPS to be able to spend R20 billion in the remaining two months of the current financial year. Additional concerns include an undertaking by management to reduce possible under-expenditure of the budget to at least R1 billion at the end of financial year. The Chief Financial Officer's utterances that SAPS is making strides towards putting measures in place to circumvent this challenge is absurd, considering that SAPS is in the last quarter of the financial year. It must be noted that SAPS also recorded under-expenditure in the last financial year.

The PSA is concerned that this need to spend around R20 billion within two months could create potential for disregarding procurement processes and fuel corrupt self-enrichment similar to what was experienced with COVID-19 personal protective equipment contracts. The National Commissioner and the executive are expected to ensure implementation of financial management systems with quarterly monitoring, which should have alerted them about spending challenges with the allocated budget. SAPS management clearly demonstrated a lack of capacity to effectively manage financial resources, which presents a huge risk to achievement of strategic goals.

According to various reports, SAPS is experiencing shortages in resources ranging from reliable motor vehicles and IT resources, whilst employees work in a non-conducive environment with neglected and delapidated police stations. Some Police stations are operating with only vehicle, resulting in failure to respond to calls by communities. It must be noted that Department of Public Works introduced a policy that compels companies that are awarded tenders above R30 million to subcontract 30% of the contract value as part of local beneficiation, which should be allocated to designated groups, where possible. This situation has resulted in SAPS failing to execute its mandate to create a safe and secure environment for South Africans.

The PSA calls on the Minister of Police and the SAPS National Commissioner to stop quarrelling in public and to focus on the work at hand of turning the SAPS around. Financial resources allocated to SAPS considered the identified needs and failure to spend this budget, particularly in the security cluster, is unacceptable. The utterance by the Deputy Minister of Police that every cent given to SAPS should be spent and his commitment to improve expenditure, is not enough as this should be a well-informed, ongoing process rather than a last-minute rush.

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