MEDIA RELEASE **PSA concerned that the crime rate is out of control**

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EMBARGO None

Enquiries communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) remains extremely concerned regarding the country's crime rate which continues to increase is at an alarming rate. Between April 2021 and June 2021, there were 5 760 people killed in South Africa. This is 2 294 more people killed compared to corresponding period in the previous financial year. There were 10 006 cases of rape registered during this period. Contact crimes between 2019/20 versus 2020/21 murder cases stand at 66.2%. Sexual offences are at 74.1%, attempted murder cases at 47.5% and assault with the intention to do grievous bodily harm at 70.1%. Crime data shows that South Africa's murder rate is on the rise, seen with the recent release of the country's crime statistics.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has sourced funding to ensure that the country does everything in its power to ensure that the citizens of our country are protected against the deadly virus. To a large extent, the financial resources allocated towards fighting the pandemic has saved thousands of lives.

Apart from the country's citizens, police force members are also losing their lives whilst executing their duties daily. The PSA is calling on Government to take radical steps to ensure that funds are made available to the South African Police Services to fight crime with the necessary urgency it deserves. Despite announcements on the employment of additional members in the coming year, robust efforts must be made to stabilise the police force and funds must also be made available to improve their infrastructure and facilities so that members can work in a conducive environment.

The PSA also calls on Government to ensure that politicians do not use state resources like the SAPS to fight their political battles.

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