

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA condemns alleged SAPS budget cuts and failure to fill vacancies**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is alarmed by the revelation from the South African Police Service (SAPS) management that budget reductions have been the biggest challenge in crime-fighting efforts.

The irresponsible utilisation of the SAPS for settlement of political scores is further condemned as police officials are suffering because of the Sector's failure in preventing crime and the neglect to improve their terms and conditions of employment. The PSA has been calling for the capacitating of SAPS for several years, which fell on deaf ears. The vast number of vacancies in the Department has caused a great amount of instability. The failure in filling vacant funded posts, is evident in that there are eight acting Commissioners and over 200 acting Generals and Brigadiers being paid over R1 billion in salaries per annum. Such funding could have been used to employ more officers and address crime prevention. Vacant posts in SAPS need to be filled as a matter of urgency, it would be reckless to put the Department at risk.

Careful consideration must be given to how the budget for the Department is prioritised. The filling of vacancies and the career pathing for officers must be given careful attention. Additionally, the anticipated loss of some 6 200 police officers by 2023 needs to be strategically curbed. Continued mismanagement, maladministration and corruption cannot be tolerated. A lack of funding impacts severely on operations, which adds to employees' frustration and strain.

The PSA repeats the Union's ongoing calls on SAPS management to address the dire need to improve its employees' conditions of service and capacitate the work force amidst rampant crime, including the murder of police officers, and poor results in crime prevention. This absence of a clear approach about the best future model of improving crime prevention and the career mobility of SAPS employees adds to the general uncertainty and anxiety amongst employees. The PSA further impresses the urgent need to curb violent crime and to recruit youths into the sector to assist with reducing unemployment and supporting efficient policing.

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