

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA: Criminals target police officers for guns to use in violent crimes**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is appalled by the recent killing of a police officer in Eersterivier in the Western Cape following a recent spate of fatal attacks on police officers.

The 35-year-old sergeant stationed at the Lentegeur SAPS Visible Policing unit was allegedly hijacked and brutally murdered. In another incident, a sergeant in Tembisa was shot and killed by unknown suspects at a shop the previous week. In the Northern Cape a constable was held up at Tsineng police station before criminals fled with R5 rifles, pistols and ammunition.

The PSA is outraged that the latest quarter crime statistics indicate that 32 officers were murdered between April and June 2021. Nine of these officials were on duty when they were killed. There is clearly an urgent need to implement more measures to deter criminals from committing crime. The PSA calls for intervention by National Intelligence to lodge an investigation into the killing of police officers to determine if these are related to criminal cases and if officer have sufficient protection in communities.

The PSA is adamant that until the country addresses border security to restrain the profitable cross-border market of stolen property, car jackings and house robberies at gun point will continue unabated as criminals have a market for stolen goods in neighbouring countries. This is confirmed by tracking companies locating stolen property that have illegally been taken out of the country. The Department of Home Affairs, the SA National Defence Force and the SA Police Service have a huge task to secure borders to eliminate markets for stolen goods and property. If this can be achieved, violent crime will be reduced and the killings of police officers for guns will decline.

The PSA maintains that law amendments and harsher punishment are required to address and arrest the situation before lawlessness spirals out of control. Criminals should fear the repercussions of assaulting or killing a police officer.

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