



**MEDIA RELEASE**                              **SAPS: PSA calls on President to urgently restore leadership stability**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) urges President Cyril Ramaphosa to urgently restore stability and public confidence in the South African Police Service (SAPS) in the wake of developments in the SAPS and soaring crime statistics.

The President recently announced that the contract of National Police Commissioner, General Khehla Sithole, will be terminated by 'mutual agreement' with effect from 31 March 2022. The PSA, representing thousands of Police Officers, noted that the President kept his promise to implement changes in the SAPS after the leadership was found inadequate and inefficient to execute the mandate of the Department. With the expected departure of the current National Commissioner, the PSA calls on the President to ensure that the selection and appointment of the new National Commissioner restores much-needed stability and public confidence in the SAPS.

The 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 a single vehicle, resulting in failure to respond to calls by communities. This situation has resulted in the SAPS failing to execute its mandate to create a safe and secure environment for South Africans under violent attacks by criminals. This has contributed to the escalation in serious crimes and has left the public vulnerable to attacks.

To exacerbate matters, public spats between senior members of the Force, the Minister and the National Commissioner, have alerted the public to serious deficiencies in the SAPS. The lack of credible leadership in the SAPS was even more glaring when members of the SAPS were found wanting during the July-2021 unrests.

The PSA thus appeals to the President to act in the best interest of the country and restore public confidence in SAPS by immediately appointing a National Police Commissioner who will create stability and ensure a safe environment for citizens and economic activity.

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