



MEDIA RELEASE **SAPS: PSA welcomes prompt appointment of new National Commissioner**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the swift appointment of the new National Police Commissioner, General Fannie Masemola, and his immediate announcement of the intention to implement changes in the South African Police Service (SAPS).

Challenges facing the SAPS are well documented, including inefficient financial management, lack of proper working resources, inadequate staff complement, and corruption. These have resulted in a high level of public distrust in the SAPS. South Africa experienced unprecedented unrest in July 2021, which exposed the security cluster's incapability and dictating the need for change to protect the country against similar occurrences.

The President has taken some positive steps towards restoring public confidence in the security cluster through critical appointments of new heads at the National Prosecuting Authority and State Security, placement of five permanent Directors of Public Prosecutions in five provinces, and the recruitment of 12 000 police constables. Government has also increased the budget for the sector as opposed to budget cuts for many departments under the unpopular austerity measures theme.

The appointment of General Masemola, a seasoned policeman, is commendable as experience and respect for co-workers will assist in achieving the mandate of the SAPS. The PSA trusts that the Department of Public Service and Administration will observe that recruitment processes in government institutions can be expedited, unlike the current trend where the filling of vacancies tends to take more than six months.

The PSA wishes General Masemola a successful tenure as National Commissioner, noting that his predecessors did not manage to finish their terms in this demanding position. The PSA urges General Masemola to prioritise serving the country with honesty and diligence, without fear or favour, and avoid being compromised and drawn into politics at the expense of the people he must protect. General Masemola is further urged to ensure a conducive environment that will result in an improvement of staff morale.

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