



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GENERAL 2/2025**

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National Police Day 2025: PSA calls for support

On National Police Day, the PSA calls on South Africans to remember those public servants who put their lives on the line for the safety of citizens. The country continues to face persistently high crime rates fueled by socio-economic inequalities, poverty, and high rates of unemployment. The crime rate remains alarmingly high, particularly related to assault, homicide, and gender-based violence. Despite numerous changes in police leadership, citizens have seen little improvement.

The South African Police Service is desperately under-staffed and under-resourced. In an attempt to improve the situation, steps have been taken to bolster capacity. An estimated 10 000 newly trained constables were appointed in the 2024/25-financial year. Training of 5 500 recruits will commence in January 2025. An initiative was also introduced to re-enlist former officers and boost detective capacity. The number of detectives has sharply decreased from 26 000 to 17 000, impacting crime investigation and prosecution success rates. These initiatives aim to improve the police-to-population ratio, enhancing public safety.

Despite these efforts, 39 police officers lost their lives in the line of duty in 2024 - a devastating loss to their families and the country, and a stark reminder of the dangerous nature of this essential public service.

The PSA calls on the Ministry of the Police Service to ensure that the police force is capacitated with all necessary tools of trade that will assist them in performing their duties diligently. The number of recruited officers should increase every year, considering decreasing numbers owing to natural attrition, retirement, and losses to the private sector. Every police station should be provided with more vehicles to ensure prompt responses when police are called out to crime scenes. Each police station should be staffed with competent employees who can effectively deal with trauma and sexual assault cases in a dignified manner and in special rooms dedicated for such for confidentiality. Each police station gate should be staffed by trained police officers who have been assigned to light duty rather than private security to restore the dignity and safeguard them. Police officers should be capacitated to use current technology to combat crime and in pursuit of criminals. Each provincial head quarters should have a forensic laboratory staffed with forensic investigators to ensure speedy resolution of cases that entails forensic investigation as the current centralised laboratory is burdened with a huge backlog.

The PSA calls on all South Africans, including businesses, to play a role in supporting these workers. The Minister of Police is further urged to create a professional police service and encourage an integrated approach to safety, whilst building community participation in community safety. As a nation, we should work together to uplift and honor these public servants.

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GENERAL MANAGER