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PSA says remember public servants who put their lives on the line

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Police Minister Senzo Mchunu at the National Police Day event in KZN on Monday

SAPS

The Public Servants Association has called on South Africans to remember those public servants who put their lives on the line for the safety of citizens.

In a message on National Police Day on Monday, the PSA said South Africa continues to face persistently high crime rates fueled by socio-economic inequalities, poverty, and high rates of unemployment.

Spokesperson, Reuben Maleka, said the crime rate remains alarmingly high, particularly related to assault, homicide, and gender-based violence.

He said despite numerous changes in police leadership, citizens have seen little improvement.

Maleka said the SAPS is desperately under-staffed and under-resourced, but he said "bold steps" were taken in an attempt to improve the capacity of the police.

"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," Maleka said.

Meanwhile, the police minister, Senzo Mchunu, said the SAPS has played a critical role in strengthening democracy, protecting citizens, and ensuring that every South African can live in safety and dignity.

Addressing the SAPS' main Police Day event in Durban on Monday, he said the SAPS had embarked on a journey towards a democratic South Africa 30 years ago.

"We transitioned from a past marked by division to a future founded on unity, justice, and human rights," Minister Mchunu said.

The Minister acknowledged that crime remains one of the greatest challenges facing our nation.

"But, let it be clear: the South African Police Service stands resolute in the fight against crime.

"May this day inspire you to rededicate yourselves to the cause of safety and security for all South Africans.

"May it remind you that you are not alone in this fight – the government, the people, and the nation stand behind you," Minister Mchunu said.

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