MEDIA RELEASE **National Police Day 2022: PSA asks for support of SAPS employees**

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A career in the South African Police Service (SAPS) calls for dedication, courage, and a deep sense of service, as these workers choose to dedicate their lives to creating safe communities. On National Police Day, the Public Servants Association (PSA), pays tribute to these public servants who selflessly risk harm and even death in maintaining law and order.

Despite the critical role fulfilled by the SAPS, the organisation is crippled by many issues, including budget cuts, corruption, attacks on police stations, non-filing of critical vacancies, and non-recruitment of new employees. The SAPS budget was cut by R11.8 billion to R96.3 billion in the 2021/22-financial year.

The PSA is appalled by the conditions under which SAPS employees are expected to perform their duties, including a lack of proper furniture and inhabitable buildings. The country has also experienced increased civil unrest, which places additional strain on an overworked police force. Hardworking police officers are struggling to restore the dignity of their profession, in a sector that must be beyond reproach and transparent in its operations.

Safety and security should, however, not be the responsibility of SAPS only. All sectors and communities have a duty. With South Africa being rated as the third most-dangerous country to live in (*Numbeo 2021 Crime Index*), more support should be offered to this sector to combat crime.

The PSA salutes these workers who serve the country with integrity and loyalty, including those working behind the scenes as a link between communities and police services. The Union of Choice remains committed in its mission to provide a labour haven that protects and promotes the rights and interests of these dedicated public servants serving in the SAPS.

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