

MEDIA RELEASE

National Police Day 2026: PSA highlights human face of policing

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EMBARGO

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 245 000 public-sector employees, including South African Police Service (SAPS) members, marks National Police Day 2026 by spotlighting the human reality behind law enforcement.

This year's theme, *"Beyond the Uniform: The Human Side of Policing"* underscores the need to recognise the people who carry the weight of national safety on their shoulders. Police officials routinely navigate high-risk environments, trauma, public pressure, and resource constraints. These burdens are often overlooked as the uniform conceals the human being behind it, a person expected to deliver essential services under immense strain.

As a recognised Union in the SAPS, the PSA continues to advocate for improved working conditions, safe operational environments, and credible psychosocial support for police personnel. The PSA has consistently raised concerns regarding chronic understaffing, inadequate equipment, rising workloads, and limited well-being interventions. These issues directly affect the morale and performance of officials and require urgent, sustained action from the SAPS leadership and government as part of addressing concerning crime levels in South Africa.

The PSA will maintain the Union's role in safeguarding labour rights, challenging unsafe practices, and ensuring that the voice of police employees is heard at all decision-making levels. Protecting those who protect the nation is a non-negotiable priority.

On National Police Day 2026, the PSA acknowledges the commitment, resilience, and professionalism of police officials. Recognising their humanity is essential to strengthening policing outcomes and restoring public confidence. Supporting the person behind the uniform is an investment in safer, more stable communities.

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