

**MEDIA RELEASE**

PSA calls for elevation of Independent Police Investigative Directorate to Chapter 9 institution

**DATE**

30 January 2026

**EMBARGO**

None

**ENQUIRIES**

communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 240 000 public-sector employees across South Africa, calls on the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry and the Parliamentary *Ad-Hoc* Committee to take urgent and decisive steps to secure the full independence of the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) by recommending its elevation to a Chapter 9 institution.

Evidence presented before the Madlanga Commission and the Parliamentary *Ad-Hoc* Committee has laid bare persistent and systemic interference by senior police officials in IPID investigations. Such interference fundamentally undermines the integrity of investigations, weakens accountability, and erodes the constitutional principles that must underpin policing in a democratic society governed by the rule of law.

At present, the IPID reports to the Minister of Police, which places it under the administrative authority of the same institution it is mandated to investigate. This structural arrangement is inherently flawed and compromises the IPID's ability to operate independently, without fear, favour, or prejudice. No oversight body can be effective when it remains subject to the control or influence of those it is required to hold accountable.

The PSA is committed to the protection of public servants and the strengthening of democratic institutions. The PSA believes that the elevation of the IPID to a Chapter 9 institution is necessary and overdue. Such a transformation would guarantee full structural and operational independence from the South African Police Service and the Ministry of Police, provide constitutional protection and security of tenure for the IPID leadership, ensure that investigations into police misconduct are conducted impartially and transparently, enhance public confidence in police oversight mechanisms, and align the IPID with other institutions established to strengthen constitutional democracy.

The interference highlighted before the *Ad-Hoc* Committee and the Commission confirms that the current legislative framework has failed. A police oversight body cannot remain effective whilst operating under the influence of those it must investigate.



True independence cannot be achieved through ordinary legislation alone. It requires constitutional entrenchment to ensure durability, credibility, and protection from political or operational interference.

The PSA has consistently reported irregularities and abuses of power to successive Ministers of Police. Decisive action has, however, often been lacking, particularly where matters involved the IPID Executive Director who is constitutionally mandated to investigate the political authorities to whom IPID currently reports. This reality further illustrates the untenable nature of the existing model.

The PSA therefore calls on the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry to in its final report recommend that the IPID be elevated to a Chapter 9 institution to secure its constitutional independence and protection. The PSA further calls on Parliament to initiate the necessary constitutional amendments and legislative reforms to formally entrench the IPID under Chapter 9 of the *Constitution*.

South Africans deserve a police oversight body that is empowered to act decisively and independently, free from political pressure and operational interference. A stronger, constitutionally protected IPID is essential to ensure accountability, uphold justice, and safeguard the safety and rights of citizens. The PSA will continue to support all measures that promote transparent governance, protect public servants, and strengthen South Africa's constitutional democracy.

END

