

MEDIA RELEASE PSA calls for enhanced safety for Traffic Officers

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EMBARGO None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about the safety of Traffic Officers after two Limpopo Traffic Officers were robbed of firearms, a speed camera, and cell phones by five men they stopped for speeding at Slagboom road near Marble Hall on 21 June 2019.

The challenges faced by Traffic Officers are well documented ranging from harassment and assault by members of the public when issuing them with ticket fines to being killed. Notwithstanding the known risks and danger associated with being a Traffic Officer, the PSA calls upon the employer to enhance security measures for these Officers.

This practice of deploying Officers in secluded areas exposes them to risks that can even result in death. The PSA calls upon the Limpopo Department of Transport to consider other models of ensuring compliance to the road safety mandate without compromising the safety of Officers. There must be minimum of four Officers manning roadblocks or using speed cameras where the Officers are expected to stop cars and issue traffic fines.

The PSA proposed that a partnership with the SA Police Service will also assist in ensuring more protection of Officers who must deal with drivers that are aggressive or intoxicated. In terms of National Road Traffic Law Enforcement Code, human resources at road-traffic checkpoints and roadblocks must include enough personnel to undertake pursuit, if necessary. The PSA calls on the Limpopo Department of Transport to ensure that law enforcement units with less than four Officers do not man roadblocks or speed cameras.

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