

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>PSA commends BMA for successful Easter weekend operation at Beitbridge Border and calls for consistency at borders throughout the year</b>
<b>DATE</b>	23 April 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) commends the Border Management Authority (BMA) for the successful Easter weekend operations at Beitbridge border in Limpopo, which resulted in the interception of more than 1 000 illegal immigrants.

The PSA recognises the dedication and efforts of BMA officers in securing South Africa's borders to ensure the safety and security of citizens. This operation is a testament to their commitment to upholding the law and protecting the integrity of the country's borders. This feat was achieved despite the well-known problem of a chronic shortage of staff at the BMA. The PSA acknowledges the challenges faced by the BMA in managing one of the busiest border posts in the country. Despite these challenges, the BMA has demonstrated exceptional vigilance and efficiency in identifying and apprehending persons attempting to enter the country illegally.

The success of this operation highlights the importance of robust border management in maintaining national security. By preventing illegal immigration, the BMA assists to safeguard the economic stability and social cohesion of South Africa. The BMA must, however, further invest in more technology, including more drones, to enhance capacity to ensure the country's border security.

The PSA extends the Union's appreciation to all BMA officers involved in this operation and stands in solidarity with the BMA in the ongoing efforts to protect the country's borders. The PSA further acknowledges the work and dedication of all service departments that are based at ports of entry and which contributed to this success. Collaboration amongst departments and entities will ensure attainment of success and efficient service delivery.

The PSA, however, calls on the BMA management and the Minister of Home Affairs to ensure staff shortages and working tools are addressed to support employees in their efforts to ensure national security and economic development. Failure to address employees' concerns, including provision of adequate working tools, uniforms, tax problems, and workplace compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, will demotivate them. The country needs the BMA to be efficient and diligent, not only during festive seasons, as illegal immigrants attempt to enter the country throughout the year.

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