

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA commends National Police Commissioner for swift action on political killing dockets: Cautions against interference
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) noted with concern the apprehensions expressed by the Minister of Police and the President regarding the National Police Commissioner's decision to return 121 dockets related to political killings to the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Political Killings Task Team.

It is important to recognise that whilst the President and the Minister are respected political leaders, they may not possess the technical understanding of operational policing matters. The PSA respects their concerns but is of the firm view that the Commissioner's decision is sound and does not prejudice any party. This move rightly acknowledges the urgency of the matter. These dockets have been held at the South African Police Service (SAPS) Head Office for over five months, without significant progress. Meanwhile, those responsible for these heinous crimes remain at large, continuing to threaten the safety of South African communities.

The PSA affirms the importance of maintaining oversight and integrity in such sensitive investigations. The Union, however, believes that National Police Commissioner's decision reflects a commitment to swift justice and operational effectiveness. The KZN Political Killings Task Team has a proven track record in handling complex investigations. It possesses the local intelligence, contextual insight, and investigative capability needed to expedite progress on these cases.

The Commissioner's action should not be interpreted as a withdrawal from accountability, but rather as a strategic redeployment of resources to ensure that justice not delayed or denied. In a province where political violence has claimed over 150 lives since 2011, time is critical. Returning these dockets empowers the Task Team to act decisively. National oversight mechanisms remain in place and can continue to function as required. The PSA commends the Commissioner for prioritising the safety of communities and political figures in KwaZulu-Natal. His swift action demonstrates decisive leadership and responsiveness during a period of heightened concern, reinforcing the essential role of specialised units in addressing politically motivated crimes.

The PSA urges all stakeholders to support initiatives that enhance collaboration, transparency, and urgency in resolving these cases. The battle against political violence must be united, focused, and free from unnecessary political interference or delay. The PSA cautions the Minister and the President against any actions that could be perceived as interference, misuse of authority, or politicisation of the investigation. Families of the victims have waited far too long for justice. Continued delay compounds their grief and denies them the closure they deserve.

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