

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA commends <i>Operation Shanela II</i> : Demands stronger measures against criminal syndicates in Northern Cape
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) commends the South African Police Service (SAPS) for the decisive execution of *Operation Shanela II*, which led to the arrest of 308 suspects in the Northern Cape between 25 and 31 August 2025.

This province-wide operation demonstrated the SAPS' capability to disrupt criminal networks through strategic interventions, including vehicle checkpoints, targeted stop-and-search activities, high-visibility patrols, and rigorous compliance inspections at firearm dealerships, scrapyards, mining sites, and informal trading hubs. The seizure of firearms, narcotics, ammunition, and illicit cash linked to organised-crime syndicates reflects a targeted approach to dismantling networks that threaten communities and destabilise essential services.

The PSA acknowledges this milestone as proof of SAPS' operational strength, but warns that lasting security require sustained, aggressive measures. Public servants and communities remain under siege. Educators, nurses, doctors, and frontline service workers operate daily under the threat of violence and intimidation. Gender-based violence and violent crime continue to undermine workplace safety and public trust. Rural and high-crime districts suffer from resource shortages, leaving residents vulnerable and unprotected.

The PSA calls for urgent, uncompromising action. Intelligence-led policing strategies and permanent high-visibility patrols across all districts are required. Accelerated prosecution and harsher sentencing for repeat and violent offenders must follow. Immediate investment in physical security infrastructure at schools, hospitals, and government facilities must be made. Stronger partnerships between the SAPS, unions, and community safety forums are required to form a unified, province-wide defence against criminal networks.

Operation Shanela II proves that criminals can be stopped when law enforcement acts with precision and force. This Operation must mark the beginning of a sustained campaign. Criminals must understand that there is no haven for lawlessness in the Northern Cape.

The PSA reaffirms the Union's commitment to working alongside the SAPS to protect public servants, safeguard service delivery, and restore confidence in state security structures. The PSA urges government to match these policing efforts with meaningful resource allocation and visible leadership in the fight against crime.

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