

MEDIA RELEASE PSA condemns the incompetence of the South African Police Service

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) learned with shock that SAPS failed to procure alcohol testing kits before the festive season despite the known problem of drinking and driving which has been attributed to more than half of the road accidents.

The police minister shamelessly blamed the procurement section without taking responsibility for the failure to adequately resource the department and ensure the filling of vacant positions as SAPS like other government departments experiences a chronic shortage of staff.

This failure will create an impractical situation wherein law enforcement officers will have to take all suspected drivers to the hospitals for their blood to be drawn as the same will be needed as evidence in a court of law. The culprits might escape facing the law due to this incompetence, lack of proper planning, and failure to capacitate government entities. Police and traffic officers will find it difficult to execute their responsibilities. It must be stated that alcohol testing kits are part of the tools of the trade and are as important as being provided with rifles, bullets, safety vests, and cars in good condition.

Law enforcement officials cannot be expected to do their job without being resourced hence the Minister and his EXCO must take responsibility for failing the workers and the nation. Unfortunately, the health department is already burdened owing to high hospital admissions during festive seasons and the problem is exacerbated by the chronic shortage of staff hence are not able to provide health professionals to join the roadblock teams. The Minister must swiftly act to address the problem as we expect the traffic to increase in the new year.

END