MEDIA RELEASE PSA congratulates NPA AFU, Hawks and law enforcement agencies on blow against organised crime in Mpumalanga

DATE 5 November 2026

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) congratulates the National Prosecuting Authority's Asset Forfeiture Unit (NPA AFU), the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks), and all law enforcement agencies involved in securing a High Court preservation order against assets linked to a copper theft syndicate operating in Mpumalanga.

This important legal victory represents a significant step in combating infrastructure-related crime, which continues to undermine service delivery, economic growth, and public safety across South Africa. The preservation order further demonstrates the effectiveness of coordinated action between law enforcement agencies in dismantling organised criminal networks and recovering the proceeds of crime. The case emanates from an incident on 30 September 2024, during which members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) from Charl Cilliers, together with traffic officials from the Kinross Weighbridge, arrested three suspects following a high-speed pursuit that ended at an accident scene. Copper cables were recovered from a vehicle involved in the incident. Subsequent investigations uncovered further links to the syndicate and implicated an Eskom employee. These investigations resulted in the recovery of three vehicles and additional assets believed to be connected to the criminal activities under investigation.

The PSA commends the professionalism, dedication, and collaboration displayed by the Hawks, NPA AFU, SAPS members, and other law enforcement agencies involved in this matter. Their efforts reaffirm the state's commitment to protecting critical infrastructure and ensuring that those who engage in organised crime are held accountable.

The successful preservation of assets linked to criminal activity sends a strong message that crime does not pay and that the proceeds of unlawful conduct will be targeted and recovered through the legal system. The PSA remains supportive of all efforts aimed at strengthening the rule of law, safeguarding public resources, and protecting infrastructure that is essential for the delivery of services to communities.

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