

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA demands action as South Africa is losing battle against crime**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is deeply disturbed by the recent spate of various incidents of crime targeting schools, churches, police stations, and even public officer bearers and their security staff.

These incidents underline the fact that South Africa is rapidly losing the battle against crime. Every release of crime statistics paints a grim picture of increasing incidents of violent crimes and assault, creating distrust in the abilities of the police and, in some instances, driving communities to take the law into their own hands.

Criminals have now taken to also targeting schools and churches, showing that these places that are viewed by citizens as safe spaces are easy targets for violent acts of criminality. The *2023 Global Organised Crime Index* shows that South Africa now ranks seventh in the world out of 193 countries and third in Africa for mafia-style criminal networks and organised crime syndicates. This can be attributed to the erosion of entities of safety and security, owing to corruption in government as seen with the state-capture campaign. The country's law enforcement entities have lost many credible and experienced workers whilst corrupt officials weakened the country's security infrastructure to allow for the theft of astronomical amounts. Despite utterances by the President, the country is yet to see a turn-round on crime statistics and stern action being taken against those responsible for the current state of the security cluster.

The recent attack on the Minister of Transport, despite having security staff by her side, shows the level of criminals' arrogance and underlines how vulnerable ordinary South African citizens are to horrendous crimes on a daily basis that often go unreported.

The PSA urges President Cyril Ramaphosa to take the lead in ensuring that the security cluster takes decisive action against criminals, as rampant crime is leaving citizens in fear, is driving away vital investments, is destroying businesses that should be creating jobs, and is laming the South African economy.

END