

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA demands immediate blacklisting of GBV convicts from public service and state contracts
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) denounced the ongoing epidemic of gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide in North West.

The PSA regards this situation as a governance and labour crisis that demands decisive, systemic action. Perpetrators must face real consequences. In North West, the rape ratio rose to 18.8 per 100 000 in the second quarter of 2024/25, amongst the highest provincial rates. During “Operation Shanela” in February 2025, 1 076 suspects were detained in North West, including for numerous rape, attempted murder, and grievous bodily harm cases. Between 2020 and 2024, the national Police Ministry recorded 10 732 women in North West who experienced intimate-partner violence. These figures show that GBV in North West is rampant, and the justice system is not delivering the deterrence required.

The 2024 South African Crime and Justice Survey found that GBV incidents are 1.8 times more likely to be under-reported in provinces where public-service trust is low. A Lancet Public Health 2025 analysis projected a 14 % increase in sexual-offence cases in the last quarter of 2024/25, a trend reflected in North West’s rising rape ratios. The World Bank’s 2025 report estimates that GBV costs the South African economy some R120 billion annually (about 2.3 % of the GDP), underscoring the economic rationale for excluding convicted offenders from public contracts.

The PSA therefore demands that any person convicted of GBV must be permanently barred from public-sector employment and prohibited from bidding for or receiving state contracts. Mandatory background checks for GBV convictions in all public-service hiring and procurement processes is required. In addition, legal, psychosocial and protection services for victims must be expanded. Rapid-response teams must be deployed in every district. Community education programmes that challenge toxic masculinity must be launched.

The PSA further demands that the GBV and Femicide Council must provide the North West GBV and Femicide Council with independent funding, a legal mandate, and formal PSA representation to ensure workers’ and survivors’ voices are heard. The South African Police Service must provide transparent reporting. Quarterly crime statistics must include full gender- and age-disaggregated data on rape, GBV and domestic violence to enabling evidence-based policy and accountability.

Allowing perpetrators of GBV to remain in state employment or to profit from public contracts erodes public trust and sends a message that violence against women and children can be ignored. Blacklisting convicted offenders is not about revenge, but about safeguarding communities and promoting real change.

The PSA will continue to press provincial and national government agencies, including the GBV and Femicide Council, to adopt these policy reforms. The PSA will partner with survivors, civil-society organisations, and community leaders to make the public service safer.

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