

**MEDIA RELEASE**      PSA demands justice following brutal assault on police officers in Ngangelizwe, Eastern Cape: Calls for seven-day arrest mandate

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**EMBARGO**                None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) in the Eastern Cape is outraged and condemns the recent attack on law enforcement officers in Ngangelizwe, OR Tambo District in the Eastern Cape.

One officer was killed, and another remains in a critical condition. This was not an ordinary crime but a coordinated ambush and a direct attack on the authority of the state. The way the perpetrators operated, in broad daylight, reflects growing lawlessness amongst criminals.

The safety of law enforcement officers faces serious threats. This incident reflects a wider pattern of targeted violence against police officials across South Africa. Police killings remain at high levels. Between April 2023 and March 2024, 39 officers were murdered. In the first three months of 2025, eleven officers were killed in Gauteng. The Eastern Cape continues to experience high murder rates, often exceeding 13 deaths per day across the Province. Recent 2026 data indicates an increase in attacks on police officials. The Eastern Cape remains a high-risk area where gangs and organised crime target police officers.

The PSA calls on the Provincial Commissioner to act with urgency and authority. Immediate intervention is required to restore confidence and protect officers. A dedicated provincial task team must take over the investigation. This team must have the capacity to identify and dismantle the network behind this attack. The PSA demands the arrest of the perpetrators within seven days. The state must act decisively and show control over criminal activity. An urgent review of intelligence systems is required. This includes improving coordination and information sharing to prevent further attacks.

The PSA extends condolences to the family of the deceased officer and wishes the injured officer a full recovery. The loss and injury of officers in the line of duty demands a firm response from the state. The PSA will not accept a situation where members operate under constant threat. Failure by authorities to ensure safety will compel the PSA to take further action to protect the Union's members. Members of the public with information are encouraged to come forward as cooperation with law enforcement authorities is critical in ensuring accountability and justice.

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