

**MEDIA RELEASE**      PSA disturbed by latest crime statistics: Calls for urgent multi-sector action

**DATE**                      25 February 2026

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is alarmed by recently released quarterly crime statistics for South Africa, indicate that the country continues to endure an alarming average of nearly 65 murders per day.

This information, revealed by the acting Minister of Police, reflects 5 940 murders recorded between October and December 2025, despite an 8.7% year-on-year decline in the murder rate. Whilst the PSA acknowledges the statistical improvement, the Union remains deeply troubled that South Africa is still gripped by what the Minister described as a violent-crime emergency, with persistent high levels of murder, rape, armed robbery, and gang-related violence, particularly in the Western and Eastern Cape. These numbers do not translate into lived safety for communities, as several regions continue to experience rampant violent crime. Gang violence remains entrenched in hotspots including Nyanga, Khayelitsha, and Delft in the Western Cape.

The PSA reiterates the Union's longstanding position that crime statistics are not mere numbers, but represent the lives of parents, children, workers, and breadwinners whose deaths devastate families and destabilise communities. The PSA previously raised concerns regarding similarly high murder figures, warning that socio-economic inequalities, lack of visible policing, access to illegal firearms, and systemic failures in the criminal justice system fuel this ongoing crisis. A fully integrated strategy involving the South African Police Service (SAPS), intelligence structures, correctional services, and the justice system is necessary to close gaps that allow repeat offenders, including those on bail or parole, to reoffend.

The PSA urges investment in community safety forums and local crime-prevention initiatives, particularly in high-risk areas where gang-related murders continue unabated. Despite numerical improvements, many communities still report inadequate police presence. Increased operational capacity, stronger forensic capabilities, and lifestyle audits for senior SAPS officials, as recommended by the acting Minister, should be fast-tracked. Long-term crime reduction must address poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, and gender-based violence, factors previously identified by the PSA as contributors to rising murder rates.

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