

MEDIA RELEASE PSA welcomes long-awaited repair budget for neglected police stations: Calls for stringent oversight

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is vindicated by revelations that 118 or 10% of South Africa's 1 165 police stations are in an "uninhabitable" condition, failing to meet even the most basic operational standards.

This crisis, confirmed by the Minister of Police, underscores years of neglect and mismanagement that have left thousands of police officers working in unsafe and degrading environments.

The PSA noted government's allocation of R305.7 million for urgent structural upgrades, including seven new stations, three undergoing planned maintenance, and 25 repairs to holding cells. However, only R34.6 million has been spent to date, raising serious concerns about the pace of implementation and the risk of funds being mismanaged or lost to corruption.

The worst-affected provinces, North West, Limpopo, and KwaZulu-Natal, are grappling with high levels of violent crime, illegal mining, and stock theft. The inability to provide functional policing infrastructure in these areas undermines crime-combatting efforts and violates the working rights of nearly 190 000 South African Police Service employees, whose morale and productivity are severely compromised by collapsing facilities.

The PSA urges the Minister of Police to accelerate infrastructure upgrades and provide clear timelines for completion. The allocated budget should be ring-fenced with strict oversight to prevent waste and corruption. The South African Police Service (SAPS), as employer, must prioritise health and safety compliance to ensure that police officers and support staff work in conditions conducive to effective service delivery. The SAPS must hold the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure accountable for chronic delays and inefficiencies that have worsened this crisis.

South Africa cannot afford a police service crippled by dilapidated infrastructure amidst rampant crime. The PSA calls on Parliament and the Portfolio Committee on Police to intensify oversight and ensure that this long-overdue intervention restores dignity to the SAPS and confidence in law enforcement.

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