

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes vindication of Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi
DATE	10 April 2025
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes media reports regarding the formal withdrawal of the politically charged complaint lodged with the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) against KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi.

The accusation alleging that the Commissioner shielded a drug-dealing prison official has been publicly exposed as a concocted falsehood, not rooted in facts, but in factional politics and efforts to discredit a resolute and ethical leader. This withdrawal is not a mere legal formality, but a profound moment of truth in South Africa's struggle to protect its institutions from capture, infiltration, and abuse by political actors. Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi's exoneration is a victory for him personally and all public servants who refuse to be compromised by corruption and political puppetry.

The PSA is appalled by the blatant attempt to weaponise the IPID, an institution entrusted with safeguarding public trust through independent oversight. It was used as a pawn in a political vendetta, which undermines its integrity and casts a shadow over every legitimate investigation it has undertaken. Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi is known across the province and country for his string stance against lawlessness, police misconduct, and criminal syndicates inside and outside the SA Police Service. The backlash he faced is the desperate resistance of corrupt networks whose impunity is being disrupted and are using public smear campaigns to delegitimise principled leaders.

The PSA demands urgent and systemic reforms in the IPID to ensure that it cannot be misused. The events surrounding this matter have raised red flags regarding the IPID's internal protocols, susceptibility to external influence, and hasty public dissemination of unverified complaints. The PSA calls for corrective measures, including a comprehensive forensic review of the internal handling of this case, a statutory reaffirmation of the IPID's independence, devoid of political manipulation, the establishment of binding procedural safeguards to prevent the leaking or publicising of untested allegations against public officials, and national consultation to develop protective frameworks for ethical public servants against orchestrated defamation and administrative bullying.

The PSA warns that the continued erosion of public confidence in law enforcement institutions caused by alleged political sabotage will have disastrous implications for governance, accountability, and service delivery. When oversight bodies are hijacked, the real casualties are not the targeted individuals, but citizens who rely on the fair, transparent, and independent functioning of the state.

It is imperative that South Africans, especially public servants, civil-society organisations, and progressive political forces defend the legitimacy of independent institutions and rally behind leaders who uphold the Constitution with courage and honour.

The PSA salutes Lieutenant General Mkhwanazi for remaining steadfast amidst adversity. His courage in confronting organised crime and internal sabotage is emblematic of the leadership South Africa desperately needs. This is also a victory for truth, ethical governance, and public servants who continue to serve with honour in a system under siege. The PSA remains unrelenting in the Union's defence of transparent, accountable, and politically insulated public institutions. The PSA rejects all attempts to undermine honesty, discipline, and public service excellence.

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