

MEDIA RELEASE R53 million paid to underutilised Mpumalanga Crime Prevention Wardens: PSA demands answers

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned by reports that some R53 million in public funds was paid over eleven months to 1 200 Crime Prevention Wardens in Mpumalanga who were allegedly not deployed and remained at home.

The CPW programme was introduced to strengthen community safety and support the South African Police Service. Reports that Wardens were not effectively utilised, despite continuing to receive their monthly stipends, raise serious questions about public accountability, financial management, and the implementation of government programmes.

The PSA believes that public funds must be utilised efficiently and for the intended purpose. At the same time, the Wardens should not be unfairly blamed for circumstances that may have resulted from administrative and deployment decisions beyond their control. The PSA calls for a transparent and independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the non-deployment of the Wardens, including expenditure incurred, training provided, deployment decisions, and responsibilities of officials involved in managing the programme.

The PSA further calls on relevant authorities to provide clarity on the future of the affected Wardens, particularly regarding their contracts, training, and deployment opportunities. Government has a responsibility to ensure that public employment programmes deliver meaningful value to communities whilst protecting the rights and dignity of employees. The PSA urges the Mpumalanga Provincial Government to explain how the expenditure was approved, why the Wardens were not deployed, and what corrective action will be taken to prevent similar wasteful spending in future.

The PSA will continue to advocate for accountability, responsible use of public resources, and fair treatment of public servants and government programme participants.

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