

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **SA Police Service: PSA condemns shocking state of crucial Sector**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the exposure of the findings made in terms of the SA Police Service's (SAPS) annual financial records, as discussed in Parliament this week.

It was unavoidable that the state of disarray that the Sector had to endure would not be exposed. Some of these occurrences is substantiated by a spate of pending disciplinary measures, the pending suspension of the National Commissioner, the dismissal of the Human Resources Manager in October 2020 on charges relating to corruption, fraud, theft, and money laundering, amongst a range of recently reported matters in which senior SAPS employees are involved or implicated.

In addition, the killing of police officers continues unabated. The circumstances in, for example, an incident where a gunman shot a police officer who was investigating other officers while he was in his car outside his Cape Town home, are questionable noting the current trajectory of the service. The PSA is appalled by the current state of the SAPS. This institution is tasked to protect the country against criminal ring leaders. Yet, it appears that some elements are at the heart of this. An institution, which should be at the core of democracy, freedom, and the security of citizens, is in urgent need of the President's attention. This is even more urgent given admissions that the country is in a crisis. Plagued by corruption in its civil services, government must admit that it has also failed to provide such essential services to the country.

During a Portfolio Committee Meeting on Police, it was reported that the 2020/21-annual financial statements for SAPS were unqualified but with findings. The concerns raised by the Minister of Police are concerning and alarming. The problem is clearly bigger than the reported incidents, raising the burning question of how deep it really goes.

The PSA commends the dedication of serving police officers who continue to risk their lives and serve communities under this cloud and pressing circumstances that impact on their personal safety. The PSA trusts that the SAPS has noted these shocking incidents and will take urgent steps to provide additional protection for SAPS employees. Such measures include increasing the budgets from the current allocations: Visible Policing (R39 306 439), Detective Services (R16 304 669), Crime Intelligence (R3 812 615), as well as Protection and Security Services (R2 985 871). In addition, COVID-19 prevention needs to be sustained to protect the Sector against this invisible enemy.

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