

MEDIA RELEASE **South African Police Service in need of urgent overhaul and effective leadership**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing thousands of police officers, is appalled by rapidly deteriorating conditions under which SA Police Service Officers are expected to perform their duties.

Members of the PSA raised complaints with the Union in that most police stations are not fit for human habitation. The PSA received reports that at most stations, blinds, chairs and tables are in a state of disrepair. There is further no compliance with occupational health and safety protocols or compliance with COVID-19 regulations. Police Officers are expected to share small offices spaces where social distancing is not possible.

The working conditions of Police Officers are deteriorating by the day. At first, police stations were robbed by criminals and off-duty officers are attacked and killed. There is also a shortage of support staff, including cleaners, at police stations. Police officers often have to undertake cleaning to ensure a conducive environment.

Repeated by calls by the PSA, and Police Officers alike, for increased capacity at police stations are falling on deaf ears. Some Officers even raised concerns about apprehending politically connected suspects as they fear for their safety. This situation is indicative of a government that is losing its grip, not only on crime and crime prevention, but also failure to equip police officers and capacitate police facilities to ensure effective service delivery to citizens.

Police officers are demoralised and are appealing for the integrity of the profession to be restored. The PSA appeals to the President to free safety and security functions from politics and political appointments. Strong leadership by experienced persons is required to address the deepening challenges, which will not be resolved by political point scoring. South Africa is at a tipping point where firm actions are required to salvage the situation and restore law and order.

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