

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>SANDF and critical departments: PSA calls for increased budget allocation</b>
<b>DATE</b>	3 March 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which representing more than 240 000 public-sector employees, supports concerns raised by Lieutenant-General Peter Ntshavheni Maphaha regarding South Africa's lack of border security owing to political decisions.

Speaking recently at the funeral of Staff Sergeant Ishmael Molahlehi in the Free State, Lieutenant-General Maphaha highlighted the vulnerabilities created by inadequate border protection, leaving South Africans exposed to security threats. The PSA has consistently warned against the dangerous consequences of ongoing budget cuts to critical departments such as Defence, Police, and Health. These reductions have directly weakened the state's ability to ensure safety and stability.

A senior military leader has now spoken out on these issues, emphasising the need for stronger border security and greater investment in national defence. It is concerning that instead of addressing the substance of these remarks, some politicians are criticising Lieutenant-General Maphaha for raising these concerns in a public setting.

The PSA finds it unacceptable that government continues to downplay the severity of the situation whilst soldiers face increasing risks owing to a lack of proper resources. Previous assurances from the Chief of the Defence Force to the Portfolio Committee that South Africa is prepared for war appear misleading. The reality is different as South Africans have recently witnessed critically injured soldiers returning from combat zones. This tragic situation underscores the fact that troops are being sent on dangerous missions without the necessary equipment and support, ultimately compromising their safety.

The PSA urges government to prioritise national security by increasing budget allocations for the Defence Force, Police, Health, and other essential departments in the upcoming Budget Speech on 12 March 2025. Without urgent intervention, South Africa's ability to protect its borders and citizens will remain severely compromised.

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