

MEDIA RELEASE **SAPS: PSA calls for end to political games at expense of crime prevention**

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Service Association of SA (PSA) is alarmed by the irresponsible utilisation of the South African Police Service (SAPS) for the settlement of political scores whilst the country is gripped in a wave of crime.

The SAPS is defined as an essential service under the *Labour Relations Act*. It is thus reckless of anyone to put these resources and employees on the line by encouraging political sentiments to be used as a platform in the SAPS. The shallow political narrative publicised through the media of blaming the transformation process of the apartheid-era police force into one serving democracy as against high rates of corruption, inefficacy and brutality will never yield positive results. Pointing fingers at 1990 strategies, failure to depoliticise policing, identification of lack of effective oversight bodies, and the state of disarray in the criminal justice system are tantamount to crying over spilt milk.

The PSA advises that the authorities to rather formulate concrete policies to support the SAPS in confronting the spike in crimes and formulate solutions. Historical past, ethnicity and political affiliation in the SAPS will not resolve the matter but rather bedevil ailing conditions. Those who were involved in illegal dealings with drug dealers, taxi operators, recycling of impounded illegal guns should have been dealt with decisively. Those engaging in dirty political enunciations should not be allowed to smear the Sector.

The PSA therefore strongly condemns the blatant misutilisation of the department, which will result in more murders and killings of police officers. The PSA advises those culprits who are participating in this activity to refrain from putting the country at risk. They should act consistently with legislation and policies and stop calling for political activities in the Sector.

The PSA urges the Police authorities, including the Minister and the National Police Commissioner, to intervene and eradicate this simmering political tendency and political games, which have the potential of causing turmoil in the SAPS. They must ensure that the SAPS is not compromised, and that morale is maintained. This will motivate employees and support effective crime combatting in the interest of the country.

END