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National Police Day 2024: PSA pays tribute to heroes of society

As the country marks National Police Day on 27 January 2024, the PSA pays tribute to the efforts, dedicated service and sacrifices of the men and women who work tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of communities.

This observance serves as a reminder of the critical role played by law enforcement in maintaining peace, order, and justice in the country. This sector, however, continues to be plagued by challenges with the Minister of Police admitting in Parliament last year that the South African Police Service (SAPS) cannot meet the country's policing demands. This is a worrying fact as the country attempts to attract investment and tourism for economic development and job creation. It further places undue pressure on SAPS members, who are suffering from being understaffed and poorly resourced.

The PSA acknowledges the immense challenges faced by the South African police force, especially when considering the evolving and escalating nature of crime and ongoing efforts to build trust and collaboration with communities. It is important to foster strong partnerships between the police and the public to create safer neighbourhoods, eradicate crime, and build a resilient society. National Police Day is an opportunity for all citizens to display their gratitude for the dedication and sacrifice of law enforcement officers. It is further a time to honour those who have lost their lives in the line of duty and to appreciate the resilience and commitment of those who continue to serve.

Being a police officer is more than a career. It is a calling to serve and make a difference and leaves no room for politicians scavenging and occupying higher management police positions without a proven track record of actual police work. Such deployments destroy the morale and courage of career-driven police officers who are stagnated without career mobility and are being supervised by parachuted politicians without knowledge, experience, or a passion for policing. Let career-driven police officers manage policing, rather than politicians.

Law enforcement officers risk their lives every day to ensure other people's safety and well-being. They go beyond enforcing the law as they strive to build bridges with communities. They must be honoured as the true heroes of society. On Police Day, the PSA expresses sincere gratitude to the country's workers

tasked with upholding safety and security whose sacrifices mostly go unnoticed, despite the immeasurable impact.

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