



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GENERAL 2/2026**

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## National Police Day 2026: Beyond the uniform – The human side of policing

National Police Day 2026 provides an opportunity to recognise the vital contribution of police officials whilst confronting the realities they face. The theme, *“Beyond the Uniform: The Human Side of Policing”*, is a reminder that behind every badge is a worker exposed to trauma, risk, and immense pressure in the execution of public duty.

Police officials are not only enforcers of the law. They are also spouses, parents, caregivers, and members of communities. Yet, they operate under unsafe conditions marked by chronic understaffing, inadequate resources, excessive workloads, and limited access to psychosocial support. These challenges continue to undermine morale, well-being, and effective service delivery.

As a recognised Union in the South African Police Service (SAPS), the PSA plays an active role in representing police employees and advancing their labour rights. The PSA consistently engages management and government on matters affecting working conditions, safety, fair labour practices, and employee wellbeing. The PSA has repeatedly raised concerns about operational risks, equipment shortages, and the lack of adequate trauma-support interventions for police officials.

The PSA maintains that public safety cannot be strengthened whilst the needs of police employees are neglected. Sustainable policing requires investment in people, including proper staffing, modern equipment, safe workplaces, and structured mental-health support as essential components of a functional criminal-justice system.

On National Police Day 2026, the PSA acknowledges the dedication, resilience, and professionalism of all police officials. Acknowledging and supporting the human being behind the uniform is fundamental to building safer communities and restoring confidence in policing.

Reuben Maleka  
GENERAL MANAGER