

POLICE

Special Edition
JANUARY 2026

YOUR OFFICIAL FREE SAPS MAGAZINE

SAPS NATIONAL *Excellence* AWARDS 2026

In This Edition

National Excellence Awards | National Police Day



ON A JOURNEY TO A SAFER SOUTH AFRICA



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EDITORIAL



As we turn the page on a new year, we extend a warm welcome to our readers and wish all members of the South African Police Service and their families a safe, healthy and successful 2026. January marks not only a fresh beginning, but also a moment to reflect with pride on the dedication and resilience shown by our men and women in blue.

The festive season is traditionally one of the busiest and most demanding periods on our policing calendar. Through heightened visibility, intelligence-led operations, roadblocks, patrols and close collaboration with communities and other stakeholders, SAPS members worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of citizens and visitors alike.

Despite long hours away from loved ones, our members remained steadfast, professional and committed to duty. Their efforts contributed significantly to the prevention and combating of crime, safer roads and a more secure festive period across the country. For this, we commend

every member who stood on the frontline in service of our nation.

In this month of January we also saw the successful hosting of key organisational milestones, including the National Excellence Awards, which celebrated outstanding performance and reaffirmed a culture of excellence within the Service, and National Police Day, where we honoured the noble calling of policing and paid tribute to those who serve with courage and sacrifice.

In addition, the National Commissioner of the SAPS, General Fannie Masemola, hosted a dignified farewell function in honour of three retired Lieutenant Generals who served the organisation with distinction, honour and integrity: Lieutenant General Godfrey Lebeya, former Head of the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation; Lieutenant General Jacobs, former Divisional Commissioner for Inspectorate and Provincial Commissioner in the Free State, Lieutenant General Motswenyane. Their legacy of leadership and commitment will continue to inspire future generations of SAPS members.

We also acknowledge the National Commissioner General Masemola and the SAPS management for their continued support to members through the provision of necessary resources and strategic leadership, enabling effective service delivery and the execution of our constitutional mandate.

As you enjoy this first issue of SAPS Magazine for 2026, we invite you to look forward to a year filled with insightful, informative and inspiring articles that reflect the work, and achievements of our organisation. Together, let us continue to serve with pride, professionalism and integrity in the year ahead.

Maj Gen Nonkululeko Phokane

POLICE

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HEAD: CORPORATE COMMUNICATION AND LIAISON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
Maj Gen Nonkululeko Phokane

SECTION HEAD: PUBLICATIONS AND BROADCAST
Brig Vhahangwele Phupheli

SUB-SECTION HEAD
INTERNAL PUBLICATIONS
Col Linda van den Berg

SUB-EDITOR
Lt Col Veronica Mahlaba

JOURNALISTS
Brig Vhahangwele Phupheli
Col L van den Berg
Lt Col Veronica Mahlaba
Lt Col Stephen Maluleka
Lt Col Busisiwe Nkosi
Capt Kgabo Mashamaite
Capt Vuyiseka Mangele
Capt Precious Mabusela
Capt Sisonke Mlamla
Capt Yolanda Tagana
WO Percy Sepaela
WO Amos Ndlovu
SAC Delia van Deventer

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Capt Ndanduleni Nyambeni
WO Amos Ndlovu
Adonia Maeko

LAYOUT
Col Boitumelo Sekgohe
Capt Jozann Germishuys

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FOREWORD BY THE ACTING DEPUTY NATIONAL COMMISSIONER FOR SUPPORT SERVICES



**Lieutenant General
 L Nkhua**

It is with immense pride and deep appreciation that I welcome you to the National Excellence Awards 2026. This occasion represents one of the most significant moments on our calendar - a moment when we pause to recognise, honour, and celebrate the exceptional men and women who serve our nation with courage, integrity, and unwavering commitment.

I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all Provincial and Divisional Commissioners who successfully hosted the build-up events through their respective provincial and divisional awards ceremonies. This is a clear indication that our Reward Strategy is firmly entrenched and institutionalised within the SAPS. There is no doubt that each of you values and acknowledges the contributions of our officers. I am also fully cognisant of the challenges involved in hosting such events, particularly in an environment of limited resources, and I commend you for your dedication and perseverance.

Policing is more than a profession; it is a calling that demands resilience, discipline, and selfless service. Every day, our officers and support staff operate in complex and often demanding environments, guided by a steadfast commitment to protecting lives, upholding the rule of law, and strengthening public trust. The individuals recognised through these awards embody the very best of these values and serve as a powerful reminder of the profound impact that dedicated service has on our communities and our country.

As Support Services, we are acutely aware that operational excellence is underpinned by strong institutional support, sound governance, and the unwavering dedication of professionals who often work behind the scenes. Their contributions are fundamental to the success of our operations and the achievement of our organisational objectives.

The celebration is therefore not only about individual achievement, but also about collective effort, collaboration, and the organisational culture that enables excellence to thrive across all components of our Service.

This ceremony also serves as a source of inspiration - to our current members, to future generations of police officers, and to the communities we serve. By honouring outstanding performance, innovation, bravery, and ethical leadership, we reaffirm our commitment to professionalism, accountability, and continuous improvement.

As I conclude, I extend my sincere congratulations to all the award recipients. Your dedication does not go unnoticed, and your contributions continue to strengthen both our organisation and the nation we are privileged to serve. I also wish to acknowledge the families and loved ones whose unwavering support makes this service possible. Your sacrifices are deeply appreciated and valued.

May the ceremony remind us all of the honour of service and inspire us to continue striving for excellence in all that we do.

Thank you.

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FOREWORD BY NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE



General SF Masemola (SOEG)

As I traverse the length and breadth of our country in service of the people of South Africa, I am continually inspired by the calibre of men and women who serve within the South African Police Service (SAPS). Across all ranks and environments, I encounter members who exemplify hard work, dedication, professionalism, and competence. While I am privileged to personally acknowledge some of these outstanding individuals, it is inevitable that many others, equally deserving, may go unrecognised in the course of daily engagements.

It is for this very reason that the SAPS National Excellence Awards (NEA) occupy a place of profound significance within our organisation. These awards provide a vital platform to deliberately recognise, appreciate, and honour those members whose exceptional contributions might otherwise go unnoticed, yet whose impact is felt daily in the communities they serve.

As a recipient of the Stella Officii Egregii (Gold)

(SOEG); a distinction awarded in recognition of meritorious and exemplary service, leadership, and exceptional resourcefulness in the execution of duty; I can personally attest to the deep value and enduring motivation that formal recognition brings. To be acknowledged for one's commitment and sacrifice is both affirming and empowering, reinforcing the noble purpose of our calling. It is therefore with immense pride that we present this commemorative booklet dedicated to the SAPS National Excellence Awards. These awards represent far more than a ceremonial occasion; they are a sincere expression of gratitude and recognition for dedication, commitment, and excellence in service.

Each recipient featured herein has consistently gone beyond the call of duty, making a meaningful contribution to the safety and security of our communities, while upholding the integrity, values, and professionalism of the SAPS.

This celebration extends to all who serve under the SAPS banner; our men and women in blue, support personnel, reservists, and Community Policing Forum members; who demonstrated extraordinary excellence and unwavering commitment in the execution of their duties during the 2024/2025 financial year.

As we honour these remarkable individuals, we are reminded that excellence in policing is not incidental, but the result of discipline, sacrifice, and an unyielding commitment to service. May this booklet stand as a source of inspiration to all members of the Service and as a lasting testament to the transformative power of excellence in policing.

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners of the 2025 SAPS National Excellence Awards. Your dedication and hard work have not gone unnoticed. It is both an honour and a privilege to celebrate this significant career milestone with you.

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FOREWORD BY THE PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER OF THE POLICE IN THE FREE STATE



Lieutenant General BB
Motswenyane (SOEG)

It is with great pride and sincere appreciation that I welcome you to the South African Police Service National Excellence Awards 2026, hosted in Bloemfontein - the judicial capital of our country and the heart of the Free State Province. To all our distinguished guests, nominees and delegates from across South Africa, I extend a warm Free State welcome. May you feel at home among colleagues who share your commitment to service and professionalism.

This occasion carries special personal meaning

for me, as it marks the final National Excellence Awards that I will attend in my capacity as Provincial Commissioner of the Free State. As I reflect on my journey, I do so with deep gratitude to every member, commander, support staff, stakeholder and community partner who walked this path with me. Your dedication, loyalty and resilience have not only supported me but have strengthened the organisation we proudly serve.

Excellence in policing is not defined by rank or recognition alone. It is found in quiet acts of courage, in ethical leadership, in compassion shown to victims, and in the relentless pursuit of justice. It is a daily commitment to serve with integrity, discipline and respect, even in the face of adversity. As Vince Lombardi so aptly said, "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence." The awards honour those who have chased excellence and, in doing so, inspired us all.

To the award recipients: congratulations. Your achievements represent the very best of the SAPS and remind us of what is possible when purpose, professionalism and passion align. May this recognition motivate you - and others - to continue raising the standard of policing in our country.

As we celebrate excellence together in the Free State, let us renew our collective commitment to service excellence, unity and the noble calling of policing. I thank you all for being part of my journey and for contributing to a legacy that will endure beyond this moment.

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FOREWORD BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE



Mr CC Mathale (MP)

Policing is often an undervalued profession, yet it is the backbone of a safe and thriving society. No society can flourish in the absence of law and order. However, the unwavering commitment, dedication, and personal sacrifices of our law enforcement officers frequently go unnoticed.

The National Excellence Awards are a momentous occasion to recognise, honour, and celebrate the achievements of the South African Police Service members, both individuals and teams. It is our way of expressing gratitude to

the men and women in blue who risk their lives daily to ensure we live in a safe and secure environment. These awards acknowledge all SAPS members, whether nominated or not, for their steadfast dedication.

I acknowledge the countless hours and immense effort SAPS members invest in combating crime and corruption, both in the field and behind the scenes. Their resilience and determination make them all winners in their own right, and we deeply appreciate their commitment.

Police officers face unpredictability every day, working under physically and emotionally demanding conditions. They encounter the best and worst of humanity. Their duty is a noble calling, requiring both dedication and excellence.

The award recipients epitomise the highest standards of excellence, setting an example for their colleagues and upholding the trust our communities place in them.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all SAPS members for their service and commitment. Congratulations to the nominees, winners, and every officer who embodies the spirit of excellence and dedication.

GOOD LUCK AND WELL DONE!

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FOREWORD BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE



Dr P Boshielo (MP)

There is no doubt that Policing has a profound impact on communities and plays a vital role in ensuring the safety and security of our nation. The assurance of safety and security is not merely a function of government; it is a foundational pillar upon which the stability and prosperity of our nation is built.

The South African Police Service (SAPS)

comprises dedicated men and women who selflessly serve a greater purpose beyond individual interests. Diligently fulfilling policing responsibilities, safeguarding the citizens of this country and their properties. Each day, officers in uniform confront numerous hazards and dangers associated with addressing criminality and upholding the law.

A selfless job but very much necessary for the betterment of our communities, ensuring a safe and secure environment and access to a free and independent justice system.

We extend our commendation to every member of the South African Police Service who, despite the challenges inherent in this profession, continues to serve the nation with unwavering diligence and honour.

We salute each one of you for your relentless pursuit of excellence and the high-quality work that has earned recognition and respect. The journey toward a better future is much like a circle, an ongoing endeavour that knows no true conclusion.

Together, let us continue to strive for improvement, innovation, and the upholding of justice, equality, and respect for all. Your contributions are invaluable, and we are proud to stand alongside you in this vital mission.

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FOREWORD BY MINISTER OF POLICE



Prof F Cachalia

It is a profound honour to support the 2026 South African Police Service (SAPS) National Excellence Awards.

In the complex and demanding landscape of law enforcement, where the hours are long and the risks are often severe, it is easy for extraordinary acts of service to be overshadowed by the sheer volume of work that our mandate requires. Yet, it is precisely because of these challenges that we must pause, reflect, and shine a light on those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

The women and men profiled in these awards represent the very best of us. They are the tangible embodiment of our Code of Conduct and the living proof that policing is not merely a job, but a vocation. From the bustling streets of our metros to the furthest rural outposts, the nominees and winners celebrated here have demonstrated resilience, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to the safety of all who live within our borders.

Through these awards we honour detectives who have meticulously gathered evidence to ensure justice for victims who thought hope was lost. We celebrate Visible Policing members whose proactive vigilance has prevented crime or provided much needed assistance to our communities. We also acknowledge our support staff, forensic experts, and administrative teams who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the machinery of the SAPS keeps turning.

To the recipients of these awards: You are the standard-bearers of the SAPS. Your dedication does not go unnoticed. Many of you have faced danger with courage and approached complex problems with innovation and commitment. By excelling in your duties, you do more than just enforce the law; you establish public trust and build the bridges necessary for community-centered policing. You remind us all that a safer South Africa is not just a dream, but a goal we are actively working towards, one arrest, one conviction, and one act of service at a time.

In addition to celebrating individual and team brilliance, we must also acknowledge the collective spirit of the SAPS that is larger than the organisation. These awards are also a tribute to the families of our officers, whose support makes this demanding work possible, and to every member of the service who puts on the blue uniform to serve with pride each morning.

Let these awards serve not only as a record of achievement but as a source of inspiration. Let the examples set by those celebrated, motivate every member and employee of the SAPS from station commander to constable, from highly specialised scientists to administrators to strive for excellence in their own sphere of influence.

We have much work ahead of us to continue turning the tide against crime, but looking at the calibre of the individuals honoured here, I am filled with renewed confidence. Congratulations to our champions of justice. Wear your accolades with pride - you have earned them.

General Criteria and Categories

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR CATEGORIES

THE DIMENSIONS OF THE CRITERIA ARE LISTED BELOW:

1. The employee's achievement towards the strategic objectives of the Organisation linked to the KPA's of the employee in terms of quality, quantity, time and cost efficiency.
2. The employee's dedication to duty (e.g. the extent to which the employee goes the extra mile beyond the call of duty).
3. The creativity, initiative, innovation and resourcefulness displayed by the employee to contribute positively towards service delivery. Further motivation can be linked to programmes/projects (if applicable) related to general management.
4. The employee's impact/value added to service delivery.
5. The employee's attributes (compliance to the Code of Conduct, discipline, professionalism and/or any other extraordinary circumstance(s) that are observed).

LIST OF CATEGORIES FOR 2026

Administration Employee of the Year **Level 2 - 4**
 Administration Employee of the Year **Level 5 - 7**
 Administration Employee of the Year **Level 8 - 12**
 Administration Team of the Year

VISPOL Member of the Year **Level 5 - 7**
 VISPOL Member of the Year **Level 8 - 12**
 VISPOL Team of the Year

Operations Member of the Year **Level 5 - 7**
 Operations Member of the Year **Level 8 - 12**
 Operations Team of the Year

Detective Services Employee of the Year **Level 5 - 7**
 Detective Services Employee of the Year **Level 8 - 12**
 Detective Services Team of the Year

Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences
 Investigator of the Year **Level 5 - 7**
 Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences
 Investigator of the Year **Level 8 - 12**
 Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences
 Investigator Team of the Year

Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation Member of the Year
Level 5 - 7
 Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation Member of the Year
Level 8 - 12
 Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation Team of the Year

Forensic Services Employee of the Year **Level 5 - 7**
 Forensic Services Employee of the Year **Level 8 - 12**
 Forensic Services Team of the Year

Crime Intelligence Member of the Year **Level 5 - 7**
 Crime Intelligence Member of the Year **Level 8 - 12**
 Crime Intelligence Team of the Year

Protection and Security Services Member of the Year **Level 5 - 7**
 Protection and Security Services Member of the Year **Level 8 - 12**
 Protection and Security Services Team of the Year

Woman of the Year
 Man of the Year

Sport Star of the Year
 Sportsman of the Year
 Sportswoman of the Year
 Sportsperson with Disability of the Year

Reservist of the Year
 Person with Disability of the Year
 CPF of the Year

Senior Administration Manager of the Year: **Level 13 -14**
 Senior Operational Manager of the Year: **Crime Detection**
Level 13 -14
 Senior Operational Manager of the Year: **Policing Level 13 -14**

Station of the Year

SPECIAL AWARDS

Minister's Award
 National Commissioner's Award

General Criteria and Categories

CRITERIA FOR SPECIAL CATEGORIES

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL THE CATEGORIES LISTED BELOW HAVE INDIVIDUAL CRITERIA AND SOME INCLUDE THE GENERAL CRITERIA.

SPECIAL CATEGORIES CRITERIA

1. MINISTRY AWARDS

The winner is selected from the gold and silver cross for bravery awards that the minister of police has awarded throughout the financial year or at the sole discretion of the ministry of police.

2. NATIONAL COMMISSIONER'S AWARD

The winner is selected at the discretion of the National Commissioner from all monetary awards by the National Commissioner.

3. POLICE STATION OF THE YEAR

- Front Line Service Delivery
- Corporate Image
- Neatness/Appearance
- Clients Satisfaction (Survey)
- Partnerships and Effectiveness of CPF Performance

4. WOMAN/MAN OF THE YEAR

- The achievement, performance/ contributions that have had a significant impact on and/or added value to service delivery, the organization and the community.
- Knowledge and development/ empowerment of self, others and women in the community.
- Commendations and achievements.
- Voluntary involvement in

- organisational activities.
- Community involvement.
- Initiatives and/or proposals to improve service delivery through the activities of the women's network, the operational and contribution to the strategic objectives of the service.
- Leadership skills (is the nominee a capable role model who has influenced others to join her/ him in her/his efforts to make a difference.
- Problem-solving capabilities (has the nominee been able to overcome obstacles and at the same time shown creativity and drive).
- Perseverance (Is the nominee results-orientated and did her/his efforts go beyond the call of duty).
- Impact of activities/efforts on service delivery.
- Advocate for gender representation.

5. SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR: MAN/WOMAN/ PERSON WITH DISABILITY

- The member's achievement in a prestigious achievement/sport.
- The member's dedication to that particular sport.
- The members sportsmanship and standing among other sportspersons.
- The member's diligence and perseverance in participating in that sport.
- The extent to which the member projects a positive image of the South African Police Service (SAPS) by his/her sports performance.
- The member's personality.
- The member's conduct in general.
- The member's dedication and zeal

in performing his/her daily duties as a member of the SAPS.

6. RESERVIST OF THE YEAR

In addition to the general criteria the following needs to be taken into consideration:

- Availability/hours worked/successes to ensure the achievements of output.
- Contribution to improve service delivery.
- Successes in terms of crime prevention and service delivery.
- Initiatives or contributions to social crime prevention.
- Impact made on service or the safety of the community.
- Effective utilization of resources.
- Sharing of information with relevant role players.

7. PERSON WITH DISABILITY OF THE YEAR

In addition to the General Criteria the following needs to be taken into consideration:

- Personal image and attitude towards life
- Self development
- Working ability
- Adaptability
- Communication
- Interpersonal relationships/ community service

8. CPF OF THE YEAR

This award is determined through assessment of the contribution of each Community Policing Forum on the following:

- Building sound relations between the SAPS and the community.
- Relations built with Stakeholders to assist the Police in fighting crime.

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Winners Per Category

ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



LEVEL 2 - 4

HANDYPERSON
LD MULAUDZI

Gauteng

Livhuwani David Mulaudzi is employed as an Artisan/Handyperson by the SAPS in Brakpan, Johannesburg. The member conducts routine and maintenance inspections weekly on the plumbing. In the past financial year Mr Mulaudzi responded and attended to 15 queries about plumbing emergency in the police yard as well as in the police cells in line with the Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act 181 of 1993.

Handyperson Mulaudzi goes an extra mile, even in his private time, he made efforts and obtained a tradesman qualification which he passed with flying colours in 2024. So dedicated to his craft that he is always on a stand-by list for the district to be able to attend to all preventive

maintenance and assess general deficiencies at the station in terms of the organisational legislation.

Over the last financial year Mr Mulaudzi assisted over weekends at stations as far as Ivory Park in fixing electrical aspects which would save the state money unlike hiring private service providers. Over and above, Mr Mulaudzi monitors stock levels of maintenance materials and all consumables daily in terms of the Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999. True to his allegiance to the SAPS, Mulaudzi has also purchased, out of his pocket, some equipment and materials and safeguard equipment. He is indeed a true servant of the people.



LEVEL 5 - 7

SGT NM ZULU

Gauteng

Sgt Nonhlanhla Martha Zulu is a police detective in the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit (FCS) in the Gauteng Provincial Head Office. This unit is comprised of three sections which are: FCS Investigations, Serial and Electronic Crime Investigation (SECI) as well as Forensic Social Work Services (FSW).

Her duties include accurate record keeping and efficient administration, maintenance of such and coordinating effective office administration. Furthermore, Sgt Zulu assists in the coordination and execution of effective and efficient office administration at the Management Information and Strategic Planning for the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit (FCS). Additionally, she helps

in the compilation and consolidation of management information regarding the performance of the Gauteng Province FCS.

She also monitors the capturing of accused persons' information on CAS for all 23 FCS units weekly. She coordinates the registration of other officers on the Crime Administration System and Global Access. She is hands on and even visits other units to address issues of data integrity at the FCS units. She sometimes provides in-service training to some of the commanders and data capturers on Performance Chart System, Docket Progress and CAS. She is a seasoned police official.



LEVEL 8 - 12

COL SE ROSSOUW

Head Office

Col SE Rossouw who is stationed at Monitoring and Evaluation is a consummate professional who dedicates her time to serving the people of South Africa. Her dedication is exemplary as she constantly goes beyond the call of duty for the organisation to meet its accountability obligations.

During 2024/24 financial year, she successfully compiled and presented an Annual Report of the SAPS, one of the seventeen (17) consecutive reports. This reflects her ability to work independently, apply sound judgment and helps her maintain the highest standards of accuracy, structure and quality of work.

In addition to leading the reporting process, she developed and institutionalised several foundational frameworks and

guidelines which have substantially improved the SAPS' performance monitoring environment.

These include the Monitoring and Reporting Framework which outlines the legal requirements and prescribed processes for compiling Quarterly Performance Reports (QRP's), as guided by the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME). During the compilation of the Annual Report alone, Col Rossouw contributed approximately 90 hours of overtime over a two-month period to ensure a timely submission of the report to the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA). She is an experienced officer in this environment as she has spent 18 years diligently doing her job in this sphere.

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Winners Per Category

ADMINISTRATION TEAM OF THE YEAR



LED BY WO VELEZWENI AND
WO NTANTISO

Eastern Cape

The Warrant Officers are responsible for 19 691 police firearms. In the financial year 2024/25, these two officers started the gun coating of firearms project and were the first in the province to introduce such a successful project. The state, as a result, saved a lot of money to procure new official firearms due to the refurbishment to extend the lifespan of each firearm.

This team is responsible for inspection, maintenance, repair; IBIS test firing and Dot Peen Marking of all firearms in the Eastern Cape. They managed to visit most stations in the province, and these visits help stations to always keep firearms serviceable. Out of

10 489 firearms that were physically inspected by this unit, 2423 were identified as unserviceable and were repaired and 350 of these were refurbished from the Chris Hani District in the province.

Since this project started, the number of firearms recommended for board of survey went down by 80% compared to the previous financial years. The members of this team suggested that procurement of firearms is not cost-effective, rather refurbish as it will prevent the province from procuring more firearms at a high cost. We are grateful to have men and women in blue who continue to display diligence and resourcefulness.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS EVENT POSSIBLE:

PLATINUM:



GOLD:



SILVER:



BRONZE:



"To serve and protect is a calling in life. To be a member of the South African Police Service is a privilege afforded to those who have responded to that calling and who will carry the reputation of this organization high at all times, both on and off duty." Well done to all the winners, we hope your excellence in performance will inspire all members of the SAPS to work together in the move forward.

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Winners Per Category

VISPOL MEMBER OF THE YEAR



LEVEL 5 - 7

SERGEANT
MR SITHOLE

KwaZulu-Natal

Sergeant MR Sithole serves as a dedicated member within Social Crime Prevention and as a Sector Commander. While serving on the Crime Prevention Task Team, Sgt Sithole excelled in effecting arrests. Since joining Social Crime Prevention, he has assumed the role of Station Fitness Coordinator, assists with the District Annual Fitness Programme, and actively participates in KwaZulu-Natal athletics.

As a Sector Commander, Sgt Sithole is consistently present and active during community and farmers meetings and remains readily accessible to community members and stakeholders. The member leads rural safety operations, which include roadblocks, school awareness programmes,

and ensuring compliance of liquor outlets and taverns.

He is passionate about community development, as demonstrated by his active participation in the Drug Safety Committee which visits schools at least four times a week; the Youth Desk focusing on crimes related to extortion; and his involvement in Traditional Policing through regular visits to Tribal Courts, addressing stock theft and gender-based violence.

Often conducted over weekends, Sgt Sithole continues to prioritise community outreach initiatives. He also initiated the 'Raising Upstanding Adults' camp programme, which promotes agricultural education and inculcates an interest in farming among young boys.



LEVEL 8 - 12

COLONEL
AJ UECKERMANN

Gauteng

The Colonel has brought changes to Vereeniging SAPS from the 2023/2024 financial year to 2024/2025 financial year. The Contact crimes dropped from 1156 to 1131 with 2.2%. Contact related crimes from 118 decrease to 71 with 9%. Property crime dropped from 848 to 781 with 9%, on serious crime a decrease from 1076 to 996 with 7.4%. On trio crimes a drop from 182 to 166 with 8.8%. He even played an important role in dropping the 17 community reported crimes from 3268 to 3079 with 5.8%.

His creative approach toward fighting crime in Vereeniging

reduced all crime categories in the area with a major increase on Crime Dependent on Police Actions (CDPA), as well as general arrests. He is a team player and has an inclusive approach and continuously utilise all available internal as well as external stakeholders. Colonel Ueckermann maintains a strong sense of discipline, professionalism and contribute to the team's cohesion.

He personally visits parades to communicate messages directly to the members to ensure that there is no distortion of messages cascading to members.

VISPOL TEAM OF THE YEAR



CAPTAIN
KC PAPUDI

Limpopo

This team of 12 under the leadership of Captain Papudi has successfully reduced Trio crimes in the areas such as Nebo, Jane Furse and Masemola respectively. The business robbery in Jane Furse saw a decline of 67.3% while carjacking dropped by 21.9%. In Nebo their presence was also felt by criminals where business robbery went down by 15% while carjacking dropped by 14% and 19% on stock theft.

Their never-say-die attitude recovered 12 firearms in Nebo, 14 firearms in Jane Furse, 06 firearms

in Masemola and six more firearms were recovered in Apel while two firearms were recovered in Mhluzi, Mpumalanga, making a total of 40 firearms recovered. These translates to 38 pistols, one shotgun and one AK47 Assault rifle. Their relentless attitude and commitment intercepted a Cash-in-transit (CIT) and recovered three explosives, detonators, AK47, two pistol and 27 rounds of ammunition.

Their efforts of going beyond and above the call of duty managed to make arrests on high profile cases

including one where a doctor from Ritas Hospital was hijacked and kidnapped. In the period of three weeks, they effected arrests and recovered the vehicle and cellphones of the doctor. Furthermore, the team recovered stolen vehicles, livestock in different areas, but also recovered a firearm of a Warrant Officer who was shot and injured in a separate incident. Their dedication also recovered properties to the tune of plus minus R700 000 which includes generators, beds, cellphones, TVs, music systems and Jojo tanks amongst other things they recovered.

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Winners Per Category

OPERATIONAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR



LEVEL 5 - 7

WO D NAIDOO

Head Office

This fearless and unflinching member reacted to a call of serious crime while off duty and taking care of his six-year-old daughter. His call to fight crime triumphed over the needs of his own child. Whilst off duty he planned and executed a successful operation within an hour of receiving a tip off and produced astonishing results.

Although he was assisted by Captain Rodrigues from K9, he initiated the operation to approach the extremely dangerous suspects who were driving in a hijacked vehicle. His courage propelled him to exchange fire with CIT suspects where he was shot and injured but never retreated nor surrendered in pursuit of excellence. He

fatally wounded two of them and arrested another one where two pistols were recovered and later an M4 assault rifle was also recovered which later emerged that the rifle was taken from a CIT robbery where a guard was fatally wounded.

He established a well-informed informant network, and through his own initiative and dedication in combatting crime, assisted in the attempt to arrest high profile perpetrators. His innovation saw him partnering with private individuals who assist him with latest technology and equipment to track and trace suspects swiftly.



LEVEL 8 - 12

COLONEL
N NDZOTYANA*Free State*

The member has led Operation Vala Umgodi from 2024 to date, making sure the public is aware about illegal mining through visiting radio stations and schools. Her leadership saw a recovery of GBM/Gold amalgam. Recovered explosives in Ficksburg Port of Entry, firearms as well as drugs in the operational vicinity.

Most of the successes came from conducting consistent disruptive operations and intelligent driven operations. During her tenure, no life was lost, no members were arrested or involved in criminal activities. The dedicated member has a total number of 100 members with 20 cars per phase under her command. Colonel Ndzotyana

forged a good working relationship with the Department of Home Affairs which helps to structure statements that lead to lengthy convictions.

She motivated members and kept the spirit high which helped in situations where serious decisions had to be taken, especially when members are facing serious challenges during the operation. A huge drop of serious crimes was experienced due to the team visibility in the areas of concern. Her consistency in conducting disruptive operations played a pivotal role to stabilise and normalise crime in the District of Lejweleputswa and Fezile Dabi.

OPERATIONS TEAM OF THE YEAR

CAPTAIN
JJ VAN WYK*Eastern Cape*

Captain van Wyk and his team went beyond the call of duty to save Eskom an astronomical amount of money by curbing illegal electricity connections to the ESKOM grid, stopping vandalism, and uncovering the dangerous misuse of infrastructure, while improving the performance of the electrical network. These illegal connections, if not uncovered, could have caused a massive disaster, effecting children and innocent members of the community. Due to their perseverance with successful arrests, they contributed significantly to a safer and more secure environment in the mining industry,

and consequently, towards drawing foreign investors to South Africa.

They work tirelessly in dangerous environments on various occasions. Through team cohesion, they collaborated effectively towards success. In addition to their daily tasks, the team members execute additional duties without hesitation, remuneration, or complaints. The team is an example to their colleagues in the SAPS, as they ensure that service delivery is not hampered, and the image of the SAPS is restored.

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Winners Per Category

DETECTIVE SERVICES EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



LEVEL 5 - 7

SERGEANT
MM KHASULI

LEVEL 5 - 7

Gauteng

Sergeant Khasuli serves at Orange Farm's SAPS, attached to the Serious and Violent Crime Unit, where he has distinguished himself as a committed, results-driven detective. His core responsibilities include the investigation of serious offences such as murder, kidnapping, robbery and missing persons. During the past financial year, Sergeant Khasuli successfully investigated multiple high-profile murder dockets, securing convictions that resulted in lengthy direct imprisonment sentences for offenders. His work consistently demonstrates a strong alignment with SAPS strategic objectives, particularly in terms of quality investigations, timeous case finalisation and cost-effective use of resources.

He regularly goes beyond the call of duty, responding to crime scenes while off duty, working extended hours, and managing complex scenes under intense pressure, including cases with significant media attention. His ability to gather intelligence, coordinate operations, and personally effect arrests has led to the recovery of illegal firearms and the successful prosecution of dangerous criminals.

Sergeant Khasuli's efforts have improved service delivery, strengthened community trust in SAPS, and brought closure to victims' families. Disciplined, professional and a mentor to junior detectives, Sergeant MM Khasuli embodies the values of Detective Services excellence.



LEVEL 8 - 12

COLONEL
E ROSSOUW

Head Office

Colonel Rossouw is a distinguished leader within the South African Police Service, currently anchoring critical operations at Crime Stop and the National Joint Operational Centre (Natjoc). Operating within a unit at only 15% human resource capacity, Colonel Rossouw has demonstrated extraordinary resilience and strategic acumen in the face of severe systemic constraints.

A specialist in high-pressure crisis management, he successfully integrated the Extortion Hotline into existing operations, addressing a national surge in organised crime and construction site mafia. His technical leadership is further evidenced by his management of the My SAPS

App, where he processed over 1,000 credible leads on gang violence and drug offenses, and his oversight of 83 Amber Alerts, ensuring rapid public mobilisation for missing children.

Beyond operational output, Colonel Rossouw has proven to be a visionary diplomat for SAPS. He established vital liaison channels with Meta and TikTok to mitigate social media threats and ensured strict compliance with the POPI Act regarding sensitive tip-offs. His ability to maintain meticulous standards, foster team cohesion under duress, and provide a 24-hour commitment to public safety makes him an exemplary candidate in this category.

DETECTIVE TEAM OF THE YEAR



LED BY BRIGADIER
WS KUNENE

KwaZulu-Natal

Led by the exemplary leadership of Brigadier WS Kunene, the Provincial SVC Murder and Robbery Unit from KZN Team has established itself as a cornerstone of justice and public safety. This elite unit is defined by its relentless pursuit of high-profile criminals and its commitment to the strategic objectives of the SAPS.

In the past year alone, the team has achieved staggering results, attending over 100 crime scenes and securing more than 70 arrests for violent offences. Their investigative prowess is unmatched, evidenced by the recovery of 68 life sentences for heinous crimes, including the Inanda and Umhlanga massacres. From dismantling hitman syndicates to solving cold cases involving the

murder of entire families, their work has brought closure to countless victims.

Beyond their technical success, the members frequently sacrifice personal time and leave days to finalise dockets and assist other units, maintaining a zero-reminder work ethic. By integrating innovative technology with unconventional investigative methods, they have optimised cost-efficiency while ensuring high-quality service delivery. The team's professionalism and high morale have not only earned them widespread media praise but have also restored community confidence in the SAPS.

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Winners Per Category

FCS INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR



LEVEL 5 - 7

SERGEANT
NR BOKOLO

Eastern Cape

Sergeant Bokolo is a distinguished investigator within the Serial and Electronic Crime Investigations (SECI) unit, known for her relentless pursuit of justice and deep empathy for victims of Gender-Based Violence. Her work across the Eastern Cape is defined by an extraordinary commitment to "the extra mile," often sacrificing rest days and personal leave to track down perpetrators.

Sgt Bokolo's investigative brilliance was most notably displayed in the apprehension of serial rapist, Xolani Gcelu. When the suspect fled to the Western Cape, she utilized innovative tactics disguising herself as a Road Accident Fund official, to lure him into a police station for arrest.

Her meticulous evidence gathering, including linking DNA across numerous cold cases, led to Gcelu's conviction on 34 counts and a sentence of eight life terms plus 162 years.

Beyond the courtroom, Sergeant Bokolo is a champion for victim restoration. She successfully mediated between a traumatized victim and her family, clearing the victim's name and facilitating her re-enrollment in school. With additional high-profile convictions against serial offenders like Mziwoxolo Zozi and Gugu Honono, Bokolo has removed multiple dangerous criminals from society.



LEVEL 8 - 12

CAPTAIN
K NAIDOO

Kwa Zulu-Natal

Captain Kogan Naidoo is a visionary leader and dedicated investigator serving as the Unit Commander at Greytown FCS. Since taking command in November 2024, his strategic oversight has revolutionized the unit's efficiency, resulting in a staggering number of convictions, including multiple life sentences and significant prison terms for crimes ranging from rape to robbery.

Captain Naidoo is celebrated for his "extra mile" approach to policing. He maintains a 24/7 open line of communication with the community and frequently utilizes his private vehicle to accomplish official tasks. His technical resourcefulness was pivotal when he personally

overhauled the unit's IT infrastructure, expanding a single non-functional workstation into a fully networked system that allows members to scan, email, and print critical SAP 69S reports.

Beyond technical and investigative excellence, Captain Naidoo is a mentor who prioritizes the professional growth of his team through in-service training and meticulous docket inspection. His ability to foster strong relationships with traditional leaders and stakeholders like the NPA has restored community trust and ensured justice for victims.

FCS INVESTIGATION TEAM OF THE YEAR



LED BY LT COLONEL A MBELE

Free State

The Free State Provincial Serial and Electronic Crime Investigations (SECI) team from Thabong FCS, under the commanding leadership of Lt Colonel A. Mbele, is a relentless engine of justice specialised in dismantling the complex networks of serial sex offenders. This elite unit is defined by its extraordinary synergy and a "no-fail" mission to protect the most vulnerable citizens. In a remarkable display of investigative persistence, the team successfully linked and prosecuted a serial predator responsible for a wave of terror across multiple districts, resulting in a landmark conviction of eight life sentences plus 150 years.

The team's success is built on innovative forensic analysis and a 24/7 commitment to victim care. Members frequently sacrifice personal leave and work unremunerated overtime to ensure that DNA evidence and digital footprints are meticulously captured, leaving no room for technical acquittals. By combining forensic brilliance with deep human empathy, Lt Colonel Mbele's team has not only secured record-breaking sentences but has also restored a profound sense of safety and dignity to the Free State community.

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Winners Per Category

FORENSIC SERVICES



LEVEL 5 - 7

WARRANT OFFICER
 LM MITTON

— Head Office

Forensic Analyst, Warrant Officer LM Mitton ensures careful planning to ensure accuracy, efficiency and adherence to forensic protocols. In the high-profile case that followed a raid where drugs, cash and 19 illegal firearms were seized, WO Mitton did extensive research required on each firearm to obtain all the information, as most of them had never been examined before, which increased the overall complexity of the case.

WO Mitton meticulously tested each calibre and performed etching to restore serial numbers on firearms where these had been obliterated. The member portrayed

a high degree of technical skill, precision and attention to detail, ensuring that all evidence could withstand scrutiny in legal proceedings.

Despite the intricate, voluminous and highly complex nature of the case, WO Mitton successfully finalised in half the standard turnaround time. This remarkable outcome was achieved through consistent dedication, including working after hours to ensure timely completion without compromising quality and accuracy.



LEVEL 8 - 12

COLONEL
 TM NTSHANGASE

— Head Office

Colonel TM Ntshangase provides specialised forensics psychological and investigative assistance to members dealing with psychological crimes. In 2024/2025, Col Ntshangase conducted a total of 36 psychological assessments, which included victim competency, accused and criminal capacity assessments.

In some of her psychological assessments and expert testimony where she consulted with prosecutors requiring courtroom assistance, a 17-year-old attempted rape accused in custody. When performing her functions in the Investigative Psychology Unit, Col Ntshangase ensures that deadlines are met timeously and nothing is left outstanding.

Col Ntshangase conducted seven forensic awareness campaigns, in the detection and understanding of psychologically motivated crime, other SAPS and Non-SAPS personnel, including in-service training. In addition, ensuring that the victim competency assessments backlog is reduced. Col Ntshangase, advocates against abuse of women and children and Gender Based Violence. She has been on several media platforms conducting awards and sharing her expertise regarding psychologically motivated crimes.

FORENSIC SERVICES TEAM OF THE YEAR



COLONEL
 PPN THELEDI

— Head Office

Under the leadership of Colonel PPN Theledi, the team has ensured in 2024/2025, Mpumalanga Criminal Record and Crime Scene Management (CR&CSM) outperforms all provinces. This was made possible by managing to surpass all the KPA targets of the environment and achieving 100% of the overall performance and productivity by end of quarter 4.

In fingerprints evidence extracted from 8 111 cases, 1 786 suspects were linked to crime scenes. Interventions initiated by the team, including the quarterly scanning of fingerprints, increased the number of suspect linkages and was instrumental in ensuring that all the Fingerprint Identification targets could be achieved, ultimately enabling the linkages of suspects to criminal activities,

ranging from rape to murder. Led by Col Theledi, the team's reaction time to finalising dockets and uploading statements for court purposes improved due to consistent engagement with LCRC offices and the weekly monitoring of performance, productivity and quality of work.

Furthermore, the team put in an extra 2-4 hours of work in the office without additional compensation or taking time due. The team leader weekly monitored the extracting and handling of Forensic Science Laboratory exhibits for each LCRC and ensured that the trips to submit FSL exhibits were coordinated amongst the LCRCs to meet the targets' reaction time and for cost efficiency.

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Winners Per Category

CRIME INTELLIGENCE MEMBER OF THE YEAR



LEVEL 5 - 7

**SERGEANT
RM VAN WYK**

Head Office

Sergeant RM Van Wyk is currently acting as a network operations team leader and coordinator. Over the 2024/2025 financial year, he met and surpassed most of his performance targets, contributing significantly to crime reduction through intelligence-driven ad hoc and network operations.

He is recognised for going beyond the call of duty, frequently working early mornings, late nights, and after hours without overtime or rest-day compensation. He independently plans, briefs, and coordinates operations, handles JSI search warrant applications to ensure operational efficiency, and often utilises personal resources such as private transport

and airtime to achieve operational objectives. His leadership extends to mentoring colleagues, assisting detectives with legislative applications, and managing administrative and financial aspects of network operations.

Driven by a deep commitment to community service, Sergeant Van Wyk is passionate about addressing drug-related crime and protecting vulnerable youth. His intelligence gathering led to significant seizures valued at over R227,000 and multiple arrests, strengthening community trust and improving service delivery.



LEVEL 8 - 12

**LIEUTENANT COL
H CONRADIE**

Head Office

Lieutenant Colonel H Conradie is a highly skilled and dedicated Crime Intelligence analyst, with specialist expertise in communication analysis. She has consistently linked suspects to one another, to crime scenes, and to the commission of offences, playing a decisive role in securing successful prosecutions in high-profile cases involving murder, robbery, organised crime, and the tampering of essential infrastructure.

Beyond her core analytical mandate, Lt Col Conradie supports investigative teams through witness interviews, comprehensive docket analysis, and strategic guidance, while safeguarding the integrity of evidence. Her availability extends beyond office hours, including weekends,

demonstrating exceptional commitment to justice delivery.

Lt Col Conradie is recognised for her innovative and resourceful approach, integrating cellphone data, Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) data, and financial records to reconstruct timelines and place suspects at critical locations. Her expert court testimony is frequently presented as the final evidence, consolidating complex investigations into clear and compelling narratives that have led to significant convictions and lengthy sentences.

Guided by the SAPS Code of Conduct, she exemplifies professionalism, ethical integrity, teamwork, and service excellence, making a lasting contribution to public safety and confidence in the criminal justice system.

CRIME INTELLIGENCE TEAM OF THE YEAR



**BRIGADIER
WS VAN HEERDEN**

Head Office

Brigadier WS Van Heerden from "The Stommers" a dedicated team to fight crime is a highly respected senior law-enforcement leader with extensive experience in combating organised crime, narcotics trafficking, illegal marine resource exploitation, and racketeering. In the 2024/2025 evaluation period he provided strategic oversight of complex undercover projects and pre-operations, ensuring meticulous planning and effective execution in high-risk environments.

Under his command, teams employed innovative and adaptive investigative techniques to counter sophisticated and highly observant criminal syndicates operating locally and internationally. These efforts resulted in the arrest

of key role players, significant seizures of narcotics, illegal abalone, firearms, and criminal assets, and the dismantling of syndicate structures that threatened public safety and economic stability. The sustained impact of these operations prevented syndicates from re-establishing themselves and strengthened public confidence in the SAPS.

Brigadier van Heerden prioritises mentorship and skills transfer, empowering junior members to manage investigations independently. He also actively promotes cooperation with national and international partners, enhancing cross-border operational effectiveness. His leadership reflects strategic insight, operational excellence, and the principles of Batho Pele.

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Winners Per Category

PROTECTION AND SECURITY SERVICES MEMBER OF THE YEAR



LEVEL 5 - 7

WARRANT OFFICER
AL ZONDO

— Head Office

Planning Officer WO Zondo is one of the dedicated and hard-working members in this unit. During 2024/2025 he successfully planned and executed 22 out of 66 incidence free events that took place in Gauteng with no security breach. As a dedicated member, in that year, he even rescheduled his annual leave and put family plans on hold as it was an overwhelming year with election activities, to perform his duties. WO Zondo took initiatives to assist other host departments, like the Department of Basic

Education. He usually assists the Department of Education during announcement of Grade 12/ Matric results where he plays a role of advising the stakeholders involved.

WO Zondo received an appreciation certificate for his hard work from the PSS Provincial Head Office after they realised the zero-incidence due to the security measures he put in place, and which attracted host departments to have the same dedicated planning officer in future for their upcoming events.



LEVEL 8 - 12

LT COL
DG MASHELE

— Western Cape

Lt Col Mashele is a dedicated and hard-working member of the PSS in the Western Cape. The passion for his duties is evident in the consistent delivery of service to his unit. He demonstrates excellent leadership skills during 2024/2025 financial year whilst dealing with sensitive incidents relating to VIP's and members of parliament. The officer is always available to assist the Division PSS and does not leave matters and incidents in the unit unresolved. He always goes the extra mile for his personnel and Division. As a dedicated member in 2024/2025 he dealt with a very

sensitive matter which he managed and resolved amicable and with zest, keeping the image of South African Police Service intact. His personal attention to matters affecting the Division PSS, such as absenteeism ensures consistency is maintained and that service delivery is not hampered. Through his dedication the unit received a positive inspection report, achieving 86.55 percent from the office of the Component Head Static. Lt Colonel Mashele ensures that a good relationship exist with organised labour.

PROTECTION AND SECURITY SERVICES TEAM OF THE YEAR



LT COL K GOVENDER
AND TEAM

— Head Office

The nominated team with its members: Lt Col K Govender, Capt MC Mathysen and WO LS Vurthan has consistently demonstrated operational excellence, technical mastery, and unwavering dedication in the execution of mission-critical responsibilities within the Presidential Protection Service (PPS). Operating across land, maritime, and international environments, the team has maintained a zero-breach record while responding effectively to evolving national and international security threats.

The team's strength lies in its depth of expertise, with members bringing decades of combined experience drawn from military engineering, surveillance, toxicology, and advanced protective disciplines. Their versatility is evident in high-profile deployments, including maritime domain operations, underwater sweeps, and international missions

that enhance South Africa's global security standing.

Innovation and resourcefulness are central to the team's success. In the absence of standardised equipment, the team developed effective decontamination solutions using available resources and initiated comprehensive in-house training programmes to sustain mission readiness. They further integrated drone technology and video analytics to enhance technician safety and operational intelligence, reflecting a forward-thinking, research-driven culture.

Their conduct strengthens internal trust, inter-agency cooperation, and South Africa's international reputation. Collectively, the team embodies the highest standards of service delivery, dedication to duty, and excellence, making them a deserving nominee for PPS Team of the Year.

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Winners Per Category

DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



LEVEL 5 - 7

**WARRANT OFFICER A
STANFORD
SERIOUS ORGANISED
CRIME INVESTIGATION**

Head Office

Warrant Officer Stanford's prowess through meticulous investigation foiled what would have been a well-orchestrated Cash-in-Transit robbery, where eight suspects were wounded, five more were arrested, four were arrested by him recovering seven AK47 rifles, two R5 rifles, one R4 rifle, one dash prod rifle, two pistols, 995 live rifle ammunition and explosives.

His 205 cellphone billing and analytic skill kept him afloat and ahead of hardened criminal elements who do not think twice when looking for money. He prevented the loss of innocent lives by involving DPCI Western Cape, Crime Intelligence, Counter Surveillance, Special Task Force and

Visible Policing. The success resulted in a Trans-Provincial Multi-Dimensional Operation with the Western Cape multi arrests and seizures.

The Operation was one of the largest recoveries made in terms of prohibited rifles and it received a good media coverage and the entire management of the Western Cape applauded the member who comes from Gauteng for the outstanding and sterling performance by bringing perpetrators to book. His dedication for keeping his eye on the ball for six solid months shows dedication, focus and diligence in the fight against crime in South Africa.



LEVEL 8 - 12

**LT COLONEL KS
MPHOLO - PRIORITY
CRIME SPECIALISED
INVESTIGATION**

Head Office

The meticulous investigator uncovered R5.1 million of money laundering in Rustenburg where a total of seven suspects were positively linked to the case with 197 counts of money laundering. Also in Rustenburg, he went further and uncovered 44 transactions worth R21 million with 89 counts of money laundering where prominent people including a CFO, Municipal Manager and Chief Whip were amongst others. His financial investigation prowess also led to the identification of four more suspects with eight counts in Ottosdal.

Apart from the three cases that were placed on the court

roll, two more cases with 49 money laundering charge sheets are currently being prepared by the NPA.

He preaches technological advancement to enhance investigation. He introduced Electronic Control Register which quickly and easily retrieve any information that can be physically retrieved manually on the physical register. It can detect if any case that has been referred to PCSI more than once and calculation of a duration the file has been sitting with PCSI. The innovative member is a versatile team leader who encourages good workmanship amongst those he leads.

DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION TEAM OF THE YEAR



**COL A WESSELS AND TEAM -
GOVERNANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

Head Office

The leadership of Col Wessels has demonstrated dedication in ensuring that the DPCI is capacitated by working long hours from Monday to Sunday including public holidays, beyond the approved remuneration of overtime. During the year they administered the appointment process by receiving 5000 to 12000 applications by screening, capturing and sorting within three months after closing date.

Approximately 2000 promotion applications were received and screened, captured and sorted within three months in terms of the National Instruction. They ensured that the panels are briefed before the commencement

of selection process to avoid and reduce grievance and litigation.

They ensured the absorption of 39 contract workers into the DPCI and extended 35 contracts. Furthermore, they appointed 91 members from the greater service during Project 350 of the Post Promotions. About nine members were also appointed from the greater service during the second phase of Post Promotion Project 30. Externally, the members under the tutelage of Col Wessels employed 18 new members as Security Officers and General Workers and transferred over 100 members across the board.

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SENIOR ADMINISTRATION MANAGER OF THE YEAR,



LEVEL 13 - 15

**BRIGADIER
Y MOODLEY**

KwaZulu-Natal

As the Provincial Head for Financial Management Services in KwaZulu-Natal, the Senior Officer has ensured the provincial budget was stringently managed despite the province receiving a significantly reduced allocation. The dedicated and diligent officer authored several provincial directives with the aim of assisting districts, stations, units and components to manage their own budget allocations. As a result, the province's spending was optimally managed without compromising on the department's core business of policing and service delivery.

Brigadier Moodley's achievements extended to ensuring that

the number of incidents of fruitless and wasteful expenditure are reduced during the financial year. The officer composed two directives during the 2023/2024 financial year, pertaining to the prevention of incidents of this nature. These instructions and guidelines were reiterated to Core Management at the Executive Committee Meetings, Program 1 Meetings as well as the Quarterly Provincial Management Forums. Consequently, the number of incidents of fruitless and wasteful expenditures drastically reduced from 18 during the 2023/2024 financial year to one during the 2024/25 financial year achieving a reduction of 94.44%.

SENIOR OPERATIONAL MANAGER OF THE YEAR: CRIME DETECTION



LEVEL 13 - 15

**BRIGADIER
WS KUNENE**

KwaZulu-Natal

Brigadier WS Kunene is an exceptional senior operational leader whose distinguished career within the South African Police Service spans over three decades of dedicated, disciplined, and professional service. As Provincial Head responsible for Crime Detection components including Murder and Robbery, Taxi Violence, Stock Theft and Endangered Species (STES), Vehicle Crime Investigation Units (VCIU) and the Provincial Investigation Unit (PIU), Brigadier Kunene has consistently delivered outstanding operational results aligned to SAPS strategic objectives.

Under his leadership, investigative excellence has translated into high-profile arrests, successful bail oppositions, and significant convictions in serious and organised crime, including rhino poaching, multiple murders, aggravated robbery, vehicle crime

and business robberies. His guidance has resulted in improved detection, trial-ready dockets and conviction rates, contributing to KwaZulu-Natal being ranked among the top three provinces nationally in efficiency performance.

He is widely recognised for his dedication to duty. His innovative, technology-driven and multi-disciplinary investigative approach, coupled with strong partnerships with the NPA and Department of Justice, has strengthened successful prosecutions and enhanced public confidence in policing.

Brigadier Kunene fosters strong team cohesion, high morale and accountability. His leadership has not only restored community trust but has also enhanced the image of the SAPS provincially and nationally.

SENIOR OPERATIONAL MANAGER OF THE YEAR: POLICING



LEVEL 13 - 15

**BRIGADIER
LB MACHAKELA**

Gauteng

Brig LB Machakela is a hard-working and seasoned official attached to the Ekurhuleni District in the East Rand, Gauteng. He was appointed as the Deputy District Commissioner for Ekurhuleni in 2021, and he relentlessly embarked on new innovations for managers at all levels to embrace modern technology to improve service delivery in the district.

It all started with the officer reporting for duty at 05:30 every morning to work with the Staff Officer to prepare reports, on behalf of the District Commissioner, Top Management Meetings (TMMs) and compiling reports for the District Crime Combatting Forum (DCCF). One of his innovations was to ensure that the district moves away from printing reports and

presentations to digitalising all reports as the world has now moved from analogue to digital.

This alignment of the TMM and DCCF agendas has propelled the district into top-gear to efficiently manage districts within Gauteng and is often used as a benchmark for other districts in the province. This largely attributed to this officer's persistence in embracing technology and encouraging other fellow officers to do so.

His commitment to fellow officers to embrace modern technology is evident in the district as it won the Provincial System Best Archiver award in the 2024/25 financial year.

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STATION OF THE YEAR



SAPS UMKOMAAS

— *KwaZulu-Natal*

Under the leadership of Colonel MI Mngadi, Umkomaas Police Station has managed to reduce complaints against the police in the area by 50%, as significant improvements have been implemented to enhance service delivery. Colonel Nngadi has achieved all expected targets and reduced the baseline of all indicators in the Station's Annual Operational Plan and performance agreements.

The Station Commander diligently monitors performance and daily administrative duties and ensures full compliance with procurement processes, budget allocation, and the management of human and physical resources. As a result, absenteeism and prolonged sick leave have been reduced by 80%.

Through regular follow-up meetings, vehicles that had remained at the SAPS Garage for extended periods were fast-tracked for repair. In addition to improving the infrastructure of Umkomaas Police Station, Colonel Mngadi ensures that members go beyond the call of duty in every case. Shift Commanders are always accessible to the community, as they can be reached day and night, and their contact numbers have been publicised through local media platforms and during community engagements.

The partnership between the Station Commander and local school principals, the CPF, traditional leaders, clinics, and businesses is strong and effective, which significantly contributes to the fight against crime.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

WARRANT OFFICER
W LEE

— *Western Cape*

Warrant Officer Wendy Lee is a dedicated leader at the Herold Satellite Police Station whose tireless commitment to social justice and community safety makes her an ideal nominee. Based near George in the Western Cape, she is often described as more than just a police officer; she serves as a teacher, preacher, social worker, and nurse to the rural community she protects.

Her leadership is defined by her holistic approach to crime prevention, particularly in addressing the root causes of violence such as alcohol abuse and poverty. For over nine years, she has chaired the local Community Policing Forum (CPF), where she organises

youth development activities and community upliftment projects to steer vulnerable children away from gangs and drugs. Despite the emotional weight of handling sensitive domestic violence and rape cases, she remains a steadfast advocate for victims, ensuring they receive both justice and care.

Warrant Officer Lee's selfless nature is evident in her habit of working on her days off to support her team and community. Her unwavering integrity and extra mile work ethic embody the spirit of service, making her a true beacon of hope for the Herold community.

MAN OF THE YEAR

CONSTABLE
M MANYBESI

— *Western Cape*

Constable M Manybesi's work has had a measurable and positive impact on service delivery, significantly strengthening the effectiveness and reach of the SAPS mandate within the community.

Since assuming the role of Social Crime Prevention Coordinator, Const Manybesi has achieved several key milestones. These include coordinating initiatives such as the Junior Commissioner Project and various Spiritual and Community Crime Prevention programmes. These initiatives focus on empowering young leaders, creating safe learning environments, and fostering partnerships that promote crime prevention and community cohesion.

His dedication and leadership have earned him widespread recognition, including being featured on the SAPS News Flash front cover for his tireless efforts in promoting community safety. Among his notable achievements is the establishment of a database of young men between the ages of 16 and 40 who have demonstrated a willingness to reform and positively contribute to society.

Const Manybesi's passion, professionalism, and commitment to duty make him an invaluable asset to the South African Police Service and the community he serves.

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SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR



CONSTABLE
TP MUSHAKU

Limpopo

Constable Thinawonga Philjonce Mushaku a Public Order Policing Unit Operator based at the Burgersfort POP unit in the Sekhukhune District, Limpopo is an accomplished marathon athlete. He represented the SAPS in various levels, National, Provincial and unit level in the 2024/2025 Financial Year with distinction. Constable Mushaku's achievements in the past financial year included the 4th position in the Polokwane Mapungubwe 4-in-1 Marathon. He participated at the Secunda Kosmos 3-in-1 Marathon and obtained 2nd position in the SAPS male athletes' category and 8th position overall which earned him a podium trophy, a great personal achievement and good advertisement for SAPS fitness drive for a police member

to achieve a top ten position in the elite marathon.

He took part in the Lynwood Baldwin Pretoria Marathon Club 10km race; SAPS Limpopo Marathon Club for the University of Limpopo 6km Challenge. His efforts were recognised by the SAPS Limpopo Marathon Club where he was selected to represent the club at the Bloemfontein Cross Country. As a POP Operator, Constable Mushaku ensures that he remains in a tip-top shape in order to perform his crowd management duties diligently and follows a strict training regime and his participation in the sport does not have a negative impact on the service delivery but in fact, enhances his agility and strength in order to protect properties and infrastructure from rioters.

SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR



CONSTABLE
LM SEABELA

Gauteng

Constable Lettie Mmahlona Seabela is a functional police officer and a sports personality attached to the Katsheh North Police Station, Ekurhuleni District in the Gauteng. Constable Seabela has demonstrated exceptional performance in sport, significantly contributing to the SAPS' strategic objectives by displaying excellence, discipline and dedication.

Her notable achievements while representing the SAPS Gauteng Athletics Club include, Kosmos Marathon 3-in-1 National Championships 2024; the SAPS Inter-Provincial Championships 2024, Bloemfontein Cross-Country (8 km); Makoro Marathon 2024 in Limpopo Province. The Bloemfontein National Half Marathon Championships 2024 (21 km); the Athletics South Africa Cross-Country Championships, Sanlam Cape Town Marathon 2024 (21 km); Waterberg Marathon 2024 (21 km); Soweto

Marathon (10 km) Mpumalanga Marathon 2025 (10 km); Pretoria Marathon Baldwin National Championships 2025 (10 km); the Kgoši Mampuru SAPS Inter-Provincial Championships (10 km) as well as the Kosmos 3-in-1 Marathon 2025 (10 km).

Her achievement reflects high standards of quality, consistency and competitiveness enhancing the organisation's profile and propelling the SAPS' reputation in sports and community engagement. She begins her day with a rigorous one-hour training session, demonstrating discipline and focus. Despite balancing her dual responsibilities as a professional investigator and an elite athlete, Constable Seabela consistently delivers excellence in her work while preparing for competitions, reflecting exceptional discipline, perseverance and an unwavering dedication.

SPORTS PERSON WITH DISABILITY OF THE YEAR



WO
DJ HATTINGH

Head Office

A leg amputee who is passionate about Freshwater Angling sport, WO Diederick Johannes Hattingh is currently stationed at the Human Resources Development's SAPS Academy Thabazimbi. WO Hattingh's dedication to the sport has earned him a selection and an appointment as the Captain of the SAPS National Team. He successfully finds a balance between the sport and his official duties, demonstrating a great flexibility and adaptability between the two.

His sporting achievements in the evaluation period include, representing the Limpopo Provincial Senior and Ladies Team as Team Captain, Team Manager and Angler at the South African National Championships, Selected as Team Captain for the Senior South African Fresh Water Bank Angling Federation (SAFBAF). He was selected to participate in the 2026 annual SAFBAF Inter Forces Tournament. The member has demonstrated that his disability does not hinder his ability to perform his daily duties or participate in his sport, serving as a prime example to his colleague.

SAPS NATIONAL

Excellence
AWARDS 2026
Serving with Integrity Celebrating Excellence

Winners Per Category



RESERVIST
S KARA

KwaZulu-Natal

RESERVIST OF THE YEAR

Reservist S Kara is a reservist based in Durban North in KwaZulu-Natal. He is self-motivated and always eager to make an impact to the organisation, testimony to this, he is always available to work night shift on weekends when there is shortage.

His dedication is commendable. He is in constant contact with his commanders enquiring about the services he can render. He has been instrumental in solving and

apprehending suspects on various cases in the station e.g. bomb threats, confiscation of drugs, CIT, housebreakings, malicious damage to property, kidnapping and murder.

This disciplined and team player who works within the ambit of the law is a great asset to the organisation for his skills of monitoring and gathering information that results to the conviction of the suspects.

PERSON WITH DISABILITY OF THE YEAR



ADMIN CLERK
F BROWN

Western Cape

Admin Clerk F Brown performs and manages administrative duties at the intake office at Employee Health and Wellness in Human Resource Management. She administers and distributes 30 - 50 referrals per day from stations and units in the Western Cape. She is an expert in dealing with emergencies such as trauma, death and suicide. She immediately allocates such cases to psychologists, social workers and spiritual service functionaries on standby.

Due to her diligent work ethic, she is usually called upon by other sections with HRM to assist when the need arises. She is also a trained Peer Educator and an

ambassador for disability and HIV/AIDS related matters. As a dedicated and goal-driven individual, she visits hospitals and rehabilitation centres to motivate admitted members to fight for their lives and to not lose hope.

Admin Clerk Brown is exceptionally creative and resourceful, her mobility and visual impairment have propelled her to confidently share her traumatic experience of being shot 3 times whilst on duty as a Police Reservist in 2009, to motivate members to the loyal and passionate about their work. The member is well disciplined and has the resilience that everybody aspires to.

CPF OF THE YEAR



MR EN LLALI

North West

Mr Enock Llali is a Chairperson of the Community Policing Forum at Mmabatho Police Station in the North West. He plays a pivotal role in strengthening community relations with the police through managing various campaigns such as 'Sports Against Crime' a soccer tournament aimed at engaging youth through sport while promoting a message of crime prevention.

Another initiative of Mr Llali is Stock Theft Imbizo which brings together community members, law enforcement and stakeholders to address the ongoing issue of livestock theft and rural safety. Beyond his call of duty,

his compassion is evident in his personal involvement in assisting youth battling with substance abuse.

He has adopted needy local primary school learners and donated school uniforms and stationery. Mr Llali often goes the extra mile by sacrificing his own time, efforts and personal resources to ensure that the CPF's goals are met and that the community initiatives reach their full potential. His vision, passion and unwavering dedication serves as a beacon of hope and progress for the Mmabatho community and the police.

BLUE SHINING STARS CELEBRATED FOR THEIR EXCELLENCE

By Lt Col Stephen Maluleka

Photographs by Capt Ndanduleni Nyambeni and WO Amos Ndlovu

It was a night where police displayed their glitz and glamour with elegant glittery dresses and debonair suits. The SAPS celebrated their blue shining stars, who go beyond the call of duty at the prestigious annual National Excellence Awards, that were held on 26 January 2026 at Lemo Green Park in Bloemfontein, Free State.

Themed: *Serving with Integrity, Celebrating Excellence*, the SAPS awarded over 300 diligent members in the 11th instalment Awards, which is held every January as a precursor to the National Police Day.

Over 40 award categories including but not limited to; the Ministry's Award, National Commissioner's Award, Operations Member of the Year, Crime Intelligence Member of the Year, Administration Employee of the Year, Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) Investigator of the Year were conferred to the most outstanding members of the SAPS who continue to do sterling work in their various fields of expertise.

Welcoming the special guests, National Commissioner, General (Gen) Fannie Masemola said to all the nominees that the night is for celebrating excellence, not for long speeches. "Tonight, we gather not merely to host an award ceremony, but to bear witness to excellence that often is unseen, unheard, and uncelebrated. We honour commitment forged in danger, integrity tested under pressure, and service rendered without expectation of applause and recognition," expressed Gen Masemola.

He went on and said, "These awards are for the kind of excellence that few speak about, yet millions depend on. excellence that unfolds in the dead of the night, in courtrooms, forensic laboratories and on the streets of our communities." He emphasised that excellence is a habit and not an event and it should be practiced daily.

Delivering his first keynote address at the National Excellence Awards, the Acting Minister, Professor Firoz Cachalia lauded and congratulated all the winners and nominees alike. "Each award presented this evening recognises not just a moment of bravery or exceptional service, but a pattern of behaviour that reflects the highest standards of policing. Carry that standard forward. Let your conduct be the example that transforms doubt into confidence, fear into safety, and alienation into partnership," remarked Acting Minister Cachalia.

In celebrating the remarkable day on the SAPS calendar, Acting Minister was flanked by his two Deputy Ministers, Mr Cassel Mathale and Dr Polly Boshielo, SAPS top management and distinguished guests from various entities of government and the private sector.

One of the members who showed an act of bravado was Sergeant (Sgt) Masibulele Qinisile from the Eastern Cape, who was awarded the Laureate Award and the National Commissioner's Award for his bravery while faced with danger. He drove off with a brand-new Haval Jolion Pro SUV.

He was deservedly awarded for attending to a domestic violence complaint where a suspect armed with a firearm held his family hostage, including his wife and child. His colleagues retreated while he engaged in a shootout leading to him saving the lives of the suspect's family and the lives of his colleagues who attended the complaint.

Speaking to the POLICE Magazine, Sgt Qinisile stated he didn't know how to express he felt at that moment, but he was happy and shocked at the same time. "I still can't believe whether everything is real. I will keep on doing the good work that I was doing and even more. I will also motivate the young constables to follow the same path," said an elated Sgt Qinisile.



The man of the moment and overall Laureate Award of the night went to Sgt Masibulele Qinisile from Cacadu Police Station in the Eastern Cape. He is congratulated by top SAPS management with the Premier of Free State, Ms MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae and a valued sponsor.

LAUREATE AWARD

Overall Winner
Sgt M Qinisile
Eastern Cape

1st Runner-Up
Sgt MM Khasuli
Gauteng

2nd Runner-Up
Lt Col DG Mashele
Western Cape

MINISTRY'S AWARD

- Col E Tlhaka and Team
- Capt A Kgwedi
Gauteng

NATIONAL COMMISSIONER'S AWARD

- Brig Hanana and Team
Western Cape
- Capt HL Winnaar
Eastern Cape
- Sgt M Qinisile
Eastern Cape
- WO MJ D'miljo and Team
Western Cape
- WO BA Kanakang
Gauteng
- WO TE Twala
Gauteng



Western Cape Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen (Adv) Patekile with SAPS stakeholder congratulating FCS Investigation Team of the Year, led by Lt Colonel A Mbele from the Free State.



Sgt Masibulele Qinisile, a Laureate Award and the National Commissioner's Award winner shed tears of joy as he sat in his brand-new Haval Jolion Pro SUV, making him a first-time car owner.



The Sportswoman of the Year award went to Sgt L Seabela from Gauteng. Handing over the award is Northern Cape Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Otola with Supply Chain Management Divisional Commissioner, Lt Gen Fani.



Detective of the Year Level 5 - 7 winner and 1st Runner-Up for the biggest prize of the night was Sgt MM Khasuli walked away with R30 000, certificate, trophy, 2-night stay for 2 people at Kruger Gate Hotel, brand new motorbike and other prizes.



Operational Team of the Year, led by Col N Ndzotyana from the Free State flanked KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Mkhwanazi with a valued sponsor.



SAPS' Chief Financial Officer, Lt Gen Dimpame congratulating Admin Employee of the Year Level 2 - 4, Handyman D Mulaudzi and SAPS stakeholder giving support.



Divisional Commissioner for Legal Services, Lt Gen Chamane with the Reservist of the Year winner, Reservist S Kara from KwaZulu-Natal and a valued sponsor.







LEARNERS GET EXPOSED TO VARIOUS POLICE CAREERS ON POLICE DAY

Lt Col Veronica Mahlaba and Lt Col Stephen Maluleka

Photographs by Capt Ndanduleni Nyambeni and WO Amos Ndlovu

Members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) across the length and breadth of the country flocked to Bloemfontein, Free State to commemorate the annual National Police Day held on 27 January. This year's official celebrations brought approximately one thousand learners from in and around Bloemfontein to the Dr Rantlai Petrus Molemela Stadium to explore purposeful careers in the police force.

Speaking to the attendees, the National Police Commissioner, General Fannie Masemola highlighted that the date is historically significant because it marks the anniversary of the South African Police Service Act (Act No. 68 of 1995). The legislation was the cornerstone for transforming the old police forces of the apartheid era into the unified, democratic SAPS it is today.

"It was in 2005 that National Police Day was first celebrated in this very province and town, and it is indeed special that it returns here once more. This full-circle moment not only honours our history but also reinforces the enduring legacy of service and commitment that defines the SAPS," said National Police Commissioner.

On National Police Day, the South African Police Service also remembers the sacrifices that the men and women in blue have made and continue to make as they provide safety for everyone who lives in South Africa. The day also honours members and employees of the SAPS for their hard work, dedication in serving and protecting the inhabitants of the Republic of South Africa and their properties.

This year's event was characterised by career expo exhibitions and a variety of displays by different SAPS units who captivated the invited learners from local schools. A few learners we spoke to found the day fascinating and exploratory, as they were exposed to interesting career opportunities available in the organisation.

Craig De Koker a grade 11 learner from Heatherdale Secondary School in Heidedal explained that he found the career stalls helpful to direct him on what to study for a career in accounting and which accounting firms he can apply to after his degree and how he can apply and find work in the police. "I didn't know the different types of work and positions that you can find in the police. The career exhibition gave me a broader platform and a more open mindset of where I need to start to get to the type of work I want to do in the future."

On the other hand, grade 12 learner, Bontle Morabe from Motswela Secondary School in Kroonstad said her first love is nursing, but coming to the National Police Day has opened her eyes to the field of engineering. "I am interested in fixing cars or getting into the airwing. I can see there are women involved in those fields and it is possible for me to be part of them as well," said Ms Morabe.



Deputy Minister of Police, Mr Cassel Mathale and the National Commissioner, General Fannie Masemola inspecting the parade.



Arrival of invited Southern African Regional Police Chiefs and Director Generals at the Dr Rantlai Petrus Molemela Stadium.



The SAPS from all nine provinces descended on Bloemfontein to commemorate National Police Day on 27 January 2026.



Captain KG Mogobe from the Pretoria Special Task Force in the SAPS explaining to the learners what they special in and their work entails.



A simulation of police arresting a suspect with the assistance of a K9 dog.



The SAPS graduates' parade in gowns to show and motivate learners that there are employees with qualifications within the organisation, and it is possible to reach greater heights in education with the assistance of a bursary that SAPS offers.



Special Task Force (STF) members displaying their prowess by jumping out of the aircraft to land safely in Dr Rantlai Petrus Stadium in Bloemfontein during celebrations of National Police Day.



Police officers doing martial arts to display their fitness and readiness to fight crime at any given moment.



Recently launched, the POLMED Mobile Clinic was present to offer quality medical care to police officers and their family members in Bloemfontein.



The South African Police Service Band was made up of members from different provinces that came together to play melodic music to celebrate the day.



The aerobics team displaying their physical training by creating different shapes.



An all women in blue parade, showcasing the different drills.



The SAPS Choir serenaded the attendees with songs that made the day fill up with joy.



The Mpumalanga Provincial Office, represented by Personal Officer Wandile Nkuna from Career Management had a stand that provided guidance to the learners about careers, learnerships and bursaries in the SAPS.

SAPS BIDS FAREWELL TO ITS EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS

By WO Percy Sepaela

Photographs WO Amos Ndlovu

The South African Police Service (SAPS) bade farewell to three of its Lieutenant Generals who have given a combined 117 years of service to the people of South Africa at a farewell event held Imvelo Safari Lodge on 25 January 2026 in Bloemfontein, Free State.

The three senior officers have had illustrious careers in the SAPS and made an indelible mark in the common cause of fighting crime. The three exceptional leaders are former Head of the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI) or better known as the Hawks, Lt Gen (Dr/Adv) Godfrey Lebeya; Free State Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Brenda Motswenyane and Divisional Commissioner for Inspectorate, Lt Gen Anthony Jacobs.

Delivering his keynote address at the event, National Police Commissioner, Gen Fannie Masemola heaped praise at the immense contribution these retired Generals have made in the fight against crime in their respective environments. "We are gathered here for a purpose that is both celebratory and poignant. It is a moment marked by profound respect, deep gratitude and a touch of that inevitable sadness that comes with saying farewell to the pillars of our organisation," Gen Masemola said. He said it was fulfilling and edifying that all the three Generals rose through the ranks from a constable to Lieutenant General positions – the highest rank in the SAPS – through dedication, hard-work and resilience.

"Tonight, we honour not just the end of service but the monumental legacy of three exceptional leaders who have each given over three decades of their lives to the safety and security of the Republic of South Africa. Your careers are a living chronicle of the evolution of the SAPS," stated the National Commissioner.

The farewell event was well-attended by Deputy National Commissioners, Provincial and Divisional Commissioners, the rank-and-file, and delegates from the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPPCO), an organisation that was founded in 1995 to enhance policing and combat transnational crimes across the SADC region.

Paying homage to the retirees, the Deputy National Commissioner for Policing, Lt Gen

Mosikili said the organisation is proud of the contribution they made and that they will remain exemplary in how they committed themselves to the cause of fighting crime. "These Generals have spent the better part of their adult lives serving the people of South Africa. They have displayed commitment and resilience by giving loyal service to the country," said Mosikili.

Lt Gen Godfrey Lebeya, former DPCI or Hawks Head, with 41 years of experience under his belt, said he started working for the then South African Police (SAP) in 1984 after he passed matric two years earlier and underwent police basic training in Hammanskraal. "It was then after I had joined that I decided to study law, where I graduated with an LLB, followed by my masters' degree and I said to myself, I must still carry on. Then I obtained my PhD. I did not come with all these qualifications when coming to SAPS, I studied and it is testimony that it is doable," expressed Dr/Adv Lebeya, the author of two editions of a book called: 'Understanding Organised Crime' first published in 2014 and 2024.

He declared to the audience that he will not be lost to policing as he heads into the sunset of his career. "I have published books where you can go and refer and I will also be helping at universities to prepare and nurture future law scholars," Dr/Adv Lebeya stated, following his 7-year spell at the helm of the DPCI.

Provincial Commissioner of the Free State, Lt Gen Brenda Motswenyane, with 37 years of uninterrupted service, thanked the organisation for allowing her to serve, acknowledging the mentorship she received from her predecessors. "To the SAPS family, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart, and we must continue to fight this demon called crime," she said.

Lt Gen Anthony Jacobs, Divisional Commissioner: Inspectorate expressed that he started at the then Non-Statutory Forces (NSF) in 1985. Former Lt Gen Jacobs played a critical role in the liberation of the country and subsequently the amalgamation of the SAP into the current South African Police Service. "As I go to retirement, I do so knowing that we have done all in our power to transform and reshape the division and we must continue building on the good work that has been done," Former Lt Gen Jacobs said.



The Provincial Commissioner of the Western Cape, Lt Gen Thembisile Patekile handing over a gift to his retiring counterpart in the Free State, Lt Gen Brenda Motswenyane.



Mpumalanga Acting Provincial Commissioner, Dr Zeph Mkhwanazi handing over a gift to retired Divisional Commissioner: Inspectorate, Lt Gen Anthony Jacobs.



KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi handing over a gift to retired former Hawks boss Lt Gen (Adv/Dr) Godfrey Lebeya at Imvelo Safari Lodge in Bloemfontein.



SARPPCO Police Chiefs with the SAPS top brass following proceedings at Imvelo Safari Lodge in Bloemfontein during the farewell function of retired Generals.

SARPCCO MEMBER STATES CONSOLIDATE MULTILATERAL RELATIONS FOR BETTER POLICING

By WO Percy Sepaela

Photographs by WO Amos Ndlovu



The SARPCCO Police Chiefs with the SAPS leadership at the send-off function in Bloemfontein.

The National Police Commissioner, Gen Fannie Masemola has implored his counterparts in the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisation (SARPCCO) to maintain and consolidate close relations and partnerships among member states in the Southern African Development Countries (SADC) for better policing. He was speaking at a send-off function for the SARPCCO Police Chiefs held at the Imvelo Safari Lodge in Mangaung, Free State.

SARPCCO is a regional block founded in 1995 for police forces in Southern Africa to enhance cooperation and forge closer ties among countries in combating transnational organised crime such as human trafficking, drug peddling and vehicle theft, which have all become a permanent feature in every life. Through these joint strategies among the SADC countries, the mission is to ensure facilitation of better training methods, the sharing of information such as adopting modernised technological methods in the fight against transnational crimes.

"This visit from our SARPCCO member states is a sign of commitment among ourselves in the region to intensify our collective effort to fight against the scourge of cross-border crimes. Criminals do cross our borders, often smuggling drugs and vehicles without detection and it is with this background that we need to confront these matters hands-on," Gen Fannie Masemola said. Masemola mentioned that given South Africa's historic past of the apartheid system and those who went into exile in the olden days, it was extremely important to come up with strategies to have seamless police cooperation among member states to fight crime.

On a lighter note, National Commissioner Masemola said in the context of South Africa's past it was ordinarily given that South Africans did bear children in countries such as Mozambique, Botswana and Tanzania during the painful period of apartheid and that, we remain ever more close to each other.

The Acting Deputy National Commissioner for Crime Detection, Lt Gen Khosi Senthumule, said she was content that all SARPCCO members have reached a consensus that policing in the region should be of paramount importance for regional stability. She said it would

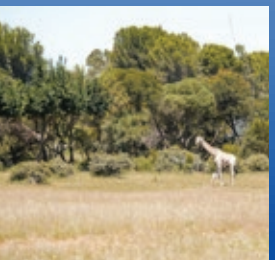
be a travesty if countries did not collaborate and learn better policing strategies to stabilise the region in the face of adversity.

The SARPCCO Police Chiefs present were Botswana Police Commissioner, Mrs Dinah Marathe; National Commissioner: Lesotho Mounted Police Service, Adv Borotheo Matsoso of Lesotho; eSwatini National Commissioner of Police, Mr Vusi Masango; Angolan Deputy General Chief Commander, Gil Famoso Da Silva; Deputy Inspector General of Namibia, Maj-Gen Anne-Marie Nainda; Tanzanian Commissioner of Police, Mrs Tatu Rashid Jumbe; Mozambican Senior Assistant Commissioner, Mr Fabiao Pedro Nhancololo and Police Commissioner for Zimbabwe, Matembo Nyirenda.

"South Africa is our big brother, and it is important that we must strengthen our relationships in the SADC region where we share strategies and best practices among ourselves to police better. We are also going to invite you to our beautiful country Tanzania and to other countries across the region. We are thankful for your generosity and hospitality as our sister country," said Mrs Tatu Rashid Jumbe, National Commissioner of Police in Tanzania.



Free State Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Motswenyane handed over a Basotho blanket and hat to Botswana's Police Commissioner, Mrs Dinah Marathe as a farewell gift.





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