

# POLICE

FEBRUARY 2026

YOUR OFFICIAL FREE SAPS MAGAZINE



## SPECIAL TASK FORCE

**STF MEMBERS AWARDED  
PARACHUTE WINGS  
AND OPERATORS BADGES  
FOR THEIR RESILIENCE**

**POLICE OFFICERS TO BE BOLSTERED BY  
5 500 MORE BOOTS ON THE GROUND**

**NATJOINTS ENSURES YET ANOTHER  
SAFE AND SECURE SONA**

**ON A JOURNEY TO A SAFER SOUTH AFRICA**



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## POLICE

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## EDITORIAL



**T**he month of February has been one of reflection, operational excellence and meaningful milestones for the South African Police Service.

We proudly commemorated the 50 Years Celebration

of the Special Task Force (STF), marking five decades of bravery, discipline and unwavering commitment to protecting the people of South Africa. The parade and wreath-laying ceremony were not only symbolic acts of remembrance, but also a powerful reminder of the sacrifice made by members who paid the ultimate price in the execution of their duties. The STF remains a critical component of our operational capability, representing the highest standards of training, courage and professionalism within the SAPS. As we honoured the past, we also reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening this elite unit for the future.

February also saw the successful delivery of security operations in support of the State of the Nation Address (SoNA). Under the coordination of the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS), law enforcement and security stakeholders once again demonstrated seamless collaboration and readiness. The meticulous planning, integrated intelligence and disciplined execution ensured a safe and secure environment for this important national event. The readiness displayed by NATJOINTS reflects the

strength of our interdepartmental cooperation and our ability to respond effectively to complex security demands.

Our SAPS National Golf Day and Gala Dinner stood as a testament to unity of purpose beyond the operational space. An amount of R16 597 340 was raised in support of the South African Police Service Education Trust (SAPSET). This remarkable achievement speaks volumes about the generosity of our partners, stakeholders and SAPS management who led from the front in provincial and national fundraising efforts. These funds will directly support the educational aspirations of the children of our members, many of whom serve under challenging conditions. Investing in education is an investment in hope, dignity and long-term empowerment for SAPS families.

In line with our ongoing efforts to combat violent crime, we also continued with firearm destruction initiatives during the month. The destruction of confiscated and forfeited firearms sends a clear message; illegal weapons will not find their way back into our communities. Every firearm destroyed represents a potential life saved. This process strengthens public confidence and reinforces our commitment to reducing the proliferation of weapons that fuel criminality.

As we move forward, we remain guided by professionalism, integrity and service excellence. February has shown that through discipline, partnership and purpose-driven leadership, we can honour our history, secure our present and build a safer South Africa for generations to come.

Let us continue to serve with pride and dedication.

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Maj Gen Nonkululeko Phokane

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## MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF THE SAPS, GENERAL SF MASEMOLA

**M**y greeting goes out to all the thousands of men and women in blue in the South African Police Service (SAPS). Our very own safety officers who gives communities hope, confidence and trust that they are in good hands. Ladies and gentlemen, last month (January) we commemorated National Police Day and the National Excellence Awards events to celebrate our diligent, dedicated and selfless police officers who goes above and beyond the call of duty for the people of South Africa.

These two all important events painted Free State province, particularly Bloemfontein with the dignified blue. We saw the police from all over the country adding a much-needed impetus to the blaring sirens of the Free State to give local police bragging rights that big brother is around town to help fight crime and increase police visibility. As management of the SAPS, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the people of Bloemfontein for their warmth and hospitality – thank you so much sechaba sa Mangaung.

We really enjoyed the ambience and the beautiful tourist destinations in the company of our visitors, our Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) who also extended their heartfelt gratitude for the hospitality they experienced. Let me also take this time to congratulate winners and nominees of the Excellence Awards, you are the true ambassadors of this organisation and we are proud of your achievements.

Our appreciation is also extended to your families who supported and

inspired you to walk an extra mile to achieve this level of professional excellence. Let me further extend my appreciation to the local organising committee for having spent months of scrupulous planning to successfully present and deliver such an auspicious memorable event. It would be remiss of me if I did not thank our sponsors for having assisted us with funds, prizes and venues for all the series of events we held in Bloemfontein. Thank you very much for your unwavering support.

Colleagues, the year 2026 is fast gaining momentum, and we are looking forward to an eventful year that will be characterised by crime combating initiatives, projects and programmes that are aimed at zeroing the scourge of crime. We will continue to raise the bar with the Crime Imbizos and Operation Shanela in reaching out to communities and exchanging ideas to find solutions to remedy the situation within the length and breadth of the Republic.

We need to put all hands on the deck and shoulder to the wheel and fight this everyday animal called crime. As management of the SAPS, we vow to support all structures of the SAPS in all provinces to curb crime without favour or prejudice. As we embark on this crime fighting journey let us all remember to do our work with dignity and integrity. Let us do right to the populace even if there is no one watching. Let us serve our clients with passion, patience, empathy, compassion and sympathy they deserve.

I thank you.



## STF MEMBERS AWARDED PARACHUTE WINGS AND OPERATORS BADGES FOR THEIR RESILIENCE

By Captain Kgabo Mashamaite

*Newly unveiled STF Operators standing in parade after receiving their Parachute Wings and STF Operators Badges at the SAPS Tshwane Academy.*

**D**uring the celebration of a 50-year milestone of the establishment of the Special Task Force (STF), the focus was on the 29 members of the elite crime prevention unit within the SAPS who were awarded parachute wings and operators badges.

The awarding of the STF parachute wings and operators badges parade was held at the SAPS Tshwane Academy attended by family members, veterans, crime prevention stakeholders and sponsors who came to witness the injection of the new blood into the revered unit.

About 13 members received their STF Parachute Wings after they have successfully progressed to the STF selection process while 16 members received their Operators Badge after being awarded the STF Parachute Wings and having completed the remainder of the compulsory courses and having worked operationally in one of the STF unit for a probationary period of two year.

During her opening address, the Divisional Commissioner for Visible Policing and Operations, Lt Gen Maropeng Mamotheti expressed that the day marked the culmination of exceptional commitment, discipline and resilience because the badges and the wings conferred are not just insignia, but a sign of endurance and the highest capability within the police service.

"These 29 members standing before us today underwent an intensive and rigorous selection process and met all prescribed requirements. Many started but few remained, as we can all see. Their achievement reflects determination, mental fortitude, team work and a discipline of the highest order within the service. This is mainly due to the highest standards applied by the instructors to ensure the standards of the

unit are upheld and remain uncompromised and the operational readiness of the unit is sustained, stated Lt Gen Mamotheti.

During his keynote address, the National Police Commissioner Gen Fannie Masemola praised the members for their resilience and the mental fortitude to earn their place in the unit. "Today, we confer Special Task Force Wings to 13 members and Operators Badges to 16 members. Each wing and each badge represents resilience under pressure, mental fortitude under extreme stress, tactical precision under fatigue, and unwavering commitment to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. For 18 months, these members have



*Divisional Commissioner: Visible Policing and Operations, Lt Gen Maropeng Mamotheti and the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi were among the functionaries during the STF Wings and Badges Parade.*

endured one of the most rigorous and uncompromising training programmes within our law enforcement environment.

"When the intake started, they were 354 but 110 fell off by the wayside along the way until only 13 remained. Among those standing here today is one female who undertook this gruelling training and is among the few standing before us today. This reality alone speaks volumes about the calibre of those on parade. They did not arrive here by chance, but on merit, as they have earned their place. They were pushed beyond exhaustion, beyond doubt and beyond fear. The purpose was never to break them but to refine them. These wings and badges you will they wear are not decorations but a covenant to protect lives and to defend the sovereignty of the Republic. These members will be deployed in situations where seconds determine outcomes, where precision saves lives, and where failure is not an option. They will confront organised crime syndicates, hostage situations, armed suspects, and high-risk operations that demand absolute professionalism," General Masemola elaborated.

STF Parachute Wings - the recipient would have been trained on high level of skills, weapon proficiency, advance rural paramilitary training

tactics, advance tactical policing for high-risk urban operation, hostage release tactics in buildings, buses, trains, aircraft and the ability to deploy operationally by parachute into rural environment.

STF Operators Badge - is awarded to members who have been awarded the STF Parachute Wings and having completed the remainder of the compulsory courses and having worked operationally in one of the STF unit for a probationary period of two years. The additional mandatory skills courses provide a member with skills to operate in the maritime environment with a focus on hostage release operations directed at sea vessels platforms, applying exclusive method of tactic entry into structures, skills for the protection of VIPs and the ability to deploy from air in small teams by applying a free fall parachute tactics to infiltrate the operational environment.

When delivering his vote of thanks, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, a qualified STF Operator himself, appreciated the leadership of the National Police Commissioner, Gen Masemola and the Divisional Commissioner, Lt Gen Mamotheti for the great leadership and the support to the unit but pleaded for more resources to help the unit to fulfil its mandate.



The National Commissioner of the SAPS, Gen Fannie Masemola pinning the Special Task Force Operators Badges and Wings to STF members.



STF Operators demonstrating their airborne capabilities as part of the competency required at the elite unit.



# SPECIAL TASK FORCE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVING THE COUNTRY

By Capt Kgabo Mashamaite



*The Deputy National Commissioner for Policing, Lt Gen Tebello Mosikili; Special Task Force Section Head, Brig Sthandwasethu Mwandla; National Commissioner of the SAPS, Gen Fannie Masemola and the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi cutting the cake to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the STF.*

**S**pecial Task Force Operators' families and veterans converged at the Premier Hotel Roodevalley to celebrate the golden jubilee, a 50-year milestone of the establishment of the elite unit on 21 February 2026.

It was on 1 February 1976 when the South African government decided to establish a unit that can be able to counter terrorism and hostage release situations, following a terrorism act in Johannesburg, a few days earlier.

Outlining the purpose of event, the Deputy National Commissioner for Policing, Lt Gen Tebello Mosikili acknowledged the role played by both the current and the former STF Operators in sustaining the momentum of the unit till to date.

"Your achievement reflects resilience, discipline and unwavering commitment to excellence. We also recognise and deeply appreciate the presence of former and serving members of the Special Task Force as well as your families and loved ones. Your steadfast support,

understanding and sacrifices form a foundation upon which the elite unit stands. The celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary marks five decades of extraordinary service that demands exceptional courage, discipline, professionalism, endurance and tactical excellence.

"As we gather here tonight, we are not merely commemorating a milestone, but to honour a legacy. We celebrate operational excellence and the sacrifices made by members and their families because behind every successful operation lies relentless training, unwavering discipline and personal sacrifice. Behind every member stands a family, which understands the associated risk that comes with the weight of the badge. This milestone reflects the rigorous training, resilience, and the calibre of our teams reinforcing the STF as an uncompromising standard of excellence. As we celebrate this golden jubilee, we pay tribute to the founding members who laid the foundation, the veterans who carried the torch and the current generation who continue to uphold this proud legacy," Lt Gen Mosikili said.

During his keynote address, the National Police Commissioner, Gen Fannie Masemola recognised the need to capacitate the elite unit to respond to latest trends. "Since the establishment of this premium service in 1976, the mandate of this unit was very clear, to handle high risk hostage release tactics in buildings, buses, trains, aircraft and the ability to deploy operationally by parachute into rural environment, high level of skills weapon proficiency, and the exclusive method of tactic entry into structures, skills for the protection of VIPs and the ability to deploy from air in small teams by applying a free fall parachute tactics to infiltrate the operational environment.

"As the National Police Commissioner entrusted with providing a leadership direction to this organisation, I am committed to ensuring that we invest more in modern technology to empower the unit to be able to reign supreme above the technological threats deployed by organised criminal syndicates. The unit's mandate places it at the edge of policing to deal and face dangerous situations because we cannot coexist with criminals. We have also seen a spike in the CIT crimes rearing an ugly head especially in provinces of Gauteng, North West and KwaZulu-Natal. We cannot coexist with organised criminal syndicates. The unit's mandate places it at the edge of policing, to deal with and face dangerous situations and with all the capabilities and tested skills, we should reign supreme and we will conquer," stated Gen Masemola.

One of the most decorated alumni of the unit is the Provincial Commissioner of KwaZulu-Natal, Lt Gen Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi who gave a motivational talk to the current crop of STF Operators. Lt Gen Mkhwanazi joined the unit in 1997 as a Sergeant from the unit known then as the Internal Stability Unit in Port Shepstone. That is after he was told that it is one of the toughest units within the police, only to realise later when he was deployed to Shobashobane area after an unfortunate killing of many people in the area, shortly after elections, when he met Lt Col Mahlangu, the first black STF Operator in camouflage uniform. He took a transfer to Durban as it was during the decentralisation of the STF unit and enquired about joining the unit. He was given a video to watch and learn.

He applied, went through the selection process and eventually obtained his Parachute Wings and Operators Badge. Through his discipline and dedication, he was promoted to the rank of a Brigadier, a unit commander but it was during that time the SAPS was undergoing transformation process where the unit experienced an exodus of operators leaving the police to the private sector as a result. As a unit commander, he had to convince some members to remain with the unit as he tried to rebuild the unit, designed the training that every operator, male and female would undertake without any special favour. He left the unit following his appointment as the Component Head for Operation Response Services. He was briefly appointed as an acting National Police Commissioner in 2009. The new National Police Commissioner was appointed and came with some changes. He was eventually deployed to KwaZulu-Natal and appointed as the Provincial Commissioner, the post he holds to date.

Speaking on behalf of Pan African Resources PLC, Mr Cheston Gaffley,

a former Special Task Force Operator urged all the members to protect the culture of the elite unit, abide by the rules when executing their duties and remain professional all the time. Messages of support from various STF units across the world from countries such as Pakistan, India, Chile Brazil were also received.



*Gen Fannie Masemola delivering a keynote address to the guests during the Special Task Force 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner on 21 February 2026.*



*KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi (centre), an STF Operator himself received a token of appreciation from the Acting Deputy National Commissioner for Support Services, Lt Gen Lineo Nkhuoa and the Divisional Commissioner for Visible Policing and Operations, Lt Gen Maropeng Mamotheti during the Special Task Force 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner.*



**SPECIAL TASK  
FORCE**

# FALLEN OPERATORS RECOGNISED FOR THEIR SACRIFICE IN ENSURING A SAFER SOUTH AFRICA

By Captain Kgabo Mashamaite

*Special Task Force Section Head, Brig Sthandwasethu Mwandla leading the lighting of the candle during the wreath laying ceremony on 22 February 2026, in remembrance of 19 members who lost their lives whilst performing their STF duties.*



**I**n the spirit of celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the elite Special Task Force (STF) unit, operators and their family members took their time on 22 February 2026 to remember operators who perished in line of duty during a wreath laying ceremony at the remembrance rock located at the STF Pretoria unit.

A total of 19 STF operators who lost their lives under various circumstances while executing their mandate received their due recognition for their sacrifices in the defence of the vulnerable against organised crime, terrorism threat and hostage situations.

Delivering a prayer and benediction in remembrance of those operators who died on duty, Chaplain (Pastor) Pollen Khuba reminded the members that God defined their destiny. "You being here is not by a coincidence, but the path that was paved by the Lord. You were sent to fight all the evils and protect God's children against any harm, even if it means sacrificing with your own lives. South Africa like any developing country has so many social challenges and among those is organised crime where at times, crime became so sophisticated that it calls for the STF Operators to solve. As we remember your fallen colleagues who met their premature deaths while on duty, we do so in mind that they like yourselves accepted the calling to serve the Republic of South Africa and its people and take bullets for them. These deceased colleagues now have left the baton in your hands, like Joshua who had to proceed in leading the children of Israel to the Promised Land, following the demise of his mentor, Moses. We therefore plead to the Almighty for your protection as you continue to execute your Constitutional mandate and wish your family members strength during your

continued absence as you perform your duties. The Almighty we pray will never desert you and will see you through all the challenges you face in the execution of your work."

Encouragement the members, Lt Col Leon De Lange, the STF Unit Instructor urged members to be strong and courageous despite the challenges they face as individuals. Whilst Brig Sthandwasethu Mwandla, the Special Task Force Unit Section Head led the candlelight and wreath laying ceremony.

Brig Mwandla also advised members to remain disciplined and focused as the Operators still have a tough schedule ahead. Fitness assessment, waterborne as well as weapon phase are some of the courses and assessments.



*In a tribute to the lives lost during operational deployment, Chaplain (Pastor) Pollen Khuba delivered a benediction and prayer at the Special Task Force wreath laying ceremony on 22 February 2026.*



*STF Operators laying a wreath of flowers at the remembrance rock and paying tribute to the fallen colleagues who lost their lives while performing their STF duties since the formation of the elite unit in 1976.*

## LIST OF REMEMBRANCE

SNO	RANK	INITIAL & SURNAME	DATE OF PASSING
1.	WO	FPP Bezuidenhout	1976-07-02
2.	Sgt	FI Raath	1979-09-16
3.	Const	A Schreuder	1981-01-04
4.	Sgt	DJH Ackerman	1987-09-19
5.	Sgt	K Welgemoed	1987-09-19
6.	Capt	WH Heystek	1997-07-05
7.	WO	H Nel	2002-06-10
8.	WO	T Terblanche	2003-06-03
9.	Col	JJ Blom	2006-07-25
10.	WO	M Mkhwanazi	2007-11-19
11.	WO	TM Chidi	2012-04-28
12.	WO	HR Cedras	2007-03-23
13.	WO	T Tack	1999-12-07
14.	Const	N Visser	2000-04-05
15.	Const	NN Nene	2016-08-22
16.	WO	ES Musa	2019-02-01
17.	WO	MK Ranana	2022-03-03
18.	Const	S Mathambo	2021-11-28
19.	Const	PS Klaasen	2021-10-20

# POLICE OFFICERS TO BE BOLSTERED BY 5 500 MORE BOOTS ON THE GROUND

By Lt Col Stephen Maluleka

Photographs by Capt Ndanduleni Nyambeni

**I**n his delivery of the 10<sup>th</sup> State of the Nation Address (SoNA) on 12 February 2026, His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa indicated that the security detail of the country will be bolstered by 5, 500 more boots on the ground, adding to the 20 000 that were announced in previous State of the Nation Addresses.

President Ramaphosa underscored that a stronger South Africa must be safe and secure. This comes after a perpetual battle of illicit mining in different parts of the country, where many lives have been lost while trying to benefit illegally from the country's minerals.

He further alluded to the rampant crime taking place in the country and said: "The cost of crime is measured in lives lost and futures cut short. It is felt also in the sense of fear that permeates our society and in the reluctance of businesses to invest.

**“**To strengthen our fight against gang violence, I am deploying the South African National Defence Force to support the police, as we did to great effect with illegal mining**”**

"Children here in the Western Cape are caught in the crossfire of gang wars. People are chased out of their homes by illegal miners in Kagiso in Gauteng. Women are murdered by their partners in their homes. Building sites are shut down by criminals," alluded the President. He however, emphasised that this must and will change.

President Ramaphosa said organised crime is an immediate threat to the democracy, the society and the economic development. He told the nation that it will be combatted using modern technology among other solutions. "Our primary focus this year is on stepping up the fight against organised crime and criminal syndicates, using technology, intelligence and integrated law enforcement," the President explained.

He added that they will tackle organised crime by consolidating intelligence at national level, identifying priority syndicates and deploying hand-picked, multidisciplinary intervention teams focused on dismantling criminal networks.

"To strengthen our fight against gang violence, I am deploying the South African National Defence Force to support the police, as we did to great effect with illegal mining," said President Ramaphosa.

During his address he told the nation that he has directed Acting Minister of Police, Professor Firoz Cachalia and the South African Defence Force to develop a tactical plan on where to deploy the security forces to deal with gang violence and illicit mining in the next few days in Western Cape and Gauteng.

"As is required by the Constitution I will inform the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces regarding the timing and place of deployment of our soldiers and what it will cost. We must act to rid our country of gang violence. At the same time, we are implementing an integrated strategy to address the root causes of crime through coordinated interventions across society, from street lighting to access to social services," President Ramaphosa said.



President Cyril Ramaphosa delivering the 2026 State of the Nation Address in Cape Town.



Acting Police Minister, Professor Firoz Cachalia addressing the media on the sidelines at the SoNA.

# NATJOINTS ENSURES YET ANOTHER SAFE AND SECURE SONA

By Lt Col Amanda van Wyk

Photographs by Capt Ndanduleni Nyambeni



*The integrated law enforcement parade ahead of their deployment for the 2026 SoNA.*

**T**he National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS), responsible for coordinating all safety, security and law-enforcement operations across the country, once again ensured that this year's State of the Nation Address (SoNA) was delivered in a peaceful, safe and secure environment on 12 February 2026.

Drawing on extensive experience from numerous major national events, including previous SoNAs, NATJOINTS ensured the safety and security of participants, spectators, businesses operating in the vicinity and communities residing near the Cape Town City Hall through the deployment of adequate and appropriate safety resources.

In the build-up to SoNA 2026, NATJOINTS stakeholders met regularly to ensure that operational plans were fully coordinated and executed as intended.

All role players carried out their respective responsibilities in line with their mandates, while law enforcement agencies mobilised the necessary resources to heighten visibility and prevent and combat opportunistic crime before, during and after the address.

Ministers of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster, led by Acting Minister of Police, Prof Firoz Cachalia and Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Angie Motshekga, together with the National Commissioner of the SAPS, General Fannie Masemola, addressed an integrated law enforcement parade ahead of their deployment for the 2026 SoNA.

In his address, Acting Minister Cachalia said: "As your Minister of Police, I thank each of you for stepping up to serve our country, your dedication, and your commitment to upholding safety and security. Your contribution as police officials makes a vast difference that will shape the type of country we will become."

NATJOINTS Co-Chair, Lieutenant General Tebello Mosikili, also conveyed appreciation to all members involved in the operation.

"Thank you to each one of you for conducting your duties with pride, excellence and precision. Your dedication to your areas of expertise does not go unnoticed. Because of you, SoNA 2026 was delivered in a peaceful, safe and secure environment," said Lt Gen Mosikili.



*Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Angie Motshekga addressed integrated law enforcement officers in Cape Town.*



*The South African Police Service Mounted Unit formed part of the full ceremonial parade at the 2026 State of the Nation Address (SoNA).*

# GENERAL FANNIE MASEMOLA CHARTS A WAY FORWARD IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

By WO Percy Sepaela

Photographs by WO Amos Ndlovu



*Acting Head of the DPCI, Lt Gen TS Nkosi; Head of the National Prosecution Authority, Adv Andy Mothibi; National Commissioner of the SAPS, Gen Fannie Masemola; Deputy National Commissioner for Policing, Lt Gen Mosikili and the Acting Deputy National Commissioner for Crime Detection, Lt Gen HK Senthumule at the media briefing in Tshwane.*

The South African Police Service (SAPS) have recorded notable successes in its nationwide Safer Festive Season campaign launched in October last year in the fight against crime. This was according to the National Commissioner of the Police, General Fannie Masemola in a press conference held at the Ronnie Mamoepa House in Tshwane on 6 February 2026. Gen Masemola was giving a progress report on the campaign and the interim report on recommendations emanating from the on-going Madlanga Judicial Commission of Inquiry.

"Today, as we account to the people of South Africa on the outcomes of the nationwide festive season operations, we do so with deep pride in the men and women in the South African Police Service who stood firm on the frontline of safety working together with other law enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders," Gen Masemola said.

He mentioned that he was content that the SAPS members demonstrated unwavering commitment which ensured all people who live in South Africa could travel, worship, celebrate and conduct business with a greater sense of safety and confidence during one of the busiest periods of the year."

In the period under review, there were 7 726 high-density operations throughout the country conducted, according to Gen Masemola. Additionally, 116 434 premises were searched with 4 854 roadblocks and 673 235 high visibility patrols conducted, he said. Furthermore, a total of 7682 unlicensed liquor establishments were shut down due to non-compliance.

"This is quite significant given the fact that unlicensed liquor premises pose a challenge to our work due to shooting incidences and other serious crimes that are recorded in those unlicensed premises...with vigour, we will continue with our inspections to ensure that we shut down those operating illegally," he said.

He added that in terms of seizures, confiscations and recoveries, more than 2000 firearms were seized. In this period KwaZulu-Natal recovered most of the firearms with 753, followed by the Western Cape with 607 and the Eastern Cape with 343, respectively. Gauteng also recovered a sizeable number of firearms with a total of 264 illegal and unlicensed firearms.

In relation to the Madlanga Commission, Gen Masemola said he had already in November last year, established and appointed a task

team comprising senior managers who were mandated to monitor the evidence led at the commission and the ad hoc committee and to identify the names of all SAPS employees who were implicated to ensure that disciplinary investigations are initiated in cases where there is credible information that they may have committed misconduct.

"To date, members whose names were mentioned at both committees have been identified. We cannot at this stage mention names, as the cases are still under investigation. All affected members have received notices of investigation into their alleged misconduct. The hearings are at an advance stage, and two senior officers have been suspended," Gen Masemola explained. He added that four other members have already been served with notices of intended suspension and are still considering their representation.

Considering the above matters, the newly appointed Head of the National Prosecuting Authority, Adv Andy Mothibi said his office is resolute and uncompromising in tackling these matters. "We are going to work with senior state prosecutors and state attorneys with expertise and experience to ensure that we do justice to the people of South Africa. We are going to treat these matters without fear, favour or prejudice so justice can prevail," Adv Mothibi told journalists.



*National Commissioner of the SAPS, Gen Fannie Masemola engaging with members of the media at a press conference.*



# POLICE DISRUPTING FIREARM CIRCULATION VALUE CHAIN FOR A SAFER COUNTRY

By Captain Kgabo Mashamaite

*Sedibeng District Commissioner, Maj Gen Abigail Mukwevho and the Section Head for Visible Policing and Operations, Brig Simon Bopape inspecting rifles recovered because of police operations before being hoisted into the furnace during the firearm destruction process held at the Cape Gate smelter in Vereeniging.*

**S**APS continue to disrupt and deal a devastating blow to the value chain of the circulation of illicit firearms as it oversaw the destruction of 13857 firearms and parts through an incineration process at the Cape Gate Smelter in Vereeniging on 19 February 2025.

The objective was to rid the streets with legal and illegal firearm from landing in the wrong hands and be used to commit further crimes against the state and the communities. Firearms, and components being destroyed are because of police action and voluntary surrender (Firearm Amnesty) afforded legal owners of the firearms (legal entities and members of the public) to voluntarily surrender their unwanted firearms to the state.

Speaking on the sidelines of the firearm destruction process, on behalf of the Gauteng Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Tommy Mthombeni; Sedibeng District Commissioner, Maj Gen Abigail Mukwevho said,

“We are destroying a total of 13857 firearms and parts recovered through police action and voluntary surrender and we would like to thank members of the public for their continued cooperation in this regard. All firearms with working mechanisms were subjected to the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) testing and cases linked to them are concluded, while the Amnesty Firearms were screened and verified for the state forfeiture. The firearms ready for destruction were gazetted on 10 December 2025 as per

Gazette number 53829. Out of the total 12857 facing the furnace this morning, hand guns make up 80,69% of the consignment, followed by rifles 9,39%, shot gun 7,24% while the firearm components and parts make up of 2.3%.

“These firearms and components obtained from various provinces with Gauteng topping the list at 5193 followed by KwaZulu-Natal with 2752, Western Cape with 2155 and the Eastern Cape with 1300. A total of 7 708 blank guns, air guns and homemade firearms also formed part of today’s firearm destruction process. Blank guns and air guns are often perceived as less lethal than the conventional firearms but are frequently used in the commission of crimes, intimidation and other unlawful activities, Maj Gen Mukwevho explained.”

Brig (Dr) Simon Bopape, Section Head for Visible Policing and Operations has cautioned members of the public to hand over firearms following the owners’ passing, as they cannot be part of the deceased estate. Brig Bopape advised people who wished to own firearms to apply for a firearm licence, permit and undergo the necessary firearm competency test.

The bulk of firearms destroyed are because of police action and voluntary surrendering, both above 45%, amnesty firearms at 5,97%, violence against women and children at 1,83%. The remaining 0.02% comes from other crime categories such as farm attacks and Cash-In-Transit.

# COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUAL GOLFERS JOIN SAPS AS THEY SWING TOWARDS A CHARITABLE CAUSE

By Capt Kgabo Mashamaite

Photographs by Capt Ndanduleni Nyambeni and WO Amos Ndlovu

Individuals and corporate companies honoured the SAPS invitation to come together, tee-off for a charitable cause to raise funds for the South African Police Services Education Trust (SAPSET) initiative during the SAPS National Golf Day event held at the Serengeti Golf Club and Wildlife in Kempton Park on 27 February 2026. The SAPS National Golf Day is not just a sporting occasion but a powerful expression of unity, compassion and shared purpose of fundraising for beneficiaries of police officers who died in the line of duty.

Outlining the purpose of the event, the National Commissioner for the SAPS, Gen Fannie Masemola stated that the initiative serves as a heartfelt reminder that while the fallen heroes and heroines dedicated their lives to protecting the people of South Africa, it was a shared responsibility to help safeguard the futures of the families they left behind. "Their children carry the legacy of courage and service, yet many must navigate life without their primary caregivers. Throughout this initiative, we strive to ensure that their dreams and aspirations continue to flourish. Let us open our hearts and wallets, contribute to a worthy cause, and surpass the R11 million donation raised during the 2025 Golf Day event in KwaZulu-Natal. Our target is R15 million and we would appreciate any financial donation because no amount is too little."



To mark the official opening of the event with a ceremonial swing, the Acting Minister of Police, Prof Firoz Cachalia urged the members of the public to come on board to support the SAPSET initiative.

"This initiative is close to my heart because I am aware of the impact of police killing has on families and to the surviving spouse who is left with the burden of having to raise the children on his/her own. The challenges associated with providing for the children and making sure they receive educational support is immense. I am deeply inspired by SAPSET and the role it plays in alleviating the burden of the deceased families by assisting with the educational needs of those police officers who died in the line of duty. This also provides the public with the opportunity to appreciate the huge sacrifices these police officers made with their lives in order to create a safe and a secure environment in their communities. I am honoured to be able to share this important event with the SAPS members and the representatives of the corporate industry to fundraise for the SAPSET and therefore would like to call upon every citizen to support this effort, empty their pockets and donate to this worthy cause," said Acting Minister Cachalia.

SAPSET was established in 2010 following a resolution taken at the police national summit by the Minister of Police and the National Commissioner of Police to support the children of police officers who die in service with the National Commissioner of Police as the Patron.



SAPS Top Management and representatives from corporate sponsors joined the Acting Minister of Police, Prof Firoz Cachalia and the National Commissioner, Gen Fannie Masemola to raise funds for the SAPSET during the SAPS National Golf Day held at the Serengeti Golf Club and Wildlife in Kempton Park.



The Trust represents the SAPS' commitment to caring for the families of the fallen officers.

Among those companies who responded to the invitation included Metropolitan, Old Mutual, SITA, SVI, Sanlam, Cell C, Southern African Fujian Overseas Chinese Association, Paramount, AVBOB, POLMED, Medscheme, Workerslife, BMW, Kingsgate Clothing Group, Huawei, CSIR, Aardvark, Xcallibre, SAPU, SVI, Global Command and Control Technologies (GC²T), Datacentrix, FNB, BPT, Tend Logistics, Metal Badge Pressing, First Distribution (Epsidon Technology Group), Suzuki, Xitlhangu Tech, Stingray Marine, SPARCX, Shadow Group, AutoZone, Morgan Motor Group, Faranani DocTec, Blue Tech, Khauleza IT Solutions, Batter Boys Village among others.



The Acting Minister of Police, Prof Firoz Cachalia performing a ceremonial swing to start the SAPS National Golf Day Challenge.



Deputy National Commissioner for Policing, Lt Gen Tebello Mosikili and her team watching her ball sail through after swinging for a charitable cause during the SAPS National Golf Day.



The National Commissioner of the SAPS, Gen Fannie Masemola together with Brig Nkademeng preparing themselves before teeing off for a worthy cause.



The Deputy Minister of Police, Mr Cassel Mathale taking a long drive from Hole 1 sponsored by Metropolitan.



The Acting Minister; The National Commissioner of the SAPS; Deputy Minister of Police, Mr Cassel Mathale; Acting Deputy National Commissioner for Support Services, Lt Gen Lineo Nkhua and Brig Nkademeng discussing the day's programme.



Acting Minister of Police, Prof Firoz Cachalia flanked by SAPS Top Management, representatives of the SAPSET Board of Trustees, as well the representatives from corporate sponsors before the start of the SAPS National Golf Day.



# OVER R16 MILLION RAISED FOR SAPSET BENEFICIARIES

By Capt Kgabo Mashamaite

Photographs by Capt Ndanduleni Nyambeni

Over R16 million was raised through the generosity of the SAPS Provincial and Divisional Commissioners' fundraising initiatives, individual SAPS employees, guests and corporate sponsors during the SAPS National Golf Day Gala Dinner held at the Serengeti Golf Club and Wildlife in Kempton Park on 27 February 2026.

The 2026 fundraising initiative caught many by surprise, including the National Commissioner for the Police, Gen Fannie Masemola, the Patron as well as the Acting Minister of Police, Prof Firoz Cachalia, as they initially set their target to R15 million, to surpass the R11 million raised in KwaZulu-Natal last year. The overall contribution stands at R16 597 340.00. The gala dinner was also attended by the Minister of Police from the Peoples Republic of China.

After his pleasant surprise by the generosity demonstrated by the guests at the event, the Acting Minister Cachalia expressed, "This moment is of paramount importance, and it gives me an immense pleasure as the political head responsible for the safety of the country to have been part of this noble initiative. Earlier today we humbly requested everyone to empty his/her pockets to contribute towards a worthy cause, little did we know that your benevolent gesture will exceed our target. It is through this act of giving that there is some measure of restoration and I would like to congratulate all of you involved in this noble initiative.

"When an officer dies in the line of duty, the tragedy left is beyond estimation. I started having a first-hand experience of this devastation many years ago as an MEC for Community Safety in the Gauteng Province and now as the Acting Minister of Police. It upsets me a lot when some section of members of the public don't seem to appreciate the sacrifices made by our officers of putting their lives at risk to protect the very same communities from criminal elements. However, the events that unfolded tonight reminds us about the caring side and the sympathy of our people towards the families of our departed officers," Acting Minister Cachalia expressed.

The National Police Commissioner, Gen Fannie Masemola urged the guests to dig in their pockets and assist in the worthy cause, "Your participation in this event will make a world of difference towards the families of the beneficiaries of the SAPSET, the children of those heroes and heroines who passed on whilst making this country a better place. Your contributions tonight will assist them to realise their dreams of studying towards their dream careers and ultimately, assist their surviving parents in taking care of their siblings," Gen Masemola explained.

Among the SAPSET beneficiaries included Dr Ayanda Sibaya a qualified Radiographer and Ms Nthatua Mohlaletsi who is on her last year at Boston Media House. Dr Sibaya lost her father who was stationed at Ezakheni in 2017, while Ms Mohlaletsi lost hers in 2015. They both thanked the SAPSET Board of Trustees for their financial assistance as both their studies are taken care of by the SAPSET.



The Acting Minister of Police, Prof Firoz Cachalia; member of the SAPSET Board of Trustees, Mr Boitumelo Pheleo and the Deputy National Commissioner for Policing, Lt Gen Tebello Mosikili hoisting a cheque worth R16 597 340.00 pledged and fundraised towards the SAPSET to assist children of the deceased police officers.



Western Cape Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Thembisile Patekile led the second most fundraising initiative amongst provinces for the SAPSET.



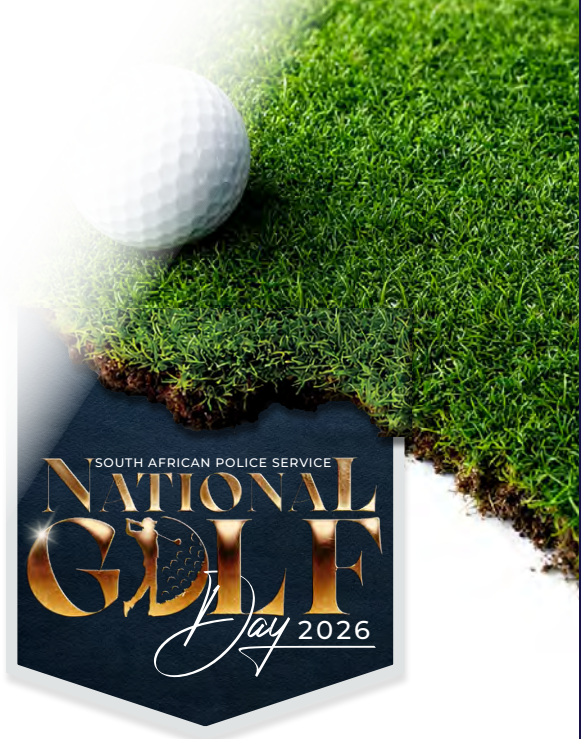
Gauteng Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Tommy Mthombeni hoisting a cheque after successfully leading fundraising events contributing towards funds raised at the SAPS National Golf Day Gala Dinner.



The Deputy National Commissioner for Policing, Lt Gen Tebello Mosikili thanked the SAPS Management for leading from the front by initiating and supporting the noble initiative that contributing to the good cause. Whilst the SAPSET Board of Trustees through Mr Boitumelo Pheleo thanked all those who contributed to the worthy cause and helping them to exceed their target.

**Pledging was facilitated by Maj Gen Anthony Gopaul as follows:**

- The Acting Minister of Police, Prof Firoz Cachalia - R12 000.00
- Deputy Minister of Police, Mr Cassel Mathale - R15 000.00
- SAPS - National Commissioner of the SAPS - R1 million pledge
- Metropolitan - Mr Thabo Matime - R1 million pledge
- Old Mutual - Ms Tembisa Matukata - R1 million pledge



Provinces
KwaZulu-Natal – R2,883 500
Western Cape – R2 000 000
Gauteng – R1 376 300
Free State – R 1 050 000
Limpopo – R1 000 000
Eastern Cape - R 900 000
Northern Cape – R830 750
Mpumalanga –R400 000
North West – R350 000

Divisions
Technology Management Services – R689 000.00
Human Resource Management – R202 000.00
Vispol and Operations - R50 000
Finance – R50 000.00
Corporate Communication and Liaison Service – R5000 (Individual contributions of R1000.00 each)

Private Companies: R500 000.00 or less
SVI - R50 000
SAPU - R100 000
SITA - R220 000
AVBOB - R500 000

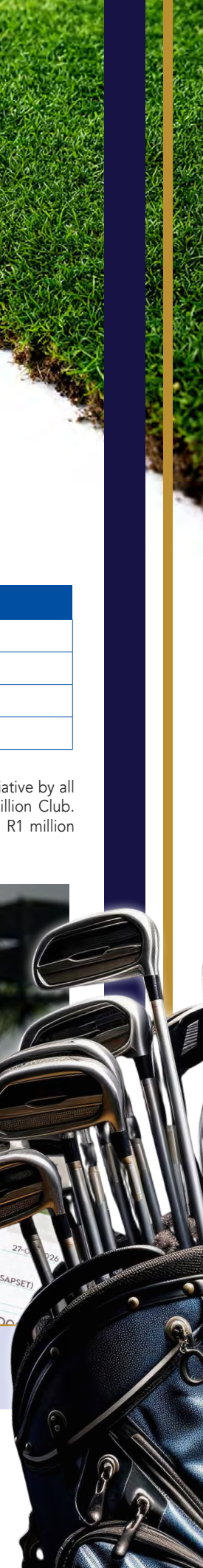
Major General Lenny Govender announced that a new initiative by all provinces was being established to contribute to a R1 million Club. This necessitates all provinces to make contributions from R1 million upwards to the SAPSET on a yearly basis.



Dr Ayanda Sibaya a qualified Radiographer and Ms Nthutua Mohlaletsu were amongst the SAPSET beneficiaries and living testimony of the effectiveness of the Trust at the gala dinner.



Ms Tembisa Matuka from Old Mutual Holdings pledging a cheque of R1 million from her company towards the SAPSET on 27 February 2026.





## DIVISION: LEGAL SERVICES WELCOMES NEWLY PROMOTED MEMBERS

By WO Amos Ndlovu

*Newly promoted members pose for a commemorative photograph with Legal Services management and colleagues.*

**A**s a significant number of members celebrate their promotions to higher ranks, Legal Services Division convened at the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure Boardroom to welcome members who were promoted and integrated into the legal arm of the South African Police Service (SAPS).

On 5 February 2026, the Divisional Commissioner: Legal Services, Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) SW Chamane, together with his management team, congratulated and officially conferred ranks on officers and members promoted during Post Promotions Phase 1 of the 2025/2026 financial year, effective from 1 February 2026.

Welcoming the newly promoted members, Lt Gen Chamane shared his personal journey of rising through the ranks across various departments, emphasising the importance of hard work, accountability and mentorship.

"I welcome all of you into your new roles. Understand that with these promotions come a high level of responsibility and accountability. It is through your dedication that you find yourselves receiving these promotions. Enjoy them, as they are well deserved. We trust that these promotions will strengthen service delivery and support the continued reshaping of Legal Services," said Lt Gen Chamane.

The Divisional Commissioner further encouraged members to embrace their new roles with diligence, integrity and professionalism, while remaining accessible and supportive to their subordinates through active mentorship and open communication.

"For me to have served in the positions I have held, someone opened the door for me. In turn, I have opened doors for many others. I urge you not to close the door behind you, but to open doors for others through mentorship," he added.

Among the promoted officers was the recipient of the 2025 Divisional Excellence Award in the category Administration Employee of the Year (Levels 8 – 12), from Captain to Lieutenant Colonel S. Mtileni. Some of the members had already been serving within the Division, while others joined from different components, divisions and provinces.



*Promoted member – Divisional Commissioner, Lt Gen Chamane together with Component Head for Legal Support: Resources, Major General Beukes, confers a new rank, from Captain to Lieutenant Colonel S Mtileni (centre).*

These promotions form part of SAPS's broader effort to boost employee morale, retain critical skills and enhance service delivery. A significant number of police officers have been promoted to higher ranks across various police stations, provinces and divisions.

The promotions align with the organisation's Human Capital Strategy, which aims to improve morale and promote the well-being of SAPS members.

Recently, the National Commissioner of SAPS, General F Masemola, reiterated that promotions form part of an ongoing strategic investment to retain skills and nurture internal talent for future leadership roles within the organisation.

"These promotions serve as a meaningful recognition of hard work and dedication. This acknowledgement will boost morale and encourage our men and women in blue to perform at their best, leading to increased productivity and overall job satisfaction," said the National Commissioner.

# NEW RANKS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMOTED MEMBERS

By Col NRM Netshiunda  
Photographs by Const Zabathembu Mthembu and Intern Sakhile Mbula

In the month of February, the corridors of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Head Quarters were abuzz with excitement when newly promoted members removed their old ranks and donned their new ranks for the very first time. As a caring organisation, the South African Police Service has made it possible for members to grow in their ranks through Grade Progression.

The Deputy Provincial Commissioner for Policing, Major General Phumelele Makoba officiated the conferring of ranks to 12 new officers who were promoted within the Visible Policing environment. During the conferring of ranks ceremony, Major General Makoba told the promoted officers not to rest on their laurels and act like they have reached their destination. "When these promotional posts were advertised, many applied, but you were the chosen few to be trusted with the responsibilities of the new post. I want to encourage you that as you embark on the next level of your policing career, that you must instil and enforce discipline amongst your members. Getting a senior rank is not just a status, but it comes with responsibility. Get to your new posts and lead by example. Be the ambassador of good governance and an accountable commander", said Major General Makoba.

Down the road, a stone-throw away from the Provincial Office at Queens Bowling Club, the Acting Provincial Head of Legal Services, Brigadier Thamsanqa Gama welcomed and conferred new ranks to nine (9) newly promoted Legal Advisors. The legal minds stood on a single file as they were given the stamp of authority to resume their new responsibilities.

The Deputy Provincial Commissioner for Support Services, Major General (Dr) Siyanda Ngcobo could not be left wanting, he inducted seven (7) newly promoted officers into his environment. "As much as Visible Policing is the core of policing, we are the backbone. We make the organisation work. We take care of the wellbeing of employees; we administer their daily lives on and off duty. We ensure they have required resources and that comes with huge responsibilities. Show us that you deserve the promotion by improving your offices," said Major General Ngcobo.

At the SAPS Durban Central's Officers Club, Acting Deputy Provincial Commissioner for Crime Detection, Major General Anthony Gopaul also had a caucus with 17 newly promoted detectives. The best was indeed saved for last when the District Commissioner of Umzinyathi, Major General Francis Slambert put together a multidisciplinary parade to place new ranks on 13 newly promoted officers.

The last quarter of 2025/2026 brought smiles to many Constables and Sergeants who saw their names on the final list of those who have met the requirements of taking a step higher to new ranks.



Newly conferred SAPS ranks symbolising the added responsibility and accountability that accompany promotion.



Lieutenant Colonel Sadhasivan Govender receives his new rank from Deputy Provincial Commissioner for Policing Maj Gen Phumelele Makoba and Brigadier Thembinkosi Msimango, the Provincial Head for Operational Response Services (ORS).



The District Commissioner of Umzinyathi, Maj Gen Francis Slambert confers a new rank on newly promoted Lieutenant Colonel Bongani Maseko.



Deputy Provincial Commissioner for Support Services Maj Gen (Dr) Siyanda Ngcobo and the Provincial Head of Personnel Services, Brigadier Chris Nkwanyana put on new ranks on Captain Nozipho Mahlobo.



Brigadier Thamsanqa Gama, the Acting Provincial Head of Legal Services, put on new ranks to newly promoted Captain Kamantha Chokay.

## SAPSET BENEFICIARY SAILS AWAY ON A CRUISE SHIP

By Col NRM Netshiunda

Photographs by Const Zabathembu Mthembu and Intern Sakhile Mbula

**A** trip to remember - 02 February 2026 was a dream come true for South African Police Service Education Trust (SAPSET) beneficiary, Ms Sihle Madikane. The 19-year-old Bachelor of Social Science student at the University of Free State started her four-day cruise aboard the MSC from South Africa to Mozambique.

Sihle was the top matric performer among all SAPSET beneficiaries in 2024, a feat that earned her a cruise trip for two during the National Golf Day Gala Dinner, which was held at Mount Edgecombe, KwaZulu-Natal in January 2025. The Ngqamakwe-born Sihle elected to take Yona, her cousin to the cruise and the two were given a befitting send-off by the Acting Deputy Provincial Commissioner responsible for Crime Detection in KwaZulu-Natal, Major General Anthony Gopaul. He also doubles up as the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Commissioner's



Mario Celentano, Colonel Pushpa Wade, Yona, Maj Gen Anthony Gopaul, Sihle Madikane and Kevin Osborne.

Golf Day Local Organising Committee (LOC) Chairperson.

On behalf of the national office of the South African Police Service, Maj Gen Gopaul welcomed Sihle and Yona as they took a majestic walk along the isle towards the Nelson Mandela Cruises Terminal at the Durban Harbour. The cruise trip was sponsored by MSC in conjunction with Adventure Worx.

## NORTHERN CAPE SAPS SUPPORTS THE LONGEST PEACE WALK

By Col Cherelle Ehlers

Photographs by Northern Cape Provincial Corporate Communication and Liaison

**O**n 10 February 2026, the South African Police Service (SAPS) in Kimberley welcomed Alaya, who has embarked on the longest walkable route on Earth to promote peace across the world.

Alaya, originally from the Kingdom of Jordan, was received by members from the Office of the Provincial Commissioner, the Frances Baard District Commissioner's Office, and Kimberley SAPS.

During a gathering at the Kimberley Big Hole, the Frances Baard District Commissioner, Major General Charlotte Makgari, accompanied by the Provincial Head of Corporate Communication and Liaison, Brigadier Mashay Gamielien, commended Alaya for undertaking such an

extraordinary journey in support of a noble cause that affects the global community. She conveyed her heartfelt admiration for his bravery, dedication, and perseverance, and wished him well for the remainder of his journey.

Alaya addressed the men and women in blue, sharing the purpose of his project and inspiring those in attendance through his humility and passion for promoting peace. He also emphasised the importance of education and investing in the youth as a foundation for a peaceful future.

Alaya commenced his remarkable journey on 1 January 2026 from Cape Agulhas and reached Kimberley after completing approximately 1 000 kilometres on foot.

He will continue his 23 000-kilometre journey through 18 countries over a period of 730 days, with Magadan in Russia as his final destination.

The Northern Cape Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Koliswa Otola, wished Alaya well on his journey and reaffirmed SAPS' support for initiatives that promote peace, unity, and social cohesion. She further acknowledged the continued participation and generosity displayed by law enforcement officials in supporting this extraordinary and worthy cause.

During his stay, Alaya will visit several schools in the greater Kimberley area to promote the peace initiative and motivate learners on the importance of education.

Upon departing the Northern Cape, he will proceed to the North West Province as his journey continues. Members of the public who encounter Alaya along his route are encouraged to join and accompany him in support of this peace initiative.



The Frances Baard District Commissioner, Major General Charlotte Makgari, accompanied by the Provincial Head of Corporate Communication and Liaison, Brigadier Mashay Gamielien and Commander for the Northern Cape Media Centre, Colonel Cherelle Ehlers commended Alaya for undertaking such an extraordinary journey.

# GALENTINE'S DAY AND WHY IT IS POPULAR AMONG MILLENNIALS AND GEN-Z

By Lt Col Kleingeld



Galentine's Day, celebrated on 13th February, is a celebration of women supporting women. It reflects how love has evolved as it honours friendships that heal, independence that empowers, and self-love that sustains.

Originally popularised by pop culture, it has evolved into a globally recognised occasion that celebrates best friends; sisters; colleagues and yourself. Unlike Valentine's Day, Galentine's Day is inclusive - you do not need a partner you just need meaningful connections.

Galentine's Day is important in today's culture, because it reveals how modern relationships work — prioritising mental health, community and self-love and represents appreciation, loyalty, emotional safety and celebrating those people who consistently show up in your life.

Modern relationships have changed - Today's female generation values emotional intelligence; mental health; stability and authentic connections and many find their deepest support in friendships and not JUST in romantic relationships. Galentine's Day validates that reality.

There is also a rise in self-love and independence as today's women do not view self-love as a trend, but as a lifestyle, since they are career-driven, financially independent and emotionally aware, they choose themselves unapologetically and Galentine's Day celebrates being whole on your own, without waiting for romance to define your worth.

Female friendships are, furthermore, seen as strong emotional anchors that improves mental health; reduce stress and encourage personal growth.

Galentine's Day is thus an opportunity for everyone (the single, the partnered and the married) who wants to celebrate friendships and

personal connections with a friendship date – a brunch, a self-care treat and/or gifting (even to yourself).

**HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM VALENTINE'S DAY?** - Valentine's Day focuses on romantic love, while Galentine's Day celebrates emotional support systems. It thus complements Valentine's Day rather than replaces it.

<https://moskai.com/blogs/news/what-is-galentine-s-day-why-it-s-trending-bigger-than-valentine-s-in-2026?srltid=AfmBOooDgJWDMLcqrLow073KFQBmhCA6ARBspe-lkoYtz-FsQNTf6HUv>

**A WORD OF CAUTION TO PREVENT GALENTINE'S DAY FROM CREATING TENSION IN YOUR MARRIAGE** - While friendship itself is not the problem, it is said that the way in which the Galentine's culture is being lived out is creating quiet, slow-burning tension inside a lot of marriages. The kind that does not explode loudly, but erodes things gently, subtly, and over time.

## HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

1. It happens when friendship becomes emotional substitution instead of emotional support - when you discuss your frustrations, fears and relationship dissatisfaction with your friends rather than communicating with your spouse. It slowly thins out the emotional intimacy inside your marriage as you are receiving emotional support somewhere else.

2. It happens when social media about Galentine's Day causes us to start idealising friendship so that suddenly our real-life relationships feel messier and our marriages, especially, start feeling "boring" next to the constant validation, affirmation, and praise that our friendships offer.

3. It happens when the celebration of independence, autonomy, and self-prioritisation subtly undermine the emotional work required to sustain long-term relationships - marriage requires repair, discomfort, compromise, and emotional endurance and when the social culture frames any discomfort as misalignment or any effort as overextension, **COUPLES STOP LEARNING HOW TO STAY** instead of learning when to leave.

4. It happens when friends become the main emotional mirror and marriage partners stop being the primary emotional reference point – subtle competition is created when emotional validation increasingly come from peer groups instead of marriage partners – it is an issue of prioritisation: Who gets the emotional access first? Who hears the story first? Who influences the interpretation?

**IS GALENTINE'S DAY THE VILLAIN?** - No, Galentine's Day itself is not the problem. Friendship is not the problem. The celebration is also not the problem. The issue is **IMBALANCE**, when friendships replace intimacy instead of reinforcing it. When validation replaces vulnerability. When community replaces communication. And when emotional safety feels easier outside the marriage than inside it.

Healthy relationships require **LAYERED CONNECTION**: personal identity, partner intimacy and friend support. When any one layer replaces the others instead of supporting them, imbalance follows.

**HERE IS A QUIET FIX THAT ACTUALLY WORKS** - The solution is not less friendship, it is **MORE INTENTIONAL CONNECTION**. Couples who thrive actively **PROTECT** emotional intimacy. They

talk before venting, they share before outsourcing and they build emotional language together instead of outsourcing processing to external spaces.

They make SMALL HABITS MATTER: weekly check-ins, shared rituals, real conversations without phones, emotional honesty without defensiveness, curiosity instead of assumptions and repair instead of retreat.

**THE REAL QUESTION THE GALENTINE'S CULTURE ACTUALLY FORCES US TO ASK IS:** Where do you feel the safest, where do you feel the most heard? Who do you come home to emotionally? Is it to your spouse or is he having to compete with your friends?

To all female SAPS employees, we wish you a Galentine's Day with meaning. We hope that you would be making use of the opportunity to celebrate the women who make your life brighter and yourself as well. We further hope, that those of you in romantic relationships would also be celebrating Valentine's Day and that you would be putting in the work to make your romantic relationship thrive and offer your partner a home to come to emotionally!

You are welcome to contact Social Work Services at 079 880 5966 or 012 393 5472 or engage with any members at the SAPS Family and Relationship Desk should you need counselling as a couple



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**Capt Komane**  
 012 841 7202  
 KomaneMS@saps.gov.za





# MISSING PERSONS

**VICTOR VINCENT SHONGWE**



**(77) Male  
Diepkloof  
Last seen: 2026-02-04**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.  
Diepkloof 3/2/2026  
Investigating officer: WO PRM Sikhakhane  
Tel: 011 933 7400

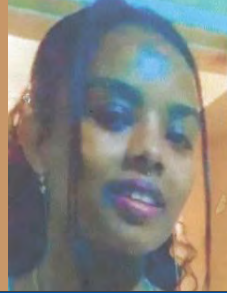
**ANDREW OCTOBER**



**(61) Male  
Somerset West  
Last seen: 2026-01-25**

The missing person was left home and has not been seen since.  
Somerset West 1/2/2026  
Investigating officer: WO EP Pillay  
Tel: 021 850 1302

**TIQIST BEKELE ABERO**



**(28) Female  
Booyens  
Last Seen: 2026-01-30**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.  
Booyens 2/2/2026  
Investigating officer: Sgt MV Mohale  
Tel: 011 433 5200

**TREVOR PLIMSOL**



**(43) Male  
Moffatview  
Last Seen: 2025-11-24**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.  
Moffatview 10/12/2025  
Investigating Officer: Const R Saidi  
Tel: 011 405 1500

**ZINHLE PRECIOUS HLOPHE**



**(19) Female  
Mamelodi East  
Last Seen: 2026-02-04**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.  
Mamelodi East 6/2/2026  
Investigating Officer: Const SS Masinge  
Tel: 012 815 7079

**JIMSON MKHEFELE**



**(42) Male  
Mamelodi East  
Last Seen: 2026-01-30**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.  
Mamelodi East 4/2/2026  
Investigating officer: Const SS Masinge  
Tel: 012 815 7079

**SULELO CATHRINE MAHLANGU**



**(69) Female  
Kwamhlanga  
Last Seen: 2024-05-01**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since. She was wearing a blue dress and black hat.  
Kwamhlanga 1/12/2024  
Investigating officer: Sgt LD Skosana  
Tel: 013 947 4045

**CHANEL TIARA MOODLEY**



**(25) Female  
Bramely  
Last seen: 2026-01-25**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since. She was wearing black golf t-shirt, black jeans and brown and green shoes.  
Bramley 2/1/2026  
Investigating officer: Sgt KP Munyai  
Tel: 011 445 4113

**KETSHEPAMANG SEBOTHE**



**(26) Male  
Ottoshop  
Last seen: 2025-12-14**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since. He was wearing black jeans, yellow jacket and green sport shoes.  
Ottoshop 1/1/2026  
Investigating Officer: WO TG Boihang  
Tel: 018-643 0600

**ANELE MCHUNU**



**(27) Male  
Tokoza  
Last seen: 2025-07-20**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since. He was wearing brown jeans and black jacket.  
Tokoza 1/8/2025  
Investigating Officer: Sgt S Rapoone  
Tel: 011 906 8600


**PLEASE HELP US  
LOCATE THEM**



# WANTED PERSONS

The South African Police Service requests urgent assistance from members of the public in tracing the following alleged perpetrators wanted in connection with various criminal offences committed countrywide.

**JEAN PIERRE WINDELL**



**THEFT  
KLEINMOND  
CAS 80/12/2023**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A HOUSEBREAKING AND THEFT CASE.  
Investigating officer: Const M Xekethwana  
028 271 8200

**PRINCESS CLERKOSINI  
NTSHONGASE**



**FRAUD  
BEACON BAY  
CAS 43/1/2015**

THIS WOMAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A FRAUD CASE.  
Investigating officer: Capt AC Eastrace  
043 709 0547

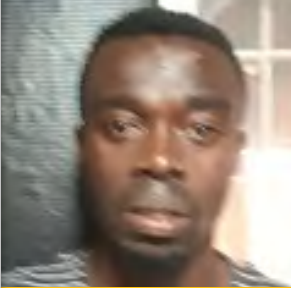
**DAMIAN ANTHONY CLOETE**



**CONTRAVENTION OF COURT  
ORDER  
TULBACH CAS 105/7/2024**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH CONTRAVENTION OF COURT ORDER CASE.  
Investigating officer: W/O MA Cupido  
023 230 8100


**SHERPERED CHITUKUTUKU**



**POSSESSION OF HIJACKED MO-  
TOR VEHICLE  
KLEINVLEI CAS 405/9/2021**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A POSSESSION OF HIJACKED MOTOR VEHICLE CASE.  
Investigating officer: Const L Maceve  
021 974 2400

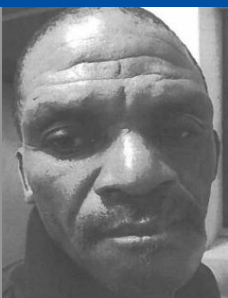
**THULANI DUMISANI PHAKATHI**



**RAPE  
LOTHAIR  
CAS 10/8/2025**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A RAPE CASE.  
Investigating officer: Const XGP Gama  
017 819 2321


**XOLA NKUMANDA**



**DRIVING UNDER THE  
INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL  
KLEINMOND CAS 107/12/2023**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL CASE.  
Investigating officer: W/O AA Grove  
0282718213

**ULRICH KALLIUS**



**DRIVING UNDER THE  
INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL  
KLEINMONDCAS 26/9/2014**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL CASE  
Investigating Officer: Const T Mpisane  
028 271 8200


**FRANS KHAZAMULA MAKHUBELA**



**THEFT  
MIDDELBURG  
CAS 444/3/2015**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A THEFT CASE.  
Investigating Officer: W/O MF Mokwena  
013 249 1440


**DEVLYN ROWEN PETERS**



**POSSESSION OF TIK  
KLEINMOND  
CAS 107/6/2020**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH POSSESSION OF DRUGS CASE.  
Investigating Officer: Const L Nkolisa  
028 271 8216

**RASHIED PETERS**



**POSSESSION OF UNLICENSED  
FIREARM  
ATLANTIS CAS 614/2/2003**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH POSSESSION OF UNLICENSED FIREARM CASE.  
Investigating Officer: W/O CV Hendricks  
021 571 8500

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08600 10111**



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