

POLICE

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YOUR OFFICIAL FREE SAPS MAGAZINE

NATJOINTS COORDINATION CENTRE

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**SAPS AND SANDF LAUNCH OPERATION PROSPER
TO RESTORE PUBLIC SAFETY**

**FIGHTING GBVF: PRIORITISING HIGH-CASELOAD
STATIONS AND OFFICER WELLNESS**

ON A JOURNEY TO A SAFER SOUTH AFRICA



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EDITORIAL



This March edition of the S A P S

Magazine reflects a period of renewed momentum, strengthened partnerships, and a firm commitment by the South African Police Service to enhance safety and

security across the country. It captures key developments that demonstrate our evolving approach to policing; one that is collaborative, intelligence-led, and responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.

A significant highlight this month is the deployment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in cooperation and support of South African Police Service (SAPS) operations under Operation Prosper.

This operation marks a decisive step in intensifying efforts to combat serious and organised crime, including illicit mining and gang-related violence. By leveraging the combined capabilities of law enforcement and the defence force.

The operation underscores government's resolve to restore law and order, while ensuring that communities experience a visible and effective security presence.

Equally important was the visit by the Acting Minister of Police to Westbury, a community that continues to face complex crime challenges. The visit reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to engaging directly with affected communities, listening to their concerns, and strengthening interventions aimed at stabilising crime hotspots. Such engagements are critical in building trust

and reinforcing the principle that policing is most effective when it is community centred.

The fight against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) remains a national priority. This edition reflects on the recent strategic workshop hosted by SAPS, which brought together key stakeholders to refine and strengthen the collective response to GBVF. The workshop emphasised the importance of integrated interventions, victim support, and the consistent application of the law to ensure justice for survivors. It also reinforced the role of SAPS members as frontline defenders of the most vulnerable in our society.

We also celebrate excellence within our ranks. This month, a National Excellence Awards (NEA) laureate winner was recognised with the handover of a brand-new vehicle, a symbol of appreciation for outstanding service and dedication. Such recognition not only honours individual achievement but also inspires all members to strive for professionalism, integrity, and excellence in the execution of their duties.

On the international front, SAPS had the privilege of hosting a senior delegation, including Belgium's top police official, for the filming of a television programme. This engagement provided an opportunity to showcase South Africa's policing environment, share best practices, and strengthen international cooperation in addressing transnational crime. It is through such partnerships that we continue to position SAPS as a credible and capable policing institution on the global stage.

As you engage with this edition, we encourage you to reflect on the collective efforts highlighted herein; efforts that speak to resilience, innovation, and a shared commitment to a safer South Africa. Together, we continue to move forward in building a professional, accountable, and trusted police service.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Maj Gen Nonkululeko Phokane

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

Greetings to you my fellow colleagues clad in blue, we have reached the end of the last quarter of the end of the financial year 2025/2026. Esteemed ladies and gentlemen, last month we announced the Quarter 3 Crime Statistics. The release of the crime statistics remains an important link to a value chain of the statistic system which informs policy development and planning in the criminal justice system.

It is therefore incumbent on us as an organisation to ensure that policy makers and the entire citizenry are kept in the loop on what is going on regarding crime in the country. It is also safe to say that these statistics subscribes to the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the International Monetary Fund General Dissemination Standards and the South African Statistical Quality Assessment Framework.

Although most contact crimes such as murder, rape and robbery are on the decline as well as property crimes, we need not rest on our laurels BUT to continue working to fight the scourge of crime. Ladies and gentlemen, on the same breath, let me commend the president of the Republic, his Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa for announcing in the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) that we are going to collaborate with the South African Defence Force (SANDF). This is an intervention to help fight the stubborn crime of illicit mining, organised crime and gang violence.

We have indeed heeded the president's call and launched Operation Prosper in conjunction with the SANDF. The SANDF had deployed over 2000 soldiers to work with us at identified hotspots based on intelligence analysis. The operation will focus on Gauteng, North

West, Free State, Western Cape and Eastern Cape.

Operation Prosper is envisaged to take 13 months and seeks to achieve the following key objectives, including stabilising crime hotspots, dismantling organised crime syndicates, reclaiming territories controlled by criminal networks, reducing serious and violent crime levels and firmly reasserting the authority of the State. The intervention will also focus on rebuilding trust between law enforcement and communities, creating safer conditions for social and economic development. During this period, we urge our communities to work with us as we will be restoring law and order throughout.

Fellow members, let me also acknowledge our women as they were celebrating International Women's Day this month of March. Malibongwe igama lamakhosikazi.

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) remains a thorny issue hence, it is declared a national disaster, and it necessitates an urgent response by all of us that is government and the society at large. As police, let us treat cases of GBVF with the urgency they always deserve.

As I conclude colleagues, the Easter season is around the corner. Gear up for one of our busiest peak seasons, make sure that our ports of entry are secured, shopping malls are patrolled accordingly, taxi and bus ranks, entertainment areas and our bi-ways and highways are getting proper attention. As you do that, ensure that all church goes are and feel safe during this period. Safer Easter period to all of you as you carry out your duties by serving our people and our visitors. I thank you.



SAPS AND SANDF LAUNCH OPERATION PROSPER TO RESTORE PUBLIC SAFETY

By Lt Col Stephen Maluleka

Photographs by Capt Ndanduleni Nyambeni

The SAPS and SANDF Generals at the launch of Operation Prosper media briefing held at the NATJOINTS Coordination Centre in Tshwane.

Heeding President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address' (SoNA) call in February 2026 when he announced that soldiers will be deployed to combat escalating levels of organised crime, gang violence and illegal mining, the South African Police Service (SAPS) together with the South African Defence Force (SANDF) jointly addressed the media on 15 of March 2026 to launch Operation Prosper at the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS) Coordination Centre in Tshwane.

The two departments came up with a deployment plan dubbed Operation Prosper which marks a significant step in the government's intensified efforts to combat organised crime, stabilise communities, and restore public confidence in law enforcement. According to the joint statement by the SAPS and SANDF, over 2,000 SANDF members will be deployed alongside SAPS officers for a period of 13 months, focusing on crime hotspots identified through intelligence and crime analysis.

The operation aims to achieve several key objectives, including stabilising crime hotspots, dismantling organised crime syndicates, reclaiming territories controlled by criminal networks, reducing serious and violent crime levels and firmly reasserting the authority of the State. The intervention will also focus on rebuilding trust between law enforcement and communities, creating safer conditions for social and economic development.

The areas of Operation Prosper include the Free State, Gauteng, North West, Western Cape, and Eastern Cape, which have been severely affected by criminal activities such as gang violence, illicit mining, drug trafficking, and illegal firearm proliferation.

The National Commissioner of the SAPS, General Fannie Masemola explained that the move was a directive from the president for the two departments to implement. "President has authorised the deployment of the South African National Defence Force in cooperation with the South African Police Service under Operation Prosper," said General Masemola.

Reading from a joint statement at the briefing, General Masemola emphasized the importance of the operation in reaffirming the authority of the State over criminality, intimidation, and lawlessness. "South Africans have rightly expressed deep concern about the levels of violent crime and organised criminal syndicates. This joint

deployment is a decisive step in addressing these challenges and restoring safety and stability in our communities," General Masemola said.

SANDF's General Rudzani Maphwanya backed up his counterpart and said: "We will work jointly with our counterparts in the police service to ensure that the State apparatus is empowered to have to have monopoly of force."

General Maphwanya reassured the society that they are going there to protect the people not to harass them. "We are going out there in defence of our people, and to prevent and combat crime. We are not going there to harass our people, any people that will feel harassed are the criminal elements," stated General Maphwanya.

The two generals were accompanied by the Co-Chairpersons of the NATJOINTS, Lieutenant General Mosikili and Lieutenant General Sangweni and Senior Officers of the SAPS and SANDF leadership.



The SANDF and SAPS' Generals at the Operation Prosper media briefing held at the NATJOINTS offices in Tshwane.

GENERAL MASEMOLA MEETS REGIONAL COUNTERPARTS TO STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST TOC

By Col Kabelo Marumo

Photography by Brig Athlenda Mathe



Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation member states met to reaffirm their commitment to combatting transnational organised crime.



Botswana's Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Caesar Mohwasa underscored the need for collective action from participating countries.

In a strong show of regional solidarity, Southern African law enforcement leaders reaffirmed their commitment to combatting transnational organised crime (TOC) through coordinated strategies, intelligence-sharing, and joint operations. The gathering on 26 February 2026 in Botswana, symbolised a crucial operational platform to build trust, align strategy, and develop proactive responses to emerging criminal trends.

General Fannie Masemola, the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service, addressed delegates at a recently held two-day strategic consultative meeting, emphasizing that only through well-coordinated plans and sustained cooperation will the region win this battle.

The meeting brought together police chiefs, specialised detectives, and intelligence operatives from Botswana, Namibia, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, creating a unified front against increasingly sophisticated criminal syndicates.

Delegates focused on pressing regional challenges, including stock theft, illegal mining, cybercrime, smuggling of stolen vehicles, drug trafficking, and human trafficking.

By pooling expertise, resources, and operational capacity, the participating countries aim to develop innovative strategies to prevent and dismantle organised criminal networks more effectively. Discussions centred on enhancing intelligence-sharing, launching joint operations, and coordinating investigations to protect communities, safeguard economies, and reinforce the rule of law.

"Gatherings such as these are not ceremonial engagements; they are strategic platforms that facilitate direct collaboration, intelligence sharing, and the development of proactive responses," General Masemola explained.

"Most importantly, they build trust, which is the foundation of effective regional policing. By coming together under one roof and sharing expertise, we are now better prepared, more capable, and one step ahead in confronting increasingly sophisticated criminal networks."

In his opening address, Botswana's Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Caesar Mohwasa, praised the leadership

of participating countries and underscored the need for collective action. "Criminal networks today are more sophisticated and mobile than ever. Our collective response must match their scale and coordination," he stated.

The meeting forms part of a broader framework of Southern African Development Community (SADC) initiatives, coordinated under the SADC Chiefs of Police Subcommittee and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO).

Through annual meetings, joint operations, and strategic alignment with regional security plans, police leaders have strengthened collaboration to counter cross-border and organised crime.

At the 2025 SADC Chiefs of Police meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, member states discussed strategies to fight transnational crime, including real-time intelligence sharing, joint operations against criminal syndicates, and harmonising legal frameworks to enable smoother cross-border cooperation. Key threats identified included drug trafficking, human trafficking, illegal firearms and vehicle theft, cybercrime, smuggling, and financial crimes.

Beyond regional efforts, Southern African law enforcement leaders, including General Masemola, participate in continental platforms such as the 27th INTERPOL African Regional Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, where discussions focused on cybercrime, illicit firearms and drug trafficking, and financial and organised crimes.

The conference emphasized the importance of shared intelligence, access to global data, capacity building, and the use of INTERPOL's databases to disrupt criminal networks operating across multiple countries.

The consultative meeting sends a clear message: Southern African nations are committed to collaborative law enforcement, coordinated operations, and intelligence-sharing to dismantle criminal enterprises that operate across borders.

By uniting regional and continental frameworks, including SADC, SARPCCO, and INTERPOL, the countries are positioning themselves to respond more effectively to evolving threats posed by sophisticated, transnational criminal networks.



ACTING MINISTER VISITS WESTBURY TO OFFER SUPPORT TO MASS SHOOTING VICTIMS

By WO Amos Ndlovu

Acting Police Minister, Prof Firoz Cachalia meets with senior Gauteng SAPS leadership, including Acting Provincial Commissioner, Maj Gen Fred Kekana, to assess policing needs and operational challenges in affected communities.

Recently, the Acting Police Minister, Prof Firoz Cachalia, accompanied by Gauteng police management, visited victims of a gang-related shooting in crime-ridden Westbury, Gauteng to render support and engage the community on measures to curb gang violence in the area.

The unfortunate incident occurred when multiple gunmen opened fire on at least five people at the corner of Lark Spur Court and Jacaranda Court, leaving two people deceased and three others injured, including a 15-month-old baby.

Before visiting the injured child at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, Prof Cachalia engaged members of the media, expressing his grief and assuring the community that strides are being made to address the gang-related violence that has engulfed parts of Westbury.

The Acting Police Minister further spoke about the delicate nature of deploying tactical and specialised law-enforcement units in communities, explaining that such deployments may take longer than expected.

"I think the deployment of the army is the right decision. The deployment will take longer than I expected. So many people are raising concerns about the risks associated with such deployment. Police are trained to do policing; soldiers are not trained to use proportionate force. We want to manage the risks of deployment of the army, and we've decided that the right thing to do is to focus on their training; rather delay the deployment and manage the risks than rush the deployment," said the Acting Minister.

Prof Cachalia reaffirmed government's commitment to restoring safety and stability in Westbury, emphasising that sustained collaboration between law enforcement, community structures and residents remains critical in the fight against gang-related crime. He encouraged community members to continue working closely with the police by reporting criminal activities and supporting ongoing efforts aimed at reclaiming communities from the grip of violence.

The media briefing was preceded by an extensive engagement between Prof Cachalia and Gauteng provincial police management. Among those present were the Gauteng Acting Provincial Commissioner, Major General (Maj Gen) Fred Kekana; the Provincial Head of the



Acting Police Minister, Prof Cachalia addresses members of the media outside Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital following his visit of the baby injured in the recent gang-related shooting in Westbury.

Anti-Gang Unit, Brigadier Albert Maphoto and the Gauteng Provincial Head for Visible Policing (VISPOL), Brigadier Mark Joseph.

During the meeting, which took place at Sophiatown Police Station, the Acting Police Minister sought to assess policing needs and operational constraints to effectively devise ways to strengthen and advance policing initiatives in the province.

While Maj Gen Kekana concurred that reinforcements would assist in intensifying operations aimed at dismantling gang networks operating in Westbury, he highlighted that multidisciplinary teams, including the Anti-Gang Unit and Visible Policing members, continue to conduct targeted operations in the area to stabilise the community and bring those responsible for violent crimes to justice.

And when it comes to the community, the Acting Provincial Commissioner assured residents that the Anti-Gang Unit remains deployed around the clock to help prevent incidents of violent crime and stabilise the area. He emphasised that police will continue to intensify operations aimed at disrupting gang activity and ensuring the safety of residents.

FIGHTING GBVF: PRIORITISING HIGH-CASELOAD STATIONS AND OFFICER WELLNESS

By Col Kabelo Marumo and WO Amos Ndlovu

Photography by Capt Ndanduleni Nyambeni and WO Amos Ndlovu



Attendees listening attentively to presentations on GBVF trends, State of Disaster classifications, and recent research findings.

The victims of GBVF do not have the luxury of waiting for the Police to find consensus; they need justice now," said the Deputy National Commissioner (DNC) for Policing, Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) Tebello Mosikili. These are the words that echoed during the two-day Ministerial Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Strategic Workshop on 23 - 24 February 2026, where the Deputy Minister of Police, Dr Polly Boshielo, with support from the Civilian Secretariat and South African Police Service (SAPS) management, gathered to lead a comprehensive evaluation aimed at pinpointing the most significant and deep-seated shortcomings in SAPS' current approach.

South Africa's fight against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) faces persistent and complex challenges, with law enforcement at the frontline struggling to respond effectively. Police officers tasked with investigating GBVF offenses are hampered by critical gaps in resources, including insufficient funding, staff shortages, and limited access to shelters and victim transportation.

The enforcement of protection orders intended to safeguard survivors remains inconsistent, leaving some victims vulnerable despite holding valid court orders. These systemic weaknesses, combined with the emotional and psychological toll on officers and survivors alike, underscore the urgent need for coordinated, survivor-centred interventions and strengthened support for those on the frontline.

Participants who attended the workshop at the SAPS Tshwane Academy, identified these issues as urgent concerns requiring immediate attention to improve policing of GBVF crimes and the protection of survivors, particularly in cases where police have been unable to prevent offenses.

Delegates also highlighted systemic challenges affecting police response, legislative implementation, survivor-centred care, and inter-

departmental coordination in the fight against GBVF. Deputy Minister (Dr) Boshielo emphasised the importance of prioritising interventions at the 95 police stations with the highest GBVF caseloads. "Our focus must first be on areas where the burden of GBV is greatest, ensuring survivors receive timely and effective support," said Deputy Minister Boshielo.

She further stressed that the fight against GBVF must begin within SAPS itself. The wellbeing of SAPS members was highlighted, recognising that first responders face traumatic incidents and need ongoing psychological support, post-trauma debriefing, and access to professional care. The police must do more to support members through the Employee Health and Wellness (EHW) programme. This support, she said, is necessary to ensure that members are adequately capacitated to assist communities and to better equip their colleagues to deal with these challenges. "We need to fight GBVF from within as there are SAPS members who murder their partners and then commit suicide. The nation has trust in us, especially our children," asserted the Deputy Minister.

While structural reforms are crucial, attendees emphasised that the human element must remain central. Survivors face profound physical, emotional, and psychological trauma, requiring urgent and compassionate interventions. Access to shelters, social workers, counselling, and safe transport is essential to safeguard the dignity, safety, and wellbeing of victims.

"Behind every statistic is a survivor whose life has been disrupted. Our response must be swift, sensitive, and survivor-centred," said Deputy Minister Boshielo.

Stakeholders called for continuous capacity building, including enhanced training for police officers, magistrates, and prosecutors in survivor-centred approaches. Key recommendations included:

- Strengthening cybersecurity to combat child pornography and human trafficking
- Reviewing moratoriums that may hinder progress in fighting GBV
- Improving internal communication systems for more efficient information flow
- Assessing the effectiveness of protection orders, amid concerns that some victims were killed despite holding valid orders
- Promoting inclusivity, including LGBTQI+ persons, and eliminating discrimination based on sexual orientation

Mr Takalani Ramaru, Deputy Director-General of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service, reinforced the department's oversight role over policing. He highlighted the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS), which seeks to combat crime including GBV through six pillars: strengthening the criminal justice system, early prevention via youth education, community involvement, improved municipal service delivery, victim empowerment, and building responsible citizenship. Divisional Commissioner for Visible Policing and Operations, Lt Gen Maropeng Mamothethi reiterated that GBVF has been declared a national crisis comparable to a disaster or pandemic. In response to the call to renew the fight against GBVF, the SAPS plans to first conduct internal introspection to identify gaps before engaging external stakeholders to ensure coordinated implementation of GBVF interventions.



Deputy National Commissioner for Policing, Lt Gen Tebello Mosikili, analysing GBVF statistics to identify gaps and inform rapid interventions.



Divisional Commissioner for Visible Policing and Operations, Lt Gen Maropeng Mamothethi, directing the programme and guiding discussions on strengthening SAPS' operational response to GBVF.

Asked about the wellbeing of first responders, Lt Gen Mamothethi explained that one of the organisation's key focus is to prioritise the wellbeing of police officers. She said this include in instances where police are potential victims and, in some cases, perpetrators.

"Employee Health and Wellness programmes will be strengthened, and post-trauma debriefings made mandatory. We encourage members to seek professional support, at the same time strongly discourage suicide.

Workshop attendees concluded that while SAPS play a central role, combating GBVF requires coordinated action across government departments, municipalities, civil society, and communities. Strengthened funding, improved staffing, enhanced infrastructure, and effective implementation of strategic plans are essential to protect survivors and ensure justice.



Deputy Minister of Police, Dr Polly Boshielo, addressing attendees on the urgency of tackling Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) and the need for SAPS to confront the issue within its own ranks.

LAUREATE WINNER SGT QINISILE RECEIVES A BRAND-NEW CAR

By WO Sebenzile Thanjekwayo



The SAPS leadership with sponsors at Haval GWM Bloemfontein handed over a brand-new Haval Jolion Pro 1.5T Premium 7DCT to the National Excellence Awards Laureate Winner, Sgt Masibulele Qinisile.

What began as a nomination earlier this year has turned into a life-changing moment for Sgt Masibulele Qinisile, a dedicated member of the South African Police Service. On 9 March 2026, SAPS management led by the Acting Deputy National Commissioner for Support Services, Lieutenant General Lineo Nkhua, together with Acting Provincial Commissioners, Major General Aphia Modise (Free State) and Major General Thandiswa Kupiso (Eastern Cape), officially handed over a brand-new Haval Jolion Pro 1.5T Premium 7DCT to the National Excellence Awards Laureate Winner.

The ceremony took place at Haval GWM Bloemfontein, where Sgt Masibulele Qinisile was celebrated by SAPS leadership, sponsors, the Fujian Chinese Community, dealership management and Old Mutual, which also provided 12 months of comprehensive vehicle insurance through Old Mutual Insure.

Along with the vehicle, Sgt Qinisile received a R30 000 cash prize, an MSC cruise to Mozambique and a tablet.

Earlier this year, Sgt Qinisile was crowned the overall Laureate Award Winner and recipient of the National Commissioner's Award at the 11th annual SAPS National Excellence Awards held on 26 January 2026 in Bloemfontein, Free State, under the theme: Serving with Integrity, Celebrating Excellence.

For the 41-year-old father of three daughters, the moment carried deep personal meaning. After years of service and sacrifice, Sgt Qinisile became a first-time car owner, proving that dreams delayed are not dreams denied.

For Sgt Qinisile, policing is more than a profession, it is a calling. He joined SAPS in 2007 as a volunteer Reservist Constable, serving the community with dedication for over two years before officially joining the service in 2010 after completing the Basic Police Development Learning Programme at the SAPS Bisho Academy.

Over the years, he completed several in-service training programmes, including the Domestic Violence Learning Programme in 2013, equipping him with critical skills to respond to high-risk situations.

Those skills were put to the ultimate test in 2025. While responding to a domestic violence complaint, Sgt Qinisile and his colleagues were confronted by an armed suspect who had disarmed one of the officers and taken his wife and child hostage. The suspect opened fire on the responding members.

Without hesitation, Sgt Qinisile confronted the gunman. Even after his firearm magazine was emptied during the exchange of fire, he quickly obtained another magazine from a backup vehicle and continued engaging the suspect.

His courage and determination saved the lives of the suspect's wife, their child and fellow police officers. Remarkably, no one was injured during the incident.

Reflecting on his recognition, Sgt Qinisile encouraged fellow SAPS members to remain committed to their duty. "As a police officer you must always remain dedicated in the commission of your duties. Always treat people with respect and protect yourselves at all times. Situational awareness is important to avoid possible ambush."

SAPS has also reminded members that gifts received must be declared in line with SAPS National Instruction 18 of 2019: Integrity Management, which promotes transparency and accountability within the organisation.

Every year, the SAPS National Excellence Awards recognise men and women in blue who demonstrate exceptional courage, commitment and integrity while serving the people of South Africa.

For Sgt Qinisile, the honour is not only a recognition of bravery it is a reminder that dedication, resilience and service to others truly make a difference.



Sgt Qinisile also received a R30 000 cash prize, an MSC cruise to Mozambique and a tablet as part of the prizes he won at the National Excellence Awards.

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POLICE ADOPT A ZERO-TOLERANCE POSTURE AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

By WO Percy Sepaela

Photographs by Capt Ndanduleni Nyambeni



Panelists engaging with the audience on crime-related issues at the Fraud and Corruption Imbizo held at UNISA in Pretoria.

The Divisional Commissioner for Human Resource Development (HRD), Lt Gen (Dr) Bongiwe Zulu has implored delegates during a Fraud and Corruption Imbizo at UNISA to always act ethically and espouse integrity to rid the South African Police Service (SAPS) off this twin-crimes epidemic. "Unethical behaviour undermines service delivery and in the process erodes public trust. Internal fraud, colluding with criminal networks, manipulating evidence and legal processes, that is unethical behaviour," Lt Gen Zulu fumed.

She charged that it seemed unethical behaviour has been with us for a long time and has now become cancerous. "Right now, we are at chemotherapy and we have to remove our cancerous cells."

Lt Gen (Dr) Zulu said the ongoing Madlanga Judicial Commission of Inquiry and the parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee sittings were a clear testament of the extent of the rot that has gripped the SAPS for years. "Our ethical principles are being tested given the revelations coming out of both forums. There are ethical principles that need to be extensively addressed." However, she said she was content that there are still many good police officers who respect their constitutional mandate and the SAPS' Code of Conduct. "We have to acknowledge the work done by many police officers out there and that not one rotten potato should be allowed to spoil the whole bag," expressed Lt Gen Zulu.

The two-day Fraud and Corruption Imbizo at UNISA's main campus in Muckleneuk, Tshwane, was themed: "Integrity in Action: Strengthening SAPS against Fraud and Corruption and Restoring Public Trust Through Ethical Policing."

Maj-Gen (Dr) K Schwartz told the Imbizo that it was now an opportune time for the SAPS to address the gaps because criminals thrive where there are gaps. South Africa must rid itself from the stigma of being a haven for criminals, he said. General Schwartz added that the Imbizo was crucial for the organisation in working towards the implementation of the National Anti-corruption Strategy 2025/2030.

According to Ms Pertunia Hlophe from the National School of Governance (NSG) and a manager responsible for ethics in governance, the problem emanates from recruiting wrong and

unqualified candidates. "It is time to customize our current ethics to effectively deal with ethical dilemmas which will ensure that we adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards the scourge of fraud and corruption," said Ms Hlophe, an ethics ambassador.

Prof Budeli, an Executive Dean at the College of Law at UNISA said her institution is encouraged to consolidate its partnership with the SAPS in criminal justice system matters to help deal with fraud and corruption in the SAPS. "We have to change the narrative through our own actions and say zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption. I would like to urge you delegates here to cultivate decisive resolutions to address this societal problem," Prof Budeli urged.

The Imbizo also saw participation from three breakaway sessions under these themes, namely: Deterring Corruption through Anti-Corruption Measures to Strengthen Community Safety; Preventing Drugs and Drug-related Crimes to Safeguard Communities and Enhance Public Safety; and Combating the Misuse of Artificial Intelligence in Cybercrime, Fraud and Drug Trafficking to Enhance Community Trust.



Divisional Commissioner for HRM, Lt Gen (Dr) BL Zulu making remarks at the Fraud and Corruption Imbizo in a packed hall at UNISA's main campus in Muckleneuk, Pretoria.



NORTHERN CAPE AND FREE STATE WATER POLICING AND DIVING SERVICES COLLABORATE TO EXECUTE OPERATION HALIOTIS MIDAE

By Brig Mashay Gamiel dien

Photographs by Northern Cape Provincial Corporate Communication and Liaison

Divers and skippers from the Northern Cape and Free State who participated in the execution of Operation Haliotis Midae.

The Northern Cape and Free State SAPS Water and Diving Services under the command of the Provincial Head for Police Emergency and FLASH Services, Brigadier Amicus Alberts successfully executed Operation Haliotis Midae commonly known in South Africa as abalone in the areas of Hondeklip Bay and Port Nolloth in the Namakwa District.

This collaborative operation involving the two provinces targeted crime committed on both land and at sea with specific focus on poaching of marine life and other commodities and the impact thereof on the coastal environment.

The teams consisting of divers and skippers of the two provinces; the national co-ordinator responsible for SAPS Water Policing and Diving Services in the country, Captain Marile Wessels; the Provincial Head for Corporate Communication and Liaison, Brigadier Mashay Gamiel dien and her members; Upington K9 as well as the SAPS Airwing from the Northern Cape and North West participated in the operations that commenced on 18 February 2026 in Hondeklip Bay and concluded on 24 February 2026 in Port Nolloth.

During the execution period of the operation, 60 vessels which included 2 diamond mining vessels were physically inspected at sea, during which permits of fishermen were checked and verified. The teams also conducted shoreline patrols covering approximately 300 kilometres of coastline along the West Coast including Alexander Bay and Groenrivier.

The SAPS chopper from the North West Airwing provided aerial support by identifying possible illegal diamond mining sites on the coastline and protection of the natural ocean recourses.

The Provincial Commissioner of the Northern Cape, Lieutenant General Koliswa Otolá visited the operations in Port Nolloth and interacted with the members while executing the disruptive actions.

Lieutenant General Otolá commended and appreciated the collaboration between the Northern Cape, Free State, North West and the Division: Visible Policing and Operations for the joint operation that not only targeted marine related crimes but also showcased the capabilities and proficiencies of the provinces in terms of water policing and what services they offer to the communities.

The team also deviated from their operational duties and conducted school visits at Kleinzee Sentrum vir Leer en Ontwikkeling in Kleinzee. On 20 February 2026 the team addressed learners from Marian Gedenk Primary School and community members during an open community engagement at the Hondeklip Bay Harbour.

The Provincial Head for Corporate Communication and Liaison, Brigadier Mashay Gamiel dien addressed the learners and community members on general crime prevention and encouraged the community members to join the community policing structures.

Brigadier Amicus Alberts and Warrant Officer Morne Kock from the Free State Diving Unit addressed the audience on water safety and introduced them to the different vessels utilised by the Water Policing and Diving Services to execute their duties which includes search and rescue operations at sea, dams, canals and rivers.

Warrant Officer Mitch Diedericks from the Upington K9 Unit introduced his dog, Leroy to the learners. Thereafter, learners were afforded an opportunity to inspect the various vessels as well as the SAPS chopper, which was the highlight of the day's programme.



Northern Cape Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Koliswa Otola visiting the operations with the operational commander, Brigadier Amicus Alberts and the Capt Marilè Wessels.



SAPS chopper from the North West Airwing that offered arial support during the operation.



WO Mitch Diedericks with his dog Leroy conducting sea patrols.



The divers and skippers from Northern Cape and Free State conducting water patrols and inspecting permits of local fishermen.



Brigadier Mashay Gamielidien addressing the learners of Marian Gedenk Primary School about the roles of the water wing, search and rescue as well as airwing at the Hondeklipbaai Harbour.

MARALALENG COMMUNITY PLEADS FOR TOUGHER ACTION AGAINST CRIMINALITY

By WO Percy Sepaela

Photographs by Capt Kgabo Mashamaite

The community of Maralaleng and surrounding areas in Ga-Mphahlele in Limpopo have pleaded with the police for tougher action against criminality in their areas among which includes rampant stock theft, unresolved murder cases, gender-based violence + femicide (GBV+F), the proliferation of illegal firearms, substance abuse among the youth, and crimes allegedly perpetrated by undocumented foreign nationals.

On 14 March 2026, the community members shared their frustrations at a recently convened Ministerial Imbizo by the South African Police Service (SAPS) and other key stakeholders at the Maralaleng Community Hall in Ga-Mphahlele, Limpopo, under the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality.

"The police in our area are working with criminals, and we have been opening cases of stock theft and other crimes, but we never receive feedback from the police. We are losing cattle, sheep and goats and this is the source of our livelihoods," said Mr Gilbert Ramokgotswa. Despite stock theft being rampant in the area, other concerning issues residents raised were lack of police patrol vehicles to ensure visibility, making resources available to CPF's members to be more effective and motivated. Additionally, resolving pending murder cases known by the community itself and dealing with police officers who are in bed with criminals.

The Deputy Minister of Police Cassell Mathale said it was imperative for the leadership of the SAPS and other sister departments to engage with the community to find lasting solutions. "It is important that we came here to listen to the cries of our community and together to address these matters. We appreciate that you have raised those issues so that we can address them as the leadership of the police. Stock theft as we heard is a problem in this area and we are going to follow-up on all the cases that you as the community say that the police have dragged their feet on," Mathale said.

He urged residents to work closely with the police in the fight against crime because these criminals are known. "We live with these criminals in our communities, be it a brother, an uncle, a cousin. We live with them in our homes and it is therefore important that we work with the police as the community to report them," Deputy Minister Mathale said.

Limpopo Provincial Commissioner of Police Lt Gen Thembi Hadebe promised to strengthen the Stock Theft Unit to urgently deal with this scourge in the area. "We are going to strengthen our stock theft unit in Lebowakgomo and open four other units in the Sekhukhune District. We must also strengthen our CPF's and street committees so that we can have synergy working with the police to fight crime," Lt Gen Hadebe stated. She mentioned that one of the challenges in the district was the vastness of the area, comprising 136 villages, and that this requires reinforcement of resources to police in the main. Also, areas like Seshego, Lebowakgomo, Mankweng and Polokwane as they always feature as hotspots on the top 30 nationally as per the crime statistics.

Mr Njabulo Nzuzza, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs told masses that his department has prioritised the need to strengthen and consolidate the capacity of the country's six land ports of entry working closely with the Border Management Authority (BMA).

"In 2019 we established the Border Management Authority (BMA) to ensure people did not enter the country illegally. We have been capacitating it and government has put aside billions of rand to employ more border guards. We are digitalising our systems and we will even be using drones to detect movements of people in and out of the country at all our six ports of entry," said Deputy Minister Nzuzza.



Deputy Minister of Police Cassel Mathale, the Provincial Commissioner of Police in Limpopo, Lt Gen Thembi Hadebe and Ms Selwane from the Selwane Royal House.



Residents of Maralaleng and neighboring villages in a packed hall at an Imbizo in Ga-Mphahlele, just outside Lebowakgomo, Limpopo.



Kgoshi Malekutu Thabo Phatudi-Mphahlele addressing residents at an Imbizo to deal with crime in the area.



SAPS HOSTS BELGIUM'S "TOP COP" IN THE WESTERN CAPE

By Capt Sisonke Mlamla

Photographs by Capt Sisonke Mlamla and Capt Ian Bennett

Members of the Belgian film crew with SAPS officers during their visit to Manenberg Police Station, where they documented the daily work and operations.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) in the Western Cape recently hosted an international policing delegation led by Belgium's "Top Cop" First Chief Inspector Bertrand Caroy, who visited several policing precincts across Cape Town from 9 to 12 March 2026.

Caroy is a Belgian police officer and traffic inspector who serves in the Boraine police zone in Belgium. He gained public recognition through appearances on a television programme *Enquêtes* on the Belgian channel RTL-TVI, where viewers follow real police operations and traffic enforcement activities. He travels to different countries around the world documenting how police officers operate, learning about their policing methods and sharing experiences that highlight international approaches to law enforcement and community safety.

Caroy's four-day visit formed part of an operational documentary project aimed at showcasing policing practices in the Western Cape and providing international audiences with insight into how the SAPS addresses crime under challenging conditions.

The initiative was coordinated through the SAPS' national Corporate Communication and Liaison Service and the Western Cape Corporate Communication, working closely with several police stations and specialised units. The international film crew accompanied SAPS members during operational activities in Manenberg, Khayelitsha, Delft and Cape Town Central, documenting the realities of policing in communities affected by gang violence, illegal firearms, drug trafficking and illicit liquor trading.

Throughout the visit, the delegation was formally welcomed by station and unit commanders who introduced them to the operational environments and policing strategies implemented within their respective precincts.

The visit began on 09 March, at the SAPS Mounted Unit, where the delegation was welcomed by Lieutenant Colonel Weber. They

observed training and patrol demonstrations while engaging with SAPS representatives about the role of mounted policing in enhancing visibility and supporting crime prevention operations.

Later that day, the delegation visited the SAPS K9 Unit in Pinelands where they were welcomed by Lieutenant Colonel Speelman. Members demonstrated the specialised training of police dogs used in crime detection, search operations and narcotics identification. The K9 Unit remains a vital operational resource in combating drug trafficking, locating illegal firearms and supporting search operations during policing interventions.

On 10 March, the delegation proceeded to Khayelitsha Police Station where they were received by Brigadier Masakala. The visitors spent the day with visible policing members conducting patrols in the area. The film crew documented how SAPS officers engage communities while maintaining a strong policing presence in one of the Western Cape's busiest precincts. Officers also shared insights about the challenges and complexities associated with policing densely populated communities.

Later that evening, a major roadblock operation was conducted in the Delft policing area. At Delft Police Station, Brigadier Sihlali briefed the team on crime prevention initiatives in the precinct. SAPS members, supported by the K9 Unit, conducted stop-and-search operations focusing on illegal firearms, narcotics and drunk driving. These intelligence-driven operations highlighted the effectiveness of targeted policing in disrupting criminal activity in identified hotspots.

On 11 March, the delegation visited Cape Town Central Police Station where they were welcomed by Colonel Stephen. The crew accompanied officers on patrol in the city centre, observing how SAPS manages policing within a busy metropolitan environment. Both foot and vehicle patrols were conducted in identified crime hotspots, allowing the delegation to experience the operational demands of policing the central business district.

The evening programme included patrols with the Flying Squad, where the delegation observed response policing during night operations. Officers responded to various call-outs across areas giving the visitors insight into the rapid-response capabilities of SAPS.

The final day of the visit on 12 March, took the delegation to Manenberg Police Station where they were received by Brigadier Naidoo and Colonel Brickels. Members of the Tactical Response Team (TRT), Public Order Policing (POP) and Anti-Gang Unit (AGU) demonstrated their operational readiness through patrols and targeted search operations focusing on gang activity, illegal firearms and drug trafficking in the area.

Throughout the visit, SAPS members showcased the effectiveness of coordinated crime prevention strategies, including visible policing, intelligence-driven operations, stop-and-search initiatives and specialised unit deployments. Despite the challenging conditions often faced in high-crime areas, SAPS members demonstrated resilience, professionalism and dedication to protecting communities.

First Chief Inspector Caroy expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to witness SAPS operations firsthand, noting that a first impression is a lasting impression. He indicated that he was impressed, grateful and amazed at what SAPS members can achieve under conditions that many would consider extremely challenging. He further said policing is unique in every part of the world, and the Western Cape Police Service continues to demonstrate its ability to adapt to the complex and evolving needs of the communities it serves.

The four-day international policing showcase was led by Colonel Nendauni, Captain Mlamla and Captain Van Wyk, who successfully coordinated the programme and ensured that the visiting delegation gained meaningful exposure to SAPS policing methods.



Mr Bertrand Caroy assisted by taking the illegal alcohol to the van.



An operation in Delft underway.



he film crew receives a briefing about the field where drugs are allegedly hidden before being distributed for sale.



Police looking for hidden drugs in a field.



Officers waiting outside a house where an operation was taking place.



An operation underway on the streets of Cape Town.



DIVISIONS PROMOTE WELLNESS TO ENHANCE QUALITY SERVICE DELIVERY

By WO Amos Ndlovu and Intern Mulweli Mashala

Photographs by Intern Thakane Mofokeng

Members took part in a lively cardio-intensive aerobics session, promoting endurance, energy, and team spirit.

To encourage members to prioritise their mental, physical and financial wellbeing, various divisions of the South African Police Service (SAPS) gathered at the SAPS Tshwane Academy Rugby Field, on 13 March 2026, for a combined Fitness, Health and Wellness Event.

The holistic event brought together members from the Divisions: Human Resource Management (HRM), Legal Services, and Component: Auxiliary Services, with support from various sponsors and stakeholders who provide financial and health services to SAPS members. The day commenced with an endurance-building 5km run, followed by energising, cardio-intensive aerobics, and concluded with a spirited, team-building tug of war.

The comprehensive initiative served as an important platform to remind SAPS employees that good health is essential for effective service delivery. By encouraging employees to prioritise physical fitness, mental wellbeing and financial stability, SAPS continues to promote a healthier and more resilient workforce dedicated to serving the people of South Africa.

Welcoming attendees, Brig Ameliah Mashego, the Section Head for Support Services under Legal Services, encouraged employees to take ownership of their health and wellbeing. She emphasised that fitness is not only about physical transformation but also about mental strength and resilience. "Let us embark on this journey together by prioritising our health, wellness and mental wellbeing. Let us make 2026 a year of transformation, not only in achieving our goals but also in improving our lifestyle habits," Brig Mashego said.

Furthermore, Brig Mashego urged employees to incorporate healthy lifestyle habits into their daily routines, noting that improved health contributes to productivity and overall organisational wellbeing.

Also addressing the gathering, the Section Head: Social Work Services, Brig Clement Matlala from Division: HRM emphasised that employees must take responsibility for their health and wellness. "Our health and fitness are our wealth. It is important that employees adopt healthy lifestyle habits and take care of their physical and mental wellbeing," said Brig Matlala. He further highlighted the importance of simple



Members enjoying the 5km run, demonstrating commitment to physical fitness and overall wellbeing.



Col Maponya and Brigadier Mashego present packs to the first-place finishers of the 5km run, celebrating achievement and encouraging continued participation in fitness activities.

practices such as drinking enough water and maintaining a balanced lifestyle.

Before the members began their exercises, Colonel Taolo Maponya, Section Commander for Physical Fitness Maintenance under the Division: Human Resource Development shared a message with employees, where he emphasised the importance of maintaining physical fitness and attending regular health screenings. He mentioned that every step SAPS members take towards fitness moves them miles away from medical conditions and encouraged members to attend their annual medical check-ups to stay informed about their health status.

Col Maponya also highlighted that many individuals live with medical conditions such as hypertension without being aware of it. Given the demanding nature of policing, he stressed that SAPS members must maintain a high level of physical fitness. "Police work requires members to remain physically fit. Obesity should not have room within the police service, and initiatives such as this event guide members in the right direction," he added.

Stakeholders actively participated in the event, providing information and services aimed at supporting SAPS employees. Representatives from POLMED highlighted benefits available to members, including a 9 weeks gym programme and mental health support services at no additional cost. Other stakeholders including AVBOB, Metropolitan, UNUM Credit and Assupol shared information on financial planning, policy benefits and the importance of maintaining mental health.



Members engaged in a spirited tug of war, highlighting teamwork, collaboration, and friendly competition.



Members engaged in a spirited tug of war.



Brigadier Matlala joined members during the 5km run, leading by example and actively participating in the wellness initiative.



Members took part in a cardio-intensive aerobics session at the SAPS Tshwane Academy Rugby Field.

OVER 1 000 PARTICIPANTS UNITE FOR FITNESS AT THE SAPS–POLMED RACE

By Capt Sisonke Mlamla
Photographs by Const Sakela Lita

More than 1000 participants laced up their running shoes on 01 March 2026, for a vibrant celebration of fitness, unity and community at the SAPS–POLMED 10KM Race, hosted at the Buffs Club in East London, Eastern Cape.

Members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the broader community came together to promote health and wellness through walking and running, reinforcing the importance of maintaining a balanced lifestyle and staying physically active.

POLMED Principal Officer, Ms Khaueo, joined by POLMED and SAPS dignitaries, supported the initiative and encouraged members to make exercise part of their daily routine in order to prevent ailments that could hinder their ability to perform their duties effectively.

“It was our first race in the Eastern Cape, and going forward every province will host it,” said Ms Khaueo. She described the race as a great success, praising the men and women in blue who showcased their strength and determination on the road.

Ms Khaueo further commended SAPS runners for their mental resilience. “Anyone who can complete these kilometre runs in such impressive times is mentally fit. Our members have demonstrated that they are strong and capable,” she said.

Acting Eastern Cape Provincial Commissioner, Major General Kupiso, who completed her first-ever 10KM race, described the event as marvellous. She praised the favourable weather conditions.

“If I managed to run 10KM for the first time, then everyone else can do it too. A healthy body and a healthy mind are what we need from our members. We must stay fit as members of this organisation.”

Western Cape Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Patekile, said he also ran alongside the Eastern Cape MEC for Community Safety, as well as the Regional Commissioner for Correctional Services. “I saw many police men and women smiling and enjoying the race. That is exactly what we wanted to see – enjoyment and enthusiasm from our members,” said Lt Gen Patekile.

During the prize-giving ceremony, dignitaries presented awards to the top finishers in various categories, commending their dedication to a healthy lifestyle and encouraging them to inspire fellow members to join the movement towards fitness and wellbeing.

One of the winners, Constable Nsuku Mathonsi from the Limpopo Burgersdorp Public Order Policing (POP) Unit, said the race felt easy because she trains almost every day. “Running keeps me healthy, both mentally and physically,” she said.

Another winner, PAC Themba Dlamini, said he thoroughly enjoyed the race. “It was amazing. I encourage members to train. It is not just about winning; it is about staying healthy,” he said.



SAPS members and community participants showcase their strength and determination during the SAPS–POLMED 10km Race in East London.

One of the participants from the Department of Correctional Services runner, Mr Avile Songwelo, who was the pacing runner “Bus Driver” for 50 minutes, said the role was both challenging and rewarding. “It was my first time being a bus driver, and it was a bit challenging, but I enjoyed it and managed to bring everyone in on time,” he said.

Mr Songwelo, who started running in 2019, reflected on his journey. “When I started running, I never thought I would ever run more than 10 kilometres. I do not run to compete with anyone. I run to maintain the healthy lifestyle I am building,” he said, thanking POLMED for the opportunity.

After crossing the finish line, participants enjoyed relaxing massages and accessed primary healthcare services provided at the venue.

WINNERS OF THE SAPS–POLMED 10KM RACE 2026

OPEN FEMALES
1 st : Nsuku Mathonsi – 42:11
2 nd : Stella Tsakani Khoza – 49:34
3 rd : Denga Mashavha – 50:39
OPEN MALES
1 st : Mbulelo Speelman – 34:17
2 nd : Themba Dlamini – 34:39
3 rd : Ncebo Mabotja – 34:58
AGE CATEGORIES
Female 40+: Stella Tsakani Khoza – 49:34
Male 40+: Mbulelo Speelman – 34:17



The top three finishers in the Open Females category proudly display their medals and prizes during the prize-giving ceremony at the SAPS-POLMED 10km Race.



Constable Mathonsi arriving at the finishing line of the race.



Acting Eastern Cape Provincial Commissioner, Major General Kupiso delivering her speech at the SAPS-POLMED 10km Race prize giving.



Western Cape Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Patekile delivering his speech motivating athletes.



Participants gathered at the starting line as excitement built ahead of the SAPS-POLMED 10km Race held at Buffs Club in East London.



Dignitaries gathered together, demonstrating their commitment to promoting health, fitness, and wellness among members and the broader community.



One of the winners in the Open Males category at the prize giving ceremony.



SAPS management and participants alongside Eastern Cape Community Safety MEC Nqata.

WOMEN'S NETWORK AND MEN FOR CHANGE DONATE 45 PAIRS OF SCHOOL SHOES

By WO Amos Ndlovu

Photographs by WO Amos Ndlovu and Intern Thakane Mofokeng



Women's Network and Men for Change team, joined by learners to mark a joyful and memorable day. Members of the Belgian film crew with SAPS officers during their visit to Manenberg Police Station, where they documented the daily work and operations.

What started as a simple but urgent request for donations of school shoes and socks became a meaningful effort to assist learners in need at N'wa-Mhinga Primary School in Saulsville, Pretoria. Recently, Women's Network and Men for Change within the Division: Financial Management Services (FMS) generously contributed, and from their own pockets, they managed to raise enough to afford 45 pairs of school shoes and socks, black pants and two golf T-shirts through a Back-to-School initiative.

Education is often cited as the key to success, while this is true, for many children from disadvantaged backgrounds, it is also a lifeline and an escape to a better future. Driven by this understanding, the FMS employees' Back-to-School initiative aimed at supporting learners.

Representatives from the Women's Network and Men for Change's visit at N'wa-Mhinga Primary School displayed that the South African Police Service (SAPS) cares about the communities it serves.

The programme opened with heartfelt remarks from the school's leadership and the FMS representatives centred on the theme of the day: "You matter, you are special, and your circumstances do not define your destination." Without using so many words, Finance Clerk (FC) Dudu Ndebele, the Chairperson of Women's Network in Division: FMS outlined the purpose of the visit.

The team went beyond the act of donating by washing the children's feet and fitting the learners with new school shoes as a symbolic gesture of love, care and encouragement to step into a brighter future. This was a restoration of dignity, to show that they matter and that they are special despite their circumstances and where they come from, which was the theme of the day. As the children stood up in their new school shoes, the atmosphere was filled with joy and smiles all round.

On behalf of the Women's Network and Men for Change representatives,

Finance Clerk Nonhlanhla Makhubela conveyed appreciation to all employees who contributed. "We wish to extend a sincere gratitude to every employee who contributed. Your kindness has ensured that 45 children now walk to school with pride and comfort. This initiative proves that when we lead with love, we change lives," said FC Makhubela.

The SAPS Women's Network and Men for Change continue to work together to strengthen relations between communities and SAPS. Through social responsibility and community outreach programmes, including donations of food hampers, school uniforms, and essential items, these platforms aim to restore dignity and bring hope to vulnerable households.



Men for Change Chairperson for the Division: Financial Management Services, Secretary Thato Mahlangu, together with Deputy Principal Muthati, hand over new school shoes to a learner.

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

By Lt Col Kleingeld

World Social Work Day was celebrated on 17 March 2026 with the theme: Co-Building Hope and Harmony and the SAPS Social Work Services would like to raise awareness that there is HEALING for trauma.

The theme draws inspiration from the African philosophy of Harambee, a collective call for mutual support, and shared responsibility. The theme is a reminder that the only sustainable way forward is through cooperation and co-creation.

At its heart, social work is a profession rooted in the values of human dignity, social justice, and community participation. These values affirm that no society can thrive when its people are divided or excluded. The theme underscores the urgent need to restore trust and to rebuild bonds.

The choice of Harambee literally meaning “pulling together” has long served as a rallying call in Kenya and across Africa, mobilising communities for self-help and collective development. Beyond its literal meaning, Harambee embodies the spirit of shared responsibility, where every individual contributes what they can. In this way, it resonates with the African ethic of Ubuntu; but with a practical emphasis on joint action and shared effort.

It challenges us to move beyond service delivery towards systems change. It reminds us that peace is not merely the absence of violence, but the presence of justice, inclusion, and opportunity.

World Social Work Day 2026 is therefore a global call: to heal division, to strengthen resilience, and to shape a fairer and more sustainable future.



WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY
17 MARCH 2026 | #WSWD2026

CO-BUILDING Hope & Harmony

A Harambee
Call to Unite
a Divided Society



It urges us to recognise that no single actor can overcome today's challenges alone – that hope and harmony are only possible when we “pull together”.

As a Kenyan proverb teaches us: “Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.” In the same spirit, this theme affirms that when humanity unites in Harambee – pulling together as one, no adversity is too great to overcome, and no dream of justice, peace, and dignity is beyond reach. <https://www.ifsw.org/social-work-action/world-social-work-day/world-social-work-day-2026/>

The South African author Yvonne Retief's central message in her book “Healing for Trauma – in the South African Context” is that there IS healing and hope for victims of trauma!

In the book she explains that although the word “trauma” comes from the Greek word meaning “wounded” (physically and emotionally) and even though you might feel that nothing would ever be “normal” again, since you have lost your vision for the future HELP IS AVAILABLE as long as you accept that dealing with trauma has nothing to do with being strong.

A traumatised person has been psychologically wounded and the normal reaction to such wounding is emotional pain. After a traumatic experience people often look at the world as if through a different pair of spectacles – their outlook on life (I thought I was safe), their view of God (I thought God would always protect me) and their view of themselves (I thought I was strong) could be shaken.

Most people do NOT know that a traumatic experience usually follows an established course and that your reaction might be entirely of a biological nature – if a traumatic experience like a death, an armed robbery, a violent hijacking or a painful abortion is NOT processed, it would most probably lead to a physical reaction. Something reminds you of the traumatic experience and you react instinctively as though you were back in that situation.

A reaction like this could be embarrassing and could lead to you withdrawing from others and becoming lonely, because they do NOT know when something might happen to cause a reaction.

What happens is that the amygdala (2 small almond-shaped organs on either side of your head inside your brain that are made up of neurons and interpret information as “threatening” or ‘non-threatening” enabling you to react instinctively to signs of danger) remains sensitive following an UNPROCESSED traumatic experience and kicks in automatically before the logical part of your brain could step in and interpret a sign as non-threatening.

Any later event that the amygdala associates with the previous traumatic experience causes this immediate, automatic response and serves as a so-called TRIGGER.

So those voices from the past telling you that you are a weakling and that you should be strong and not go for help, have NOT taken the way your body works into account and are causing you a lot of unnecessary damage!

Sometimes people do have a delayed response – they seem to have functioned quite normally, and the reality of the situation only hits them later when they experience another traumatic event like a divorce. Then it is as though their ability to deal with negative life experiences are simply overwhelmed.

Other people subconsciously cover up an experience and go about their business quite normally for weeks, months and even years before the impact of a traumatic experience hits them. And then a relatively minor incident could revive an experience from the past.

Victims are sometimes hesitant to seek help, as they want to avoid the pain of reliving the incident during its re-telling, BUT in the meantime,

the very incident they are trying to avoid keeps playing itself out in their mind's eye. This is also why the person feels that the incident will NOT pass. They often turn to alcohol or drugs to find relief from the situation and the long-term consequences of this, are of course, catastrophic to themselves, their family and the community!

PTSD sets in when a process of healing, adjustment and acceptance fails to happen - time is a healer for some, but not for all. It is like you have a shelf in your brain with a series of files. Each one covers an experience or a time in your life. Things you have dealt with or integrated are in organised files – the documents arranged in chronological order and the unnecessary documentation thrown away. These files are neat and tidy, but then there are the files that have NOT been dealt with – they are disorganised, stuffed with loose documents and sometimes they contain incorrect documents from other files.

Remaining in the phase where you try to avoid people, places and situations that remind you of the incident causes so much of your emotional energy to be bound up in the traumatic event, that you struggle forming healthy emotional connections and sometimes become aggressive or depressed. The more stressed you are, the more tense your muscles are, causing them to become fatigued and inefficient over time. Physical symptoms start to manifest when the body is in constant distress. Often even physical pain could warn the person that there is still emotional work to be done. Healing for Trauma: In the South African Context Yvonne Retief (Struik Christian Media 2023)

It IS, however, POSSIBLE to become healthy after an experience that you thought you would never be able to get past! HELP IS also AVAILABLE.

We, at Social Work Services together with Psychological Services and Spiritual Services would like to encourage all SAPS employees to make use of the services of the Employee Health and Wellness (EHW) functionaries assigned to your workplaces to see to it that you work through unprocessed trauma for you to be healed from it so it would no longer have an effect on your functioning.

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 to be referred.

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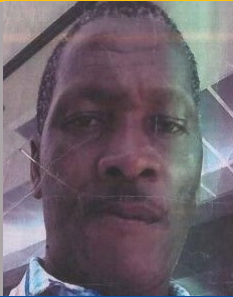
Capt Komane
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KomaneMS@saps.gov.za





MISSING PERSONS

ELIAS THOKO NTULI



**(52) Male
Olievenhoutbosch
Last seen: 2024-08-03**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.
Olievenhoutbosch 1/8/2024
Investigating officer: Const MR Chueu
Tel: 011 547 9111

LEHLOHONOLO SENOA



**Male
Olievenhoutbosch
Last seen: 2025-10-31**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.
Olievenhoutbosch 3/1/2026
Investigating officer: Const MR Chueu
Tel: 011 547 9111

MAUREEN SIBANDA



**(34) Female
Mamelodi East
Last Seen: 2026-02-14**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.
Mamelodi East 7/2/2026
Investigating officer: Capt NS Lebopa
Tel: 012 730 1388

SISIPHO GWENTSHU



**(27) Female
Orlando
Last Seen: 2025-11-11**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since. She was wearing blue trousers and black T-shirt.
Orlando 9/1/2026
Investigating Officer: Const Z Gungqu
Tel: 011 373 3300

APIWE PATULENI



**(31) Male
Boksburg
Last Seen: 2026-03-03**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since. He was wearing a navy-blue shorts, light green jacket and yellow hat.
Boksburg 1/3/2026
Investigating Officer: Sgt ST Hlatswayo
Tel: 011 841 6800

MAVELOUS CINDI PHAKATHI



**(27) Female
Boksburg
Last Seen: 2025-12-23**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.
Boksburg 4/12/2025
Investigating officer: Sgt ST Hlatswayo
Tel: 011 841 6800

LEAH MAWAKHE MAHLANGU



**(51) Female
Kwa Thema
Last Seen: 2025-11-04**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.
KwaThema 2/11/2025
Investigating officer: Lt Col AS Lukhele
Tel: 011 810 6100

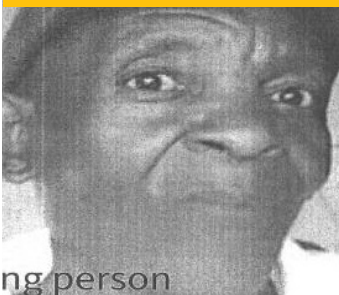
TLANGELANI NYALUNGU



**(28) Female
Diepsloot
Last seen: 2024-02-05**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.
Diepsloot 8/12/2024
Investigating officer: WO AG Negogogo
Tel: 011 464 0980

ALBERT ZUNGU



**(73) Male
Orlando
Last seen: 2025-08-18**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.
Orlando 10/8/2025
Investigating Officer: Sgt JM Matshaba
Tel: 011 983 4800

ZANDILE PENELOPE CEBEKHULU



**(36) Female
Kliptown
Last seen: 2026-01-19**

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.
Kliptown 3/1/2026
Investigating Officer: Sgt NT Mabunda
Tel: 011 945 5924


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.


BONGINKOSI SEUN MABUZA



**MURDER
MATSULU
CAS 52/2/2017**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A MURDER CASE.
Investigating officer: Sgt BS Sibiya
013 778 8162
0823348822


MUZUVUKILE MAHAYE



**MURDER
BUSHBUCKRIDGE
CAS 3/7/2019**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A MURDER CASE.
Investigating officer: Const CT Ndaba
013 762 4458

BHEKUYISE SAMSON MAZIBUKO



**RAPE
CHRISSESMEER
CAS 38/4/2024**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A RAPE CASE.
Investigating officer: Const NY Ngenya
017 778 0199
0825696605


LUCKY SIPHO NKUNA



**RAPE
VOSMAN
CAS 330/11/2019**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A RAPE CASE.
Investigating officer: Const LP Mathibela
013 655 5082
0824942174


IRFAN MUHAMMAD



**SEXUAL ASSAULT
KRIEL
CAS 59/5/2024**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE.
Investigating officer: Sgt BS Nkadameng
013 655 506
0798915847

PHILANI ERNEST ZUMA



**RAPE
ERMELO
CAS 167/2/2025**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A RAPE CASE.
Investigating officer: Const KV Ngongwane
017 819 2321
0784173777

SERGIO LOURENCO MATAVELE



**FAILED TO APPEAR IN COURT
CARLETONVILLE
CAS 192/5/2024**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A FAILING TO APPEAR IN COURT CASE
Investigating Officer: Capt V Meyer
011 951 1978
0827789155

SIMPHIWE JOHN DLAMINI



**BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL
PIENAAR
CAS 197/2/2020**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL CASE.
Investigating Officer: Sgt BR Mabunda
0832633026

AARON THOMAS SKOSANA



**THEFT OF STOCK
MIDDELBURG MPUMALANGA
CAS 30/3/2018**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A STOCK THEFT CASE
Investigating Officer: Capt BD Mokoena
013 249 1521
0714733421

GIVEN TEDDYNES MKHATSHWA



**POSSESSION OF UNLICENSED FIREARM
SKUKUZA CAS 27/4/2015**

THIS MAN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A POSSESSION OF UNLICENSED FIREARM CASE.
Investigating Officer: Sgt MI Mhlongo
0713549427

**SAPS CRIME STOP
08600 10111**



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