

MEDIA STAMENT



"Our Member Are Our Interest"



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IPUSA WARNS SAPS NOT TO HEED THE CALL FROM THE COMMUNITY OF WESTRAND TO REPLACE POLICE OFFICERS AS THAT IS NOT ONLY ILLEGAL BUT ALSO SET A WRONG PRECEDENT.

IPUSA have learnt recently that there are attempts made by a certain group of citizens in the Westrand who wants station commanders and members to be replaced because they are believed to be eating from the pockets of the criminals, hence the crime is spiraling out of control. This call will not be the first one to be unlawful and unprocedural, as one such call was made during the time of minister Mbalula when he was the minister of police, removed senior officers and made them overseers elsewhere. The court did not take kindly to this and punish minister's conduct with costs and reinstatement. Coincidentally, the then minister was responding to calls made by the same communities of Westrand. We warn the current minister not to repeat the same mistake.

SAPS must know that popular decisions will not save it from initiating fundamental structural reforms which we as the union has been calling for, to change the way we provide our services to our communities. This structural deformity is not only hurting the community of Westrand alone, but the entire South Africa. Manpower and vehicles aren't issues which can be resolved now, but over a period. The structure we are using now makes members of the SAPS get overwhelmed by crime. Our members are working under very severe conditions, and we beg South Africans to understand this.

The issue of the zamazamas, unfortunately, it is not something new and need government multifaceted approach. The army was there to clamp down on the movement of people to minimize the spread of covid and we can do it again using the same method this time to stop

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the use of these open mines by people who are viewed to be coming from neighboring countries. These people are not only committing contact crimes but with the help of some of the Home affairs officials, remove our people from their houses as well. So, you need a multi-party approach to deal with this.

But the current reactive approach will take us nowhere other than pit one against each other and at the end SAPS becomes the victim of all other department's weaknesses.

We are also asking management to consider changing the structure of the SAPS to enable members to work within the resources they have and ease the tension they find themselves working in. We are happy that members of the community also raised the issue of district commanders who happen to be spectators when they are supposed to be providing support to stations falling within their area of jurisdiction. They are not known because the current structure does not allow them to participate in crime fighting. This is a wasteful expenditure.

There is no short cut to this and should the management continue and act on the call to replace members from these stations in a quest to appease the communities of Westrand on the expense of our members, IPUSA will have no other option but to go to court and interdict that process. It is not a threat but a promise.

We need to go back to basics and do what we are supposed to be doing as SAPS. Where there are complaints about our members whose standards are below par, implement available policies to address that. Most South Africans are very well alive to workers rights in our country as most of them are workers and protected by same at their working environment. SAPS has performance measuring tools for all its employees at all various levels of its existence and should be utilized to judge their performance and not generalize. Generalization destroys the morale of the most committed members in the service, and we should not allow that to happen.

We also call upon the community to utilize the available platforms to raise their concerns by participating in policing by forming part of the Community Policing Forum (CPF), so that they can input on the types of policing they want. These structures are legal in nature and complaints lodged through them may see the office of the Minister intervening, if the local and Provincial offices have failed to address them. We shouldn't wait for the IMBIZOS. They are incidental (reactional) and may not happen if things are perceived to be normal.

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