



**Address By MEC Responsible for Community Safety, Roads and  
Transport – Hon MaQueen Joyce Letsoha-Mathae**

**27 February 2024**

Provincial Commissioner, Gen Motswenyane

Representatives of the National Commissioner

District Commissioners and their Representatives

Representatives of the ProvJoints

CPF Provincial Board Chairperson, Mr Sebeela

Officers and members of the South African Police Service

Chairpersons or representatives of unions SAPU and POPCRU

Members of the South African Police Service (SAPS),

And most importantly, our newest members of the South African Police  
Service – the graduating constables!

Distinguished guests,

Ladies & Gentlemen,



Today, we stand together united not only by the blue stripe that runs across our chests, but by a profound sense of gratitude and respect. We are here to celebrate the exceptional service and dedication of our police officers, those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve and protect our communities in this province.

### **To the esteemed recipients of medals**

Let this day serve as a testament to the unwavering commitment you have demonstrated throughout your tenure in the police force. You have faced danger head-on, endured countless hours away from loved ones, and consistently placed the safety and well-being of others before your own. These medals represent not just years of service, but countless acts of bravery, compassion, and unwavering dedication.

We all know that the path of a police officer is not an easy one. It is a profession defined by sacrifice, resilience, and a willingness to confront challenges without fear. You have not only upheld the law but have served as beacons of hope and inspiration, building trust and forging strong bonds with the communities you serve.



## **To the broader SAPS family**

Let the achievements we celebrate today serve as a source of immense pride and motivation. Each and every one of you plays a vital role in upholding the law and building a safer future for our province. Your commitment inspires many of us to follow suit, creating a ripple effect of dedication and service that stretches far beyond these grounds. This day is not just about recognizing past achievements, but also about looking towards the future. The challenges we face as a society are ever-evolving, and your continued commitment is essential. We must remain vigilant, adaptable, and continuously strive to build stronger relationships with the communities we serve.

Together, we can create a safer and more secure future for all. I commend each and every one of you for your dedication, and I pledge my unwavering support as you continue to serve with distinction.



Ladies and gentlemen

We also stand here today to witness the culmination of rigorous training

of our new constables. We are enjoined to welcome them into the noble family of the South African Police Service.

This graduation marks a significant milestone – not just for you as individuals, but for our nation as a whole. By integrating you into the SAPS, we are not only taking a stand against unemployment – but we are also taking a crucial step towards building **safer communities** across our beloved province and country. The fight against crime is a complex and ongoing battle, and we rely on the strength, dedication, and integrity of our police officers to secure a brighter future for all our people. You, the new constables, represent a vital addition to our ranks, bringing fresh energy and perspectives. But this journey is not solely about combating crime. As police officers, you also play a crucial role in **building trust and fostering positive relationships with the communities you serve. You are the bridge between citizens and the law, and your actions will shape public perception and strengthen the fabric of our society.**



As you embark on your careers as police officers, remember that you are not just law enforcers, but also ambassadors for the SAPS. You embody the values of **integrity, professionalism, and service** that are the cornerstones of our organization.

Therefore, I urge you to wear the emblem of the SAPS with **pride and patriotism**. You are the embodiment of our nation's commitment to safety and justice. Hold fast to the values we espouse, and always strive to uphold the highest ethical standards.

The road ahead will be challenging, demanding both physical and mental fortitude. However, remember that you are not alone. You are joining a dedicated and supportive force, a brotherhood and sisterhood bound by a shared purpose, and a commitment to serving the greater good.



Congratulations on your integration, graduating constables. We stand with you as you embark on this extraordinary journey.

**To all men and women in blue**

May your dedication, integrity, and unwavering service forever shine brightly, contributing to a safer and more secure future for all.

Kea leboha!

Thank You!

Siyabulela!

Baie Dankie!