



MINISTRY OF POLICE

ADDRESS BY THE ACTING MINISTER OF POLICE, MR FIROZ CACHALIA, AT THE PARADE AHEAD OF JUNE 30 OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT, 28 JUNE 2026, DURBAN, KZN

Thank you Programme Director, Brigadier Naidoo,

Let me acknowledge the Premier of KZN, Mr Ntuli,,

the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Major General Makoba,

Divisional Commissioner: Visible Policing and Operations, Lt General Mamotheti,

Senior Management of the South African Police Service,

Leadership of our law enforcement agencies,

Secretary of the Community Police Forum, Mr Biyela,

Men and women in uniform,

Good morning.

Today we stand together ahead of an important operational deployment. On Tuesday, South Africans in various parts of the country will exercise their constitutional right to assemble, demonstrate and express their views. As law enforcement officers, our role is not to take sides in any public debate. Our role is to uphold the Constitution, enforce the law without fear, favour or prejudice, and ensure that public order is maintained.

The responsibility that rests on your shoulders is significant. You are entrusted with protecting both the rights of those who choose to demonstrate and the rights of every other person who lives, works or travels through the affected communities. These are not competing responsibilities—they are complementary constitutional obligations.

Let me be unequivocal: the South African Police Service is not deployed to prevent lawful demonstrations. We are deployed to ensure that they take place safely, securely and in an orderly manner. We are there to protect life, safeguard property, prevent criminality and respond swiftly should any individual seek to exploit these legitimate grievances to commit acts of violence, intimidation, vandalism or any other offence.

Every member deployed on Tuesday must remember that your authority is derived from the law, and your conduct must always remain within the confines of the law. Professionalism, discipline and restraint are not optional—they are fundamental to policing in a constitutional democracy. Every decision you make, every instruction you issue and every action you take must be lawful, proportionate and accountable.

Treat every person with dignity and respect. Exercise your powers fairly and impartially. Do not be provoked into conduct that undermines the badge you wear or the oath you have taken. Equally, do not hesitate to act decisively where the law is broken. Criminal conduct, regardless of

who commits it or under what banner it is committed, must be dealt with firmly and lawfully.

As officers of the law, you must also remain alert to the fact that public gatherings can change rapidly. Good planning, clear communication, effective coordination and disciplined execution will be critical to ensuring the safety of both demonstrators and the wider public. Work closely with your commanders, remain vigilant and support one another throughout your deployment.

The public will judge not only the outcome of Tuesday's operations, but also the manner in which you conduct yourselves. Your professionalism has the power to build confidence in policing and to demonstrate that the rule of law remains the cornerstone of our democracy.

I have every confidence in your training, your commitment and your ability to execute your duties with integrity. The overwhelming majority of South Africans want peace, stability and safety. They are looking to you to provide reassurance through your presence and confidence through your professionalism.

As you deploy, remember that you are ambassadors of the South African Police Service and custodians of the constitutional values we have all sworn to protect. Carry out your duties with courage, discipline and

respect for the law. Return home safely to your families once your mission has been completed.

I thank you for your service, your sacrifice and your unwavering commitment to the people of South Africa. May you have a safe and successful operation.

I thank you.