



20 March 2020

Lt Gen Khehla Sithole
National Commissioner of the South African Police Service
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Urgent action required to protect public servants from Nehawu

Dear Lieutenant General Sithole,

I hereby alert you to the repeated public threats issued by Nehawu and other labour unions to proceed with a planned protest march, involving 20 000 public servants, on 30 March 2020.

A series of comments made to the media by Zola Saphetha, Nehawu's secretary general, as well as a statement issued today by Nehawu, have confirmed that they intend to proceed with the mass protest in direct and deliberate violation of the emergency measures currently in place to fight against the novel coronavirus outbreak.

The planned march has the potential to expose thousands of public servants, as well as members of the broader public, to the deadly novel coronavirus. Even one infection resulting from the planned march can spread like wildfire.

In the interest of public safety, I hereby demand to know what measures SAPS is taking to avert this looming disaster. What concrete steps are in place to prevent Nehawu from undertaking this protest action, thereby defying government's emergency measures and potentially exposing thousands of public servants and the broader South African public to the coronavirus?

Will Nehawu leaders be arrested if they refuse to cancel the planned march?

I request that you urgently respond to this letter, as panic is starting to set in amongst concerned workers who will be forced to attend this march, as well as amongst members of the public who fear being exposed to the coronavirus due to Nehawu's irresponsible actions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Schreiber'.

Dr Leon Schreiber MP
DA Shadow Minister of Public Service and Administration