



MEDIA RELEASE Eastern Cape PSA calls for upgrading of security following shooting at Uitenhage Provincial Hospital

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is deeply concerned following a gang related shooting that took place recently at Uitenhage Provincial Hospital. A shootout ensued between rival gang members leaving staff and patients running for cover in different directions. Security personnel were no match for these armed criminals. This incident led to the Hospital coming to a standstill for more than two hours.

The PSA is urging government to beef up security in hospitals, as health security guards are no match to these gangsters. Staff and patients are solely relying on the Department for their safety and security in health premises. The PSA strongly believes that no Department can be able to avert these criminal activities without the involvement of SAPS. The PSA urges the Ministers of Health and Safety and Security to intervene and come up with mechanisms to avert these deadly activities before they get out of control. Workers are already struggling to cope with security risks that are prevalent in their institutions including challenges posed even by patients.

The right to a safe and healthy work environment is a basic Constitutional right that cannot be realised due to the lack of security in these institutions, which includes the safety of the public using these facilities. The PSA once again calls on both Ministers to treat this matter with the urgency it deserves to save public institutions from these gangsters.

END

