



MEDIA RELEASE: Mpumalanga hospital workers: PSA raises concerns about safety

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EMBARGO: None

ENQUIRIES: communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about the low levels of safety for health workers at hospitals and clinics in Mpumalanga following incidents at Kanyamazane Clinic and Mapulaneng Hospital.

At Kanyamazane Clinic criminals allegedly walked past security officials without being noticed, and at Mapulaneng Hospital criminals allegedly attempted to rape and robbed a medical practitioner. The PSA is disturbed that criminals apparently gained access to the Kanyamazane Clinic premises without being detected after they tampered with the electricity. They then tormented employees, with some employees escaping by locking themselves in a room. This happened despite the local police station being hardly a kilometre from the Clinic. At Mapulaneng Hospital, a medical practitioner was attacked by thugs on the Hospital's premises while on her way to the doctors' residential quarters after a nightshift. The doctor was robbed at gunpoint. The perpetrator also attempted to rape her, leaving her traumatised.

The safety of employees is under discussion at the Provincial Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC) where the PSA voiced its concern regarding the terror and fear under which hospital staff members perform their duties. Whilst the matter is receiving attention under the auspices of the Provincial PSCBC, the safety of workers is compromised. The PSA demands the urgent insourcing of security for accountability and control to prevent loss of lives and bodily harm to these health workers.

END