

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA disturbed by high rate of Social Workers hijacked in KwaZulu-Natal**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about the safety of Field Social Workers employed by the Department of Social Development in KwaZulu-Natal, following reports of 14 workers being hijacked while on duty over the past six months

These field workers were hijacked while using state vehicles. The PSA tabled the matter on the agenda of Department of social development labour relations forums during October 2017, yet no action has been taken to safeguard the lives of these employees. We had further submitted a proposal for the installations of tracking devices and department agreed with our proposal but failed to operationalise the plan. The employees are scared to drive state vehicles, fearing for their lives and the loss of their personal belongings.

Employees belongings were stolen during these hijackings and they were not compensated for the losses by the Department. Despite the PSA's ongoing insistence, the Department still refuses to install tracking devices in these government vehicles and to obtain comprehensive insurance cover. Employees have also not received support for counselling from the Department.

The PSA calls on the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Department of Social Development, Nonhlanhla Khoza, to attend to this matter urgently to ensure the safety and well-being of employees.

END