

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls for security upgrade at Soshanguve Secure Care Centre (Jukulyn area)**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is deeply concerned about the Gauteng Department of Social Development's reluctance to engage with unions regarding an incident earlier this month at Soshanguve Secure Care Centre, where armed persons forcibly entered the Centre.

Despite security measures being in place, the perpetrators gained access to the facility, reaching the laundry area, official offices, and children's activity rooms. This incursion led to the expulsion of contracted laundry personnel. The motive behind the armed entry remains unclear, with speculation suggesting issues surrounding tender allocation or rotation amongst companies.

This breach of security significantly jeopardised the safety of employees and children present at the Centre and left them traumatised. The PSA emphasizes the urgent need for the Gauteng Department of Social Development's management to thoroughly investigate the matter. Criminal proceedings should also be instituted against the perpetrators. There is also a pressing need for a comprehensive review of service-provider appointments and the enhancement of security measures at the Centre to prevent future incidents of this nature.

The PSA urges the Gauteng Department of Social Development's management to ensure that the matter is dealt with swiftly and that the necessary action is taken against the individuals who placed the lives of children and employees at risk.

END