

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for urgent intervention to ensure safe workplaces in Uitenhage and Wells Estate in Eastern Cape
DATE	22 July 2025
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) urgently calls on the Eastern Cape MEC for Safety and Liaison, the MEC for Health, and the Premier to intervene decisively to ensure the safety of public servants and community members in violence-affected areas of Uitenhage and Wells Estate in the Eastern Cape.

The PSA is extremely concerned about the continued threat of violence around Rosedale Clinic in Uitenhage's northern areas. The Clinic is situated in an area plagued by ongoing gang-related violence, which has effectively become a warzone, with repeated shootings endangering the lives of employees and patients. Following its closure by concerned community members, the PSA has been actively monitoring developments and supports the temporary relocation of employees to protect their wellbeing. The PSA commends management for prioritising the safety of employees and providing psychological and trauma support but now calls on authorities to deploy specialised task teams to stabilise the area and restore law and order.

The PSA also remains alarmed by persistent safety risks at Wells Estate Clinic. A previous armed robbery left employees traumatised and healthcare services disrupted. Although the facility has partially reopened for emergency services, renewed protests on 15 July 2025, including the burning of tyres and blockading of the Clinic, have reignited fears amongst employees and the public. The PSA stresses that without visible and effective security interventions, the safety of employees and patients remains compromised. Employees continue to receive trauma counselling, and the PSA urges the Department of Health to issue clear guidance for employees who are unable to safely report for duty.

A secure and stable working environment is non-negotiable. The PSA calls on the Eastern Cape government to act with urgency to protect public servants and ensure uninterrupted access to essential healthcare services for all communities.

END