

**MEDIA RELEASE**

PSA commends emergency response to Paarl Hospital fire: Calls for swift restoration of service

**DATE**

29 January 2026

**EMBARGO**

None

**ENQUIRIES**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) commends the swift and effective response of the Drakenstein Fire and Rescue Services, together with personnel of the Western Cape Provincial Health Department, Paarl Hospital, and Emergency Medical Services, following a fire that broke out at Paarl Hospital on 27 January 2026.

The decisive actions taken by emergency and health personnel ensured that the situation was contained promptly, preventing what could have been a far more devastating outcome for patients, staff, and the surrounding community.

The PSA is, however, extremely concerned by reports that the fire was allegedly caused by a person acting with malicious intent. Such conduct placed vulnerable patients and healthcare workers at serious risk and could have resulted in severe injury or loss of life. The PSA condemns any act that deliberately endangers public healthcare facilities and the lives of those who depend on these. Hospitals are places of care and safety, and any threat to their operation is unacceptable.

The PSA urges the Department of Health and relevant law enforcement authorities to take all necessary steps to identify and hold accountable the person responsible for this incident. The PSA also calls on the Department to prioritise the rapid restoration of services at Paarl Hospital to ensure continuity of care for the community.

The PSA will continue to monitor the situation closely and stands in solidarity with healthcare workers and patients affected by this incident.

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