

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA condemns Tembisa Hospital fatal shooting**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about security at public health facilities following the recent fatal shooting of a Nurse at Tembisa Hospital in Johannesburg, Gauteng.

The woman was allegedly shot by her partner who is employed as a SA Police Service official. The PSA is therefore concerned about the ability by the SAPS to ensure that its officers who are allowed to carry weapons are responsible and in the right state of mind. There have been many incidents where police officers killed their spouses and family members with the weapons provided by the state. Government must ensure that stringent measures are put in place to control the allocation of weapons and ammunition to police officers and take steps to assist its officials in dealing with emotional stress. The PSA urges the SAPS to exercise caution and continually assess police officers to ensure that weapons and ammunition are allocated responsibly.

In addition, it must be noted that at many government institutions Security Officers are demotivated, frustrated, overworked, and underpaid, whilst private security companies pocket millions in taxpayers' money. The security insourcing plan of the Gauteng Department of Health was approved but there is a glaring failure to implement. Private security companies are not fully resourced to ensure the safety of workers and members of the public visiting health facilities. This despite exorbitant amounts being paid to these companies that are clearly failing to deliver quality services.

The PSA and other unions will be meeting with the management of Tembisa Hospital with a view of preventing similar tragedies.

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