

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA demands action following armed robbery at Mtulwa Clinic in Pietermaritzburg**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) representing employees at Mtulwa Clinic under the uMgungundlovu Health District in Pietermaritzburg, is aware that the facility has suffered an armed robbery, where staff lost valuable items ranging from the theft of a motor vehicle, a ring, money, clothes, and shoes as well as cellphones, amongst.

It was also reported that the criminals hit employees with a crowbar, which was already stained with blood and threatened to kill them if they failed to co-operate with their demands. Furthermore, the Mtulwa Clinic was also robbed of medication, computers, tablets, and phones. However, what is more disturbing is that the Department of Health in KwaZulu-Natal has not beefed-up security in the facility to protect employees who are mostly woman, instead they instructed employees to continue working as normal.

The PSA wishes to remind the Department of the provisions of Section 8 of *the Occupational Health and Safety Act*, which clearly stipulates that ***“the employer is obligated to provide and maintain a workplace that is safe and without risks to the health of their employees”***.

It is evident that the employer does not care about the wellbeing of employees as the facility is staffed with only two unarmed security officers who are also scared of these criminals. The PSA therefore demands that the Department deploy a stationed security vehicle with armed guards that will deter any criminal elements and keep the employees safe whilst rendering much needed healthcare services to communities.

Failure to comply with this request, would be tantamount to breach of Section 8 of the *OHS Act* and would leave the PSA with no other choice but to approach responsible authorities with evidence that may lead to the closure of the facility. The PSA has requested an urgent meeting with the uMgungundlovu District Office and Appelsbosch Hospital to discuss the listed concerns.

END

