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| MEDIA RELEASE | PSA demands action to address vehicle hijackings and attacks on public servants in KwaZulu-Natal |
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| EMBARGO | None |
| ENQUIRIES | communication@psa.co.za |

The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) is increasingly concerned for the safety of public servants in KwaZulu-Natal who seem to have become targets of brutal attacks whilst operating state vehicles or commuting in their personal cars.

Criminal violence has reached unprecedented levels. The PSA has consistently been raising this critical issue. In recent incidents, a male nurse in the iLembe District and a nurse at Ekuphileni Clinic in uMlazi were hijacked by criminals. In another incident, a social worker driving a state vehicle was hijacked in KwaMaphumulo, whilst accompanied by a five-year-old girl under her care. Both of them were forcibly abducted by the hijackers. The child has since been located and is now safe.

The audacity and frequency of these relentless attacks necessitate immediate and decisive action to combat escalating crime rates in KwaZulu-Natal. The PSA implores the South African Police Service (SAPS) to enhance their presence and visibility and deploy highly trained personnel equipped with advanced technology. Any assault by individuals wielding firearms must unequivocally be declared an act of aggression against the state itself. These criminals have overrun the province, perpetuating a cycle of hijackings and killings that claim new victims in KwaZulu-Natal on a daily basis.

To ensure the safety of workers, the PSA implores government to not brand state vehicles to reduce the risk of exposing public servants. In addition, all state vehicles should be equipped with tracking systems to fortify security measures.

In the PSA's commitment to combatting this crime crisis, the Union also calls on all stakeholders to unite, be vigilant and report criminal activities to the SAPS.

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