

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA demands safety and protection for employees following fatal attack at Mthatha Clinic, Eastern Cape
DATE	10 November 2025
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is shocked and saddened by the brutal attack on two security officers stationed at Bityi Clinic outside Mthatha, in which one officer was fatally shot execution-style and another critically injured.

This senseless act of violence highlights the escalating safety risks faced by employees and contracted security personnel at public service institutions across the Eastern Cape. The PSA has continuously raised concerns about inadequate security at provincial facilities and urged government to prioritise the protection of employees and members of the public. Despite these warnings, many workplaces remain vulnerable owing to insufficient personnel, a lack of proper lighting, non-functional security systems, and poor access control.

When security guards become victims of violent crime, it raises serious concerns about the safety of other employees and the public who depend on these services. No employee should fear for their life whilst serving the community. A safe working environment is not a privilege but a constitutional right.

The PSA calls on the Eastern Cape Department of Health, together with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, and the South African Police Service, to undertake an urgent risk assessment at all health facilities, strengthen security deployment, upgrade safety infrastructure, and ensure the provision of proper equipment, surveillance systems, and lighting. A coordinated safety plan must be developed for all government institutions in the Province and employee safety must be prioritised as a fundamental part of service delivery.

The PSA extends condolences to the family and colleagues of the deceased officer and wishes the injured officer a full and speedy recovery. The PSA will continue engaging the employer to ensure that no public servant or contracted worker is exposed to preventable danger whilst serving the community.

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