MEDIA RELEASE	**PSA demands swift action against criminals after brutal attacks at Merebank Department of Transport in KwaZulu-Natal**
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) is appalled and deeply disturbed by the shocking attack on 26 November 2023 at the Merebank Department of Transport south of Durban in which three female employees were raped during their night shift and three security guards were brutally beaten.

Such barbarism has no place in the society and the PSA thus appreciates the excellent work by the SA Police Service under leadership of the MEC for the Department of Transport and Community Safety, and the Provincial Commissioner, in apprehending some of the suspects. The PSA appeals to the Provincial Commissioner to prioritise the apprehension if the other criminals to ensure that they face the full force of the law.

The PSA commends the Head of Department and its management for their support of PSA members. The Employee Assistance Program is proving instrumental in aiding the recovery and emotional healing of employees. The PSA, however, urges the Department to conduct a comprehensive review of security measures across all departmental buildings. It is imperative that private security guards are armed and equipped with panic buttons. Surveillance cameras must be installed in all departments and offices to safeguard employees.

Criminals are becoming increasingly ruthless, and the Department's security measures must be prepared to counteract such malicious activities. The attack on female employees during the current "16 Days of Activism" campaign, is especially distressing and utterly unacceptable. The PSA urges the Department to consider offering the victims permanent positions, particularly as they may require ongoing medical support and care.

Escalating crime in KwaZulu-Natal, especially in Durban, has resulted in workers falling victim to various criminal acts. To tackle this grave issue, the PSA calls upon all workers to participate in safety and security training to effectively counteract criminal acts.

The PSA expresses support to affected workers as they embark on their journey towards a recovery, with the sincere hope that justice will be swiftly served and that the Department of Transport will take the necessary actions to ensure the safety and security of all employees. The PSA will be in attendance on 29 November 2023 at the Magistrate court to call for the protection of women and children, even beyond the current "16 Days of Activism" campaign.

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