



MEDIA RELEASE **PSA demands urgent action by President on arson at health facilities**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which represents more than 80 000 Health Care workers, is gravely concerned about the spate of arson attacks on health facilities earlier this year and the most-recent incident at Christiana Hospital and Mmabatho Palms in North West.

These attacks have now spread across the country and are regarded as a severe threat to the health and safety of citizens and employees at these institutions. The PSA is already concerned about the imminent collapse of the health system and these attacks on flag-ship hospitals will add to the strain on the health system, which is stretched to its limits by the COVID-19 pandemic. The PSA's previous calls for the establishment of a special unit to investigate these attacks and for decisive action against the culprits fell on deaf ears. It is unfortunate that the PSA's calls were ignored and that to date, there is no confirmation of the causes of the fires at Charlotte Maxeke Hospital in Gauteng and the Modimolle Hospital in Limpopo.

The PSA whilst thanking health workers who stepped up to assist patients and colleagues during these incidents, calls for urgent stringent security measures at health facilities to avoid further damage to infrastructure and ensure the safety of employees and members of the public.

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