

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA denounces barbaric ambush on Mpumalanga Emergency Medical Services: Demands radical shift in frontline security

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EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) stands in solidarity with frontline healthcare professionals following a recent harrowing criminal siege launched against two Emergency Medical Services (EMS) practitioners in Mpumalanga.

The premeditated nature of this assault, utilising road spikes to incapacitate a state ambulance, represents a chilling escalation in the war against the public service. To target employees whose sole vocation is the preservation of human life is an act of moral depravity that transcends common criminality. It is an existential threat to the healthcare apparatus of the Province. It is distressing that these employees, whilst fulfilling their constitutional mandate, continue to be viewed as "soft targets" by opportunistic syndicates.

This incident is a stark indictment of the current security vacuum in Mpumalanga. The PSA demands that the South African Police Service and the National Prosecuting Authority treat this as a priority offense against the state. The PSA expects the launch of relentless, intelligence-led search to apprehend the perpetrators, followed by the application of the full, unmitigated rigour of the law. There must be no leniency for targeting the vulnerability of medical transit.

The PSA reminds the Mpumalanga Department of Health of its non-negotiable statutory obligation under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to ensure a safe working environment. The "Duty of Care" is not a secondary consideration but a primary prerequisite for service delivery. The PSA calls for an immediate and comprehensive audit of high-risk transit routes, the deployment of tactical escorts for inter-facility transfers, and the installation of advanced technological surveillance in all emergency vehicles.

The PSA will no longer tolerate the *status quo* where hands that heal are shackled by the fear of being hunted. The PSA calls on the citizens of Mpumalanga to reject the presence of these criminal elements in their communities. Silence in the face of such barbarism is a form of complicity that endangers every man, woman, and child who may require urgent medical intervention. The PSA urges the public to cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies to ensure these fugitives are found. The PSA will remain vigilant and proactive in holding the employer accountable, ensuring that the blood public servants is not spilled owing to systemic negligence.

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