

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA shocked by shooting incident at Booyens Magistrates Court: Calls for government action
<b>DATE</b>	21 January 2026
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing the majority of employees at South African courts, is extremely concerned following another shooting incident at Booyens Magistrates Court in Johannesburg on 20 January 2026.

The incident, which seems to be linked to a specific case of that Court, left three people injured and resulted in two fatalities. There has been a significant increase in shootings, and even killings, in and around Courts in recent months. These incidents threaten the lives and safety of Court employees and civilians accessing Courts as well as the rule of law in South Africa. The recent shooting incident is a grim reminder of the reality that Courts are increasingly unsafe institutions.

According to reports, the incident occurred in the Court's parking area and left a lawyer and two women injured. The incident highlights the PSA's concerns that security at Courts, both inside and outside these buildings, are lax. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is quick to condemn such incidents and promises to upgrade Court security. Despite this, incidents are continuing unabated. It is ironic and tragic that Courts that are meant to uphold justice and be safe places have become places of violence and harm.

The upgrading of security at Courts by means of, amongst others, permanent security officials, sufficient CCTV cameras, and functioning metal detectors, is paramount to ensuring that these institutions are safe. Such measures alone will, however, not end these attacks. Government must ensure that the law is being upheld by bringing perpetrators to book, successfully prosecuting them, and securing appropriate sentences to deter such attacks.

The PSA calls on law enforcement agencies to ensure that perpetrators of this incident and all other outstanding similar incidents are held accountable for their criminal conduct. The PSA will continue to engage the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in the various bargaining platforms regarding safety and security at Courts.

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