

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA strongly denounces violence in armed robbery at K Clinic in KwaZulu-Natal
<b>DATE</b>	17 July 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) strongly denounces the violent armed robbery at K Clinic on 15 July 2025, where two armed suspects entered the clinic and hijacked a UKZN state vehicle at gunpoint. This traumatic incident has left staff psychologically shaken and afraid to report for duty. It is not an isolated event but rather part of a worrying trend of violent attacks on healthcare facilities in and around the uMlazi area.

The PSA has repeatedly raised concerns about worsening safety conditions in public health facilities, particularly those in uMlazi and other township zones. Despite warnings and previous criminal incidents, clinics continue to operate without proper security infrastructure, putting the lives of health workers and patients at daily risk.

It is indeed a community under siege where workers live in fear. Staff at K Clinics have already been forced to park state vehicles at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital and rely on alternative transport to and from their respective clinics. This workaround, although intended to protect state assets and staff, adds logistical strain, delays service delivery, and reflects the deep failure to address crime in these public institutions.

Health workers are being turned into soft targets in their places of work. They face hijackings, robberies, and threats of violence, yet are still expected to perform critical services under fear and trauma. The PSA maintains that no one should risk their life to do their job, especially not public servants tasked with caring for communities.

The PSA calls for the immediate closure of K Clinic until safety is guaranteed; deployment of permanent, armed security personnel at K, L, and H Clinics, and other high-risk sites in uMlazi; urgent installation of surveillance systems, including CCTV panic buttons, and security fencing to all other clinic facilities around the Umlazi areas.; immediate counselling and trauma support for all affected staff; a high-level task team, involving the Department of Health, South African Police Service (SAPS), labour unions, and local government, to develop a concrete safety plan for all clinics in uMlazi and similar high-risk zones, and the review and strengthening of clinic risk assessments, in consultation with frontline workers.

The PSA reminds government and communities that there is no health system without health workers. When you fail to protect them, you fail the public.

The PSA remains committed to defending the rights, dignity, and safety of its members and will escalate this matter to the Provincial Commissioner of SAPS in KZN.

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