

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls for immediate action following attack at Mamelodi Magistrates' Court**

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 245 000 public-sector employees, including at the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, is extremely concerned employees' following a recent attack on a Prosecutor and a Stenographer at the Mamelodi Magistrates' Court, in Pretoria.

This incident highlights the urgent need for enhanced security measures to ensure the safety of public servants whilst performing their duties. According to reports, a suspect convicted of robbery and damage to property allegedly attacked the two Court officials with a broken bottle immediately after a verdict was handed down. The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development expressed strong condemnation of the attack, stating that such acts of violence will not be tolerated in courts as courts must remain free to fulfil their constitutionally mandated role in administering justice without fear of harm. The Minister also stated that any assault on court officials undermines the authority of the state and will thus not be tolerated.

The PSA echoes the Minister's sentiments and urges the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to take immediate and decisive action to prevent such incidents and ensure that those responsible for this attack are brought to justice.

The PSA further appeals to the Department and the Minister to conduct a thorough and comprehensive security and risk assessment at all court facilities, identify and address any potential lapses in security measures, and implement immediate and effective measures to close security gaps. It should further be ensured that all employees affected by this incident receive trauma counselling and support.

The PSA will continue to monitor the situation closely and will advocate for the highest standards of safety and security for public servants. The PSA remains committed to working with the Department and other stakeholders to ensure that the justice system is safe and secure for all such employees.

END