



MEDIA RELEASE **PSA concerned over crime and gun violence in Eastern Cape's Nelson Mandela Bay District**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about escalating criminal activities and gun violence impacting the safety of communities and public servants in Nelson Mandela Bay in the Eastern Cape, particularly in Uitenhage's Rosedale Village.

Reports by PSA members highlight that Rosedale Village has become a crime hotspot where shootings often occur, posing a significant danger to residents and workers in the area. On the morning of 11 November 2024, a shooting incident forced community members to seek refuge at Rosedale Clinic, underscoring the Clinic's precarious location near gang territorial boundaries. Disembarking from a taxi during the incident, a PSA member was so distressed that she had to be sent home.

The local PSA shop steward also expressed concerns regarding the persistent unsafe conditions in this gang-afflicted area, which have created a constant state of anxiety amongst public servants. These criminal activities, including frequent shootings, add immense pressure to workers in all local government departments, especially those at Rosedale Clinic, as they strive to serve communities amidst dangerous conditions.

When reporting the incident to the District Health Manager, the PSA was met with a dismissive response, failing to acknowledge the risks faced by workers and citizens. The PSA urges the district management of the Department of Health prioritise the safety concerns reported by public servants, particularly given that these violent incidents often occur whilst residents are queueing for services or seeking refuge in government facilities. The PSA further calls on the Minister of Police to deploy additional officers to patrol the area and enhance the safety of public institutions.

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