

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA condemns robbery at Max Madlingozi Clinic in Nelson Mandela Bay and calls for urgent meeting with stakeholders to address safety concerns**

DATE 26 November 2024

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) strongly condemns the armed robbery that took place at Max Madlingozi Clinic in Nelson Mandela Bay on 19 November 2024 where clinic staff were robbed of their belongings and staff transport was hijacked by fleeing assailants.

The incident was reported to Clinic management and the South African Police Service (SAPS). The PSA commends the swift and decisive response by the SAPS, which after a chase, resulted in the arrest of one suspect, and two suspects being shot during an exchange of gunfire.

The PSA emphasises the urgent need for intervention and would welcome an initiative by District Management to arrange a meeting with stakeholders, including security clusters and the local community, to address safety concerns. The Clinic has been temporarily closed to ensure employees can access wellness programmes to recover from the trauma caused by this incident.

Whilst the PSA appreciates these immediate measures, the Union reiterates its call for a proactive approach to the safety of public servants. District Management of the Nelson Mandela Bay is urged to develop and implement a comprehensive safety plan, which includes the allocation of security response teams near major centres and crime hotspots. Such measures are critical to prevent similar incidents and protect government institutions, which have become frequent targets for criminals.

The PSA remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding public servants and calls for urgent action by the Head of Department and MEC of the Department of Health to address these escalating safety threats.

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