

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

29-06-2023

PSA calls for protection of EMS personnel and other staff at all health facilities after attack at Phola Nsikazi CHC

In the early hours of 25 June 2023, an ambulance was hijacked at Phola Nsikazi Community Health Centre (CHC) in Mbombela, whereby government property was destroyed, and two emergency care personnel members were attacked by criminals upon their return to their station at Phola Nsikazi Community Health Centre from a call-out. One of the EMS personnel was shot in the leg and left at the gate whilst the other EMS official was forcefully taken by the criminals. She, however, managed to escape. Security officers were held at gunpoint and the criminals took their personal belongings.

The PSA had an urgent meeting with the employer and South African Police Service (SAPS) in trying to find solutions to the problem. The issue of safety was raised with the employer and the request to prioritise safety at all the health facilities as there is a need for security upgrades, advanced security technological systems and repair all security equipment that is currently not working, especially in the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) unit. The PSA demanded that the traumatised staff should be given recuperation leave and ongoing counselling.

The employer conceded to the demand and the SAPS committed to assist to maintain stability at Phola Nsikazi Community Health Centre. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for 3 July 2023.

GENERAL MANAGER