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**ALL MEDIA HOUSES  
26 APRIL 2024  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAEPU IS JUBILANT TO ANNOUNCE FECUND OUTCOME ON THE ATTACKS  
OF EMERGENCY PERSONNELS IN GAUTENG**

The South African Emergency Personnel's Union (SAEPU) is elated to see that justice has been served for the emergency personnel's whom were kidnapped and assaulted in July 2023 and we are blithe to welcome this positive development that we have been longing for, in the past years and we hope that there will be other arrest for these kind of situations.

A man has been arrested and sentenced to a minimum of 15 years imprisonment in connection to two incidents, where emergency personnel's were hijacked, kidnapped and robbed in Gauteng (Tshwane).

He has been sentenced for imprisonment of two below-mentioned incidents:

The **first incident** happened in Mamelodi (Nellmapius) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023, whereby two emergency personnel's female and male were dispatched to attend to a call for a 48 year old men who collapsed, when the assailants attacked them. The personnel's were searching for the address, two men waved the crew down. The personnel's stopped the ambulance then the assailants pulled out firearms and forced the personnel's to drive to an unknown location.

On arrival to that unknown location the perpetrators took the personnel's to a shack in the bushes, they tied, assaulted and robbed them. They then left them in that shack tied up, helpless and drove away with the ambulance, luckily the personnel's managed to escape and also activated the panic button before they were robbed. The assailants abandoned the ambulance in the streets of Nellmapius.

The personnel's were left with severe injuries, trauma and they robbed them their personal belongings. The ambulance was found and not damaged.

The **second incident** took place in Attredgeville on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023, whereby the personnel's were dispatched to attend to a call in Attredgeville (Brazzaville) at around 10pm where they got hijacked and dumbered at bushes of mangwanane.

Community members saw the ambulance which was abandoned near the hospice with no crews inside and they phoned the hospital to inform them. They robbed them their personal belongings and working tools, fortunately the personnel's were safe and sound when they found them with no injuries.

These kind of incidents are daunting as they not only put the lives of EMS Workers at risk but also make them to have fear to respond to calls or will have to wait for law enforcement agencies before responding those calls.

The Department of Health must ensure that they provide safety to the respondent's when responding to calls in red hot-spot areas.

We urge communities to work with the police to end the senseless attacks as they compromise the duties of the Personnel's.

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