

Head Office  
Po Box 17  
Jane Furse  
1085  
Tel: 076 478 1064  
Fax: 086 636 3523  
E-mail: [saepu.headoffice@gmail.com](mailto:saepu.headoffice@gmail.com)  
[www.saepu.co.za](http://www.saepu.co.za)



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**ALL MEDIA HOUSES  
03 JANUARY 2025  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE ALARMING RISE OF AMBULANCE ATTACK IN LIMPOPO**

The South African Emergency Personnel's Union (SAEPU) is outraged and deeply disturbed by a violent incident involving the attack of an ambulance which occurred on the 01<sup>st</sup> of January 2024 at Thabakhubedi village in Limpopo at around 04:10am.

An Emergency Personnel was returning from transporting a patient to her home when he encountered a group of intoxicated individuals on the Tarven's street. The personnel had passed through the same street earlier without incident while transporting the patient but was met with hostility and violence upon his return. In a shocking display of aggression, they began assaulting the ambulance, opening doors and attempting to jump inside. Fearing for his life, the personnel exercised extreme caution and continued driving to ensure his safety.

We shudder to think of the devastating consequences had there been a patient on board. The lives of both the patient and emergency personnel would have been placed in grave danger. We are truly appalled by this reckless and selfish behaviour displayed by the community members involved in this incident. It is unconscionable that individuals who would presumably require medical assistance in times of need would so callously

endanger the lives of those sworn to help them. This senseless act of violence not only puts the safety of emergency personnel at risk but also jeopardizes the well-being of genuine patients in need of urgent care.

This incident has sent shockwaves through the emergency services community and the personnel will now think twice before responding to emergency calls in certain areas. The psychological impact of this incident should not be underestimated and we worry that it may lead to a decline in morale and reluctance to respond to emergency situations.

SAEPU strongly condemns the attack of ambulances, emergency personnel's and **DEMAND** that authorities take immediate action to ensure the safety and security of emergency personnel. We further demand the employer to arrange counselling for the personnel. We urge the community members to respect and appreciate the selfless work of our members who risk their lives to provide critical care.

Enough is enough, we **DEMAND justice**, We **DEMAND safety** and we **DEMAND respect** for those who serve and protect us every day.

END

ISSUED BY SAEPU  
FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT

SAEPU PRESIDENT  
MPHO MPOGENG

**076 478 1064/ 071 868 6987**

Email: [saepu.headoffice@gmail.com](mailto:saepu.headoffice@gmail.com)