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**ALL MEDIA HOUSES
08 AUGUST 2024
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAEPU CONDEMN SENSELESS ROBBERY ATTACKS ON
EMERGENCY PERSONNEL'S**

The South African emergency personnel's union (SAEPU) is saddened and more concerned about the on-going robberies across the country which are menacing the lives of the emergency personnel's without getting any assistance from the government.

Two emergency personnel's from Eastern Cape were dispatched to collect two ambulances from repairing company garage on the 7th of August 2024 in Kwa-Zulu Natal at around 3pm when they got robbed off their belongings. The personnel's successfully collected the ambulances from the garage and on their way back the female personnel realised that the ambulance that she was driving was running out fuel then she phoned the other personnel who was also driving another ambulance and informed him about the issue of fuel and they both stopped and got off from the ambulances on the N2 route (Durban).

The personnel's were still planning on how to get off from the N2 road to reach the nearest town (Port Shepstone) in order to refill the fuel tank and suddenly an armed guy appeared from nowhere and pointed guns at them forcefully demanding for their belongings. The guy forcefully took their cellphones, watches and wallets.

The personnel's then decided to drive back to the nearest town to ask for help, fortunate enough they were not harmed in any way even the ambulances were not affected. We further request the employer to arrange counselling for the personnel's because being held at a gun-point is traumatic.

SAEPU is calling for law enforcements and the department to ensure that they prioritise the safety of our personnel's by hiring private security guards especially when they are embarking on red zones areas and driving long distances to collect ambulances and patients. We are still reiterating on the decision that EMS workers

should always arm themselves with their legal firearms to protect themselves because we are on our own.

END

Issued by SAEPU
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