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**ALL MEDIA HOUSES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SOUTH AFRICAN PARAMEDICS RISK LIFE AND LIMB AMIDST RISING VIOLENCE AND THEFT.

South African Emergency Personnel's Union (SAEPU) is deeply disturbed and alarmed by the escalating hijackings faced by Emergency Personnel's which are recklessly endangering their lives and compromising their ability to serve the communities.

A female personnel was dispatched to pick up a patient on the 21st of February 2025 at Mathew Goniwe Clinic in Makhaza (Khayelitsha) in Western Cape. However, she was hijacked on the way by unknown perpetrators who made off with the tango vehicle (Patient Transport).

The vehicle was later found abandoned in a nearby area but had been stripped of its parts leaving it inoperable. Fortunately, the personnel escaped unharmed but was left shaken by this traumatic experience. This incident serves as a stark reminder that Emergency Personnel's are constantly exposed to danger and risk while executing their duties.

An incident like this is barbaric, cowardly and completely shocking. This is a proof that something has gone horribly wrong in our society when innocent responders, whose responsibility is to save lives by helping those in emergency situations get attacked and robbed like this.

This is not the first time our personnel's are being robbed in this fashion, this really has to stop. That is why we are calling on our communities to isolate and expose these heartless perpetrators. So it's in the interest of all of us that justice should be served and protect our paramedics at all time. We demand that police or security escorts be provided for all Emergency Medical Transport vehicles when delivering or fetching patients

It is unacceptable that the personnel's who serve our communities with compassion and dedication are urged to operate in an environment where their safety and security are

compromised. It is imperative that concrete measures are put in place to ensure their safety and security while on duty.

Furthermore, we urge the employer to arrange counselling for the personnel's and we are still reiterating our decision for EMS workers to always arm themselves with their legal firearms to protect themselves because we are on our own.

END

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