

MEDIA RELEASE  
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## **KZN Department of Health condemns ambulance hijacking**

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health has condemned in the strongest possible terms the hijacking of an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ambulance in KwaMakhutha township, south of Durban, earlier today (26 October 2014).

It is alleged that the EMS vehicle, with two crew members, had been transporting two patients from KwaMakhutha Clinic to hospital.

While en-route, the ambulance was allegedly flagged down by two males under the pretext that one of them was a patient and needed attention. The driver allegedly stopped the vehicle and alighted. But as he approached the two men, it is alleged they held him up at gunpoint and forced the crew members to get into the back of the vehicle. In the ensuing commotion, one of the crew members allegedly fled from the scene in fear of his life and jumped over a nearby perimeter fence, where he allegedly hid for some time. The assailants allegedly drove the ambulance towards KwaMakhutha before abandoning it and fleeing from the scene. They are still at large.

Fortunately, neither the patients nor the crew members sustained injuries during the incident. The other crew member sustained minor bruises upon his escape from the scene.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health views the incident in a serious light and believes that society can ill-afford to allow unscrupulous criminal elements to interfere in the crucial and life-saving service. It is in the interests of all to protect those who are tasked with rendering health care services to the public.

The Department is therefore appealing to members of the community, including the criminals's own relatives, to come forward and help the police in their efforts to bring these criminals to book.

Ends

Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health