

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **Limpopo kidnappings: PSA calls for greater protection of children**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) calls for more to be done by government's security clusters to protect children in the wake of the alleged kidnapping of four school children on their way to school in Limpopo this week.

The PSA greatly values the safety of children and strongly condemns this attack on vulnerable children. The PSA calls on all stakeholders and communities to play their part in the protection of children against all forms of violence and abuse. The PSA, together with the South African Police Service, has launched a national school safety programme to instil awareness about such issues affecting children and the teaching environment. The programme tackles issues such as violence and bullying in schools, and substance abuse whilst encouraging all stakeholders to actively pursue a safe and healthy teaching and learning environment. The PSA further supports participating schools with identified needs, including security measures to improve health and safety standards at under-resourced schools.

South Africa's soaring crime rates place the responsibility of protecting children on everyone. The PSA urges the SA Police Service to make every effort to ensure the safe return of the missing children and for the community to reach out and support these efforts.

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