

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for urgent accountability and action as Emthembeni Special School collapses under KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's negligence
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is appalled by the dire conditions at Emthembeni Special School in KwaZulu-Natal as an institution dedicated to supporting partially blind learners and children with disabilities.

The School has for the past two weeks been without electricity, subjecting vulnerable learners to unacceptable hardships, including being forced to bathe in cold water. This poses a serious health risk, particularly for learners with asthma and other medical conditions.

The situation highlights a catastrophic failure by those responsible for the School's management. The crisis is deepening as the limited diesel supply has rendered the generator ineffective, exacerbating an already unsustainable situation. In addition, the School is suffering from a severe food shortage, denying learners the essential nutrition they need. This failure goes beyond mismanagement and represents a blatant violation of learners' basic rights to education, safety, and care.

In addition to the current crisis, the School's principal has reportedly disappeared, leaving the institution in a state of disorder and devoid of leadership at a time when decisive action is required. The complete lack of accountability and oversight raises serious concerns about the Department of Education's commitment to governance and the welfare of these vulnerable learners.

In response to these alarming conditions, the PSA demands an immediate comprehensive investigation by the Head of Department, the MEC for Education, and the South African Human Rights Commission to uncover the causes of this crisis and ensure those responsible are held accountable. In addition, the PSA demands the immediate restoration of electricity to ensure the safety and well-being of learners and staff.

The PSA will continue to pursue the immediate resolution of this crisis and urges the Department of Education to prioritise the needs of these vulnerable children and ensure that such negligence is never repeated.

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