

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls for urgent safety measures following tragic accident in Middelburg, Mpumalanga**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) extends sincere condolences to families, schools, and communities affected by a tragic accident in Middelburg, Mpumalanga where six young learners lost their lives in a collision involving a train and a scholar-transport bus on 31 July 2024.

Many more learners have been hospitalised in critical condition with serious injuries. After the accident, paramedics and emergency personnel worked tirelessly at the scene to rescue survivors and provide medical assistance. The PSA commends the efforts of the first responders who dealt with the wreckage under such distressing circumstances.

The driver of the bus was also hospitalised and is under arrest. The PSA calls for immediate action to enhance safety protocols for scholar transport and railway crossings. This accident further underscores the urgent need for more the constriction of more schools, especially in rural areas, in Mpumalanga to provide ease of access for learners and reduce travelling.

The PSA further calls for the implementation of stricter safety regulations for scholar-transport vehicles. Enhanced training for drivers responsible for transporting learners is essential. In addition, increased public awareness campaigns are required in respect of road and railway safety.

The PSA is committed to supporting efforts that ensure the safety and well-being of learners and communities.

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