

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA concerned about lack of security guards at Eastern Cape rural-area schools
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about ongoing security challenges faced by schools in the Eastern Cape's rural areas, particularly in the Sarah Baartman District.

A recent visit by the PSA to schools in the area revealed the urgent need for enhanced security measures to ensure the safety of educators and learners. Whilst the PSA welcomes efforts to improve security, such as the fencing of some schools, the Union hopes that this initiative will extend to all schools in the region.

The persistent issue of insufficient security guards at some schools in the Eastern Cape continues to pose a significant risk. The current security situation presents several challenges. Many schools can only afford one security guard during the day, which leads to situations where the school gate is left unguarded whilst the sole security guard patrols other areas. Several schools, including Dale View Primary, Willowmore Primary, and Klipplaat Primary, have no security guards. In some cases, security guards are assigned additional duties, such as caretakers or handymen, which detracts from their primary role of ensuring safety.

This issue is not confined to the Sarah Baartman District but extends to other regions, including Nelson Mandela Bay, Chris Hani, Joe Gqabi, and parts of Buffalo City, notably areas like King William's Town, Dimbaza, Zwelitsha, and Ngqumeya.

Despite recent upgrades to perimeter fencing, the rise in incidents of attacks on educators underscores the need for immediate intervention. The PSA urges the Department of Basic Education to prioritise the employment of security guards in schools in all districts and consider installing security cameras or panic buttons linked to local police stations for enhanced protection.

The PSA is actively investigating the shortage of security guards and the negative impacts in schools. The PSA will present the Union's findings and concerns at the upcoming bargaining chamber meeting to urge the Department to take swift action to resolve these security issues at schools across the province.

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