

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA concerned about suspected arson at Peter Mokaba Primary School, Mpumalanga

DATE

12 February 2025

EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about a suspected arson attack that resulted in the burning of the administration block of Peter Mokaba Primary School in KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga on 8 February 2025.

The PSA is alarmed by the extensive damage to critical infrastructure, including the destruction of computers, furniture, and essential food supplies intended for learners. This loss disrupts the functioning of the School and significantly affects employees and learners who rely on these resources for administrative operations, teaching and learning.

The PSA commends the prompt response by the Department of Education's MEC who visited the School on 11 February 2025. Her reassurances to the School community and employees demonstrate a positive step towards addressing the crisis with the necessary urgency. The commitment to provide a mobile office for administrative continuity is particularly welcomed, as this will assist in minimising disruptions in the School's operations. The PSA also acknowledges the Department's proactive efforts in replacing lost supplies and will continue to monitor the situation to ensure the timely restoration of essential services.

The PSA, however, urges the MEC to remain vigilant regarding the broader implications of infrastructure damage, which exacerbates existing challenges in Mpumalanga's education system. Given the suspicion of arson, the PSA calls on law enforcement authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. Acts of this nature undermine the safety and stability of educational institutions and must be addressed with the full force of the law.

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