

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA concerned regarding scholar transport following another deadly accident in Mpumalanga**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is deeply concerned by the recent spate of accidents involving scholar transport in Mpumalanga.

In a tragic accident last month, a collision between a scholar transport vehicle and a train in the Belfast Region, resulted in significant casualties among school children, leaving parents devastated. Following this, the PSA addressed a letter to the MEC of Education, urging for the establishment of more schools in rural areas to reduce the need for long-distance scholar transport. This morning, another devastating collision occurred in the Karino and Mbombela communities, involving a scholar minibus, a bakkie, and a truck, claiming the lives of three individuals. The minibus, transporting learners to various schools in Mbombela, was involved in the accident. The driver and passenger of the bakkie, along with one learner, tragically lost their lives, while twenty-seven others, including the minibus driver and twenty-six learners, sustained injuries and were rushed to Rob Ferreira Hospital for treatment.

Eyewitnesses on foot have reported that reckless overtaking may have contributed to the accident. The PSA is calling for a thorough investigation by relevant stakeholders, including the Department of Transport and Safety, to ensure accountability and justice for those affected.

The PSA extends its heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost loved ones in this tragic collision and wishes a swift recovery to the injured learners currently receiving medical care.

END

