

MEDIA RELEASE PSA condemns foodborne illness incident at Tamaho Primary School in Gauteng

DATE 8 November 2024

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) strongly condemns a foodborne-illness incident at Tamaho Primary School in Gauteng and calls for urgent action to prioritise learner safety.

The PSA is outraged by the distressing incident at Tamaho Primary School in Katlehong, where more than 100 young learners suffered from severe illness owing to suspected foodborne contamination. The PSA's thoughts are with the affected learners and their families, especially the 12 learners who remain hospitalised. This incident highlights an alarming risk to the well-being learners. Whilst the PSA acknowledges the prompt response by emergency services and ongoing support provided by healthcare professionals, this situation underscores a critical need for enhanced diligence, oversight, and safety protocols regarding the nutrition and welfare of learners.

The PSA demands immediate and transparent action by government and school communities to address this issue comprehensively. All stakeholders are urged to strengthen food-safety standards in schools and exercise greater vigilance in the preparation and handling of school-provided meals. This recent incident is a grim reminder of the dire consequences that can arise when due diligence is compromised. The PSA stands ready to support initiatives aimed at ensuring a safe environment for all learners. Government is urged to investigate this incident fully to ensure justice and take decisive steps to prevent a recurrence.

The PSA further appeals to community members to remain vigilant and work collectively to safeguard learners who deserve a safe and nurturing environment for learning and growth. The PSA remains committed to working with the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and all relevant stakeholders to ensure accountability and to prevent future incidents of this nature as the safety of learners is a critical priority.

END

