

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>PSA condemns robberies of staff at Mukelani Primary School in KwaMashu and ongoing killing of public servants at workplaces</b>
<b>DATE</b>	1 August 2024
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) strongly condemns the recent spate of violent crimes plaguing KwaZulu-Natal schools, health facilities, and other workplaces.

On 30 July 2024, criminals stormed Mukelani Primary School in KwaMashu, robbing educators and support staff of their belongings. This incident followed the brutal murder of a Grade-R educator at Phikiswayo Primary School on 29 July 2024.

The alarming rise in violence against educators, support staff, and public servants is intolerable. Statistics reveal a sharp increase in attacks on schools, health facilities, and other government institutions with over 150 incidents being reported in KwaZulu-Natal alone in 2023/24. This trend highlights the urgent need for comprehensive security measures and community involvement.

The PSA has continuously called for decisive action against criminals targeting schools and health facilities. The South African Police Service can, however, not combat this menace in isolation. It requires active collaboration by councillors and communities.

Immediate steps must, however, be taken to bolster security at KwaZulu-Natal schools. This includes the installation of security fencing, employing well-armed security guards, mandatory self-defence training for educators, and installation of CCTV cameras at all schools. The PSA further demands the appointment of an experienced detective team to investigate these crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

The PSA further urges the MEC of the Department of Basic Education to conduct a thorough investigation and identify schools and hotspots that require urgent security measures, including the capacity to manage armed criminals effectively. Educators, support staff, and learners must receive immediate counselling to address the psychological trauma inflicted by these incidents.

The PSA is disturbed by the transformation of workplaces into crime scenes. The ongoing killing of public servants at their places of work is utterly unacceptable. The Department of Basic Education must implement insurance measures to enable staff to claim compensation for stolen items from workplace premises. The killings and attacks on public servants are tragic and an affront to the fabric of society. These crimes must be eradicated with utmost urgency.

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