

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA demands accountability for school nutrition crisis in KwaZulu-Natal
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is outraged by the ongoing mismanagement and deception surrounding the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's handling of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP).

The Department, under the leadership of the MEC, has once again demonstrated an alarming lack of transparency, falsely claiming that payments to service providers were made, whilst thousands of vulnerable learners remain at risk owing to food shortages.

The PSA stands in solidarity with the NSNP Service Providers Association and condemns the Department's deliberate misinformation, which erodes public trust and exposes learners to unnecessary hardship. It is appalling that in a province already plagued by administrative failures and corruption, government continues to disregard its fundamental duty to protect the rights and welfare of children. It is unacceptable that service providers, many of whom have not received payment since November 2024, are forced to bear the financial burden of the Department's gross incompetence. These businesses, which play a critical role in ensuring that learners have access to nutritious meals, are being driven to financial ruin whilst government offers nothing but empty promises.

The PSA demands immediate actions. Urgent and full payment to all affected service providers must be made without delay to restore the school nutrition programme. A public apology and corrective measures from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education for misleading the public are required. An independent investigation into the financial mismanagement of the NSNP is required to hold those responsible accountable.

Failure to act decisively will jeopardise the well-being of learners and expose the provincial government to legal challenges and further public outrage. The PSA will not tolerate the continued exploitation of small businesses and the suffering of learners owing to bureaucratic inefficiencies and dishonesty. The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education must act now to rectify this crisis before irreparable harm is done to the province's most vulnerable learners.

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