



<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA demands enhanced security measures at KwaZulu-Natal College Campuses following brutal murder
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) calls for enhanced security at all KwaZulu-Natal College Campuses following the horrific murder of Nothando Mnyandu, a young Civil Engineering student, on 31 October 2024 at Umlazi V Campus.

A suspect is currently in custody and the PSA extends sincere condolences to Nothando's family, friends, and the Coastal KwaZulu-Natal College community. The PSA stands in solidarity with all affected, offering full support during this time of profound grief. This tragic incident highlighted the urgent need for reinforced security at educational institutions. Unfortunately, this is not the first act of violence at Coastal KwaZulu-Natal College campuses. The PSA has noted multiple security breaches in recent years, including incidents where a staff member was shot at the entrance of the TVET Coastal College Central Office. Staff and students have fallen victim to armed robberies on campus grounds, including the Mbumbulu Central Campus, where assailants entered with weapons, robbing person of their belongings. College equipment, including computers, have been stolen from various campuses owing to inadequate security measures. These incidents have created a culture of fear amongst students and staff, highlighting a severe lack of sufficient, visible, and adequately trained security personnel.

The PSA demands immediate and concrete action to address these longstanding security concerns and calls on the College and the Department of Higher Education and Training to prioritise campus safety. Measures should be implemented urgently, including increased deployment of security personnel by assigning professionally trained and equipped security guards on all campuses, with special attention to high-risk zones such as entrances, pathways, and classrooms. There is a need for visible security presence to ensure effective and constant security patrols on campuses to deter criminals and reassure students and staff of their safety. The PSA also calls for advanced surveillance technologies by installing CCTV systems, alarms, and real-time monitoring in high-risk areas to bolster security. This technology is essential for deterring crime and allowing for rapid response to incidents. Robust emergency response plans are required by developing and enforcing rapid-response protocols, with clear channels for notifying local law enforcement in case of an emergency. Staff and students must be trained on these procedures. Collaboration with the South African Police Service and community watch programs will assist to secure areas around campuses and ensure prompt response to incidents.

Continuous mental-health support is needed for staff and students in view of these traumatic experiences. The PSA commends *Higher Health* for dispatching a psychologist to Umlazi V Campus, but there is a need for a sustainable plan for ongoing counselling support for those affected by these incidents. This tragedy must serve as a turning point in the approach to campus safety and gender-based violence prevention. This horrendous case underscores the urgency of creating secure learning environments and eradicating the scourge of violence.



The PSA remains steadfast in advocating for immediate and decisive action to address these issues. The PSA will monitor the investigation into this murder to ensure justice is upheld and will continue to pressure all stakeholders to create and maintain safe, secure, and violence-free educational institutions.

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