

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes termination of Eastern Cape school principal for inhumane conduct
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) applauds the Eastern Cape Department of Education for terminating the principal of Luthuthu Junior Secondary School following his misuse of power and inhumane conduct.

The PSA, representing more than 30 000 public-sector employees in the Eastern Cape, strongly condemns the principal's conduct as reckless and disrespectful of a child's human rights. The principal forced a learner to retrieve a cell phone that had mistakenly fell into a pit toilet. Such conduct is barbaric and adds to demolishing the learner's self-esteem by being ridiculed and given derogatory names by other learners.

The PSA believes that the Department's decision to terminate the principal for his action will send a strong message to other perpetrators making themselves guilty of bullying, with dire consequences for victims.

The PSA encourages the protection of the rights of children and learners and condemns all forms of bullying as the psychological effects have far-reaching consequences. The PSA will, without hesitation, call for prompt action against educators who do not uphold values and display unprofessional conduct towards learners.

This termination should also be a warning to all persons making themselves guilty of bullying and intimidation that consequence management will apply with heavy sanctions being imposed. Society as a whole must refrain from bullying tactics and work towards a common goal of building a moral society. The PSA calls on the MEC for Education to ensure that professional counselling is offered to the affected learner to alleviate trauma.

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