



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

04-03-2025

PSA concerned about lack of security guards at schools in Eastern Cape rural areas

The PSA remains deeply concerned about ongoing security challenges faced by schools in rural areas, particularly in the Sarah Baartman District in the Eastern Cape. Following a recent visit to these schools, the PSA has seen firsthand the pressing need for enhanced security measures. Whilst the PSA welcomes efforts to improve school security, particularly the fencing of schools across the Eastern Cape, the PSA hopes this project will extend to all schools in the region. However, the issue of security guards in schools continues to be a significant challenge.

Current security situation

- Many schools have only one security guard on duty during the day, leaving the gate unguarded whilst the guard patrols other parts of the school.
- Some schools, including Dale View Primary, Willowmore Primary, and Klipplaat Primary, have no security guards at all.
- In other instances, security guards are being assigned additional roles such as caretakers or handymen, which diminishes their ability to provide adequate security.

This problem extends beyond the Sarah Baartman District to areas such as Nelson Mandela Bay, Chris Hani, Joe Gqabi, and parts of Buffalo City, including King William's Town (Dimbaza, Zwelitsha, and Ngqumeya rural areas).

Call for action

Whilst the recent upgrade of perimeter fencing at some schools is a positive step, the rise in incidents attacks on educators has highlighted the urgent need for more robust security. The Department of Basic Education must prioritise the employment of security guards at schools and consider installing cameras or panic buttons linked to local police stations.

PSA's next steps

The PSA is taking immediate action on this matter and will be presenting these concerns at the PSA Bilateral or Bargaining Chamber, urging the Department of Basic Education to intervene and address security issues at schools.

How you can get involved

Members are encouraged to contact Mxolisi Nyandu on 082 880 8968 / mxolisi.nyandu@psa.co.za for any matters requiring PSA intervention or if you wish to join the PSA.

Together, we can make a difference in ensuring a safer environment for educators and learners!

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER