

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	Crisis at Ekucathuzeni Primary School: PSA demands immediate deployment of mobile classrooms and warns of legal action
<b>DATE</b>	17 September 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is disturbed by the ongoing crisis at Ekucathuzeni Primary School in Mpumalanga, with learners forced to attend classes in shifts after storm damage in February 2025 left six classrooms without roofs and the School unsafe.

Despite repeated promises by the Departments of Education and Public Works, relief has not been provided. Mobile classrooms promised months ago have not been delivered. Parents have since closed the School in protest, reflecting the frustration and anger caused by government's inaction. Valuable teaching and learning time is being lost.

This neglect is unacceptable and is a direct violation of learners' constitutional right to a basic education and educators' right to safe working conditions. This constitutes a failure by the state to meet its constitutional obligations. Section 29 of the *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996*, guarantees the right to basic education. Section 7(2) explicitly obligates the state, including the Premier, the MEC for Education, and the Department, to "respect, protect, promote, and fulfil the rights in the *Bill of Rights*". By allowing unsafe conditions and rotational teaching, these officials are failing in their constitutional mandate and their duty to act in the best interests of learners.

The PSA therefore demands the immediate delivery and installation of the five promised mobile classrooms by 19 September 2025. The Department of Employment and Labour must conduct an urgent inspection of the School to assess hazardous working conditions for educators and staff. A clear, time-bound plan for permanent renovations and rebuilding is required, with accountability for delays in procurement and implementation. Transparent communication with parents, the School Governing Body, and staff is urgently required.

The PSA calls on the Premier of Mpumalanga and the MEC for Education to urgently intervene and ensure that these commitments are met without further excuses. The PSA warns that failure to meet the 19 September deadline will escalate instability and unrest in the community. Should government fail to act, the PSA will pursue all available avenues, including legal action and organised mass action, to compel compliance with constitutional and moral obligations. Learners in Mpumalanga cannot be treated as second-class citizens. The PSA stands with the parents, learners, and educators of Ekucathuzeni Primary School. The crisis must be resolved without delay.

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