

MEDIA RELEASE **Eastern Cape: PSA concerned regarding burglaries in schools**

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) in the Eastern Cape is concerned regarding vandalism and crime affecting schools in the province, especially in Gqeberha. The PSA was informed regarding burglaries that recently took place at Arcadia Senior Secondary and in certain schools in New Brighton. Arcadia Senior Secondary's educational programmes have been adversely affected by the burglary, depriving learners of quality education.

The PSA is appealing to the Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane to prioritise the safety of schools. In doing its part in improving school safety, the PSA recently partnered with the Department of Education, the South African Police Service (SAPS), and Old Mutual launching the #School Safety project, to educate learners on the dangers of crime, bullying and substance abuse. Three schools in Gqeberha received equipment such as overhead projectors and laptops which were donated to Ndzondelelo Secondary School in Zwide, Masiphathisane Secondary School in Motherwell, and Pendla Primary School in New Brighton.

The PSA is also appealing to the Education Department to extend these initiatives to involve communities to encourage citizens to work with their local police, whilst encouraging learners to safeguard their schools. The PSA strongly believes that communities working together with the police can put an end to these criminal activities that are bringing havoc to schools.

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