

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for enhanced security measures at KwaZulu-Natal schools following murder of learner
EMBARGO	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is saddened by the tragic loss of a learner at a school in KwaNdengezi near Pinetown in KwaZulu-Natal on 14 September 2026.

The PSA extends sincere condolences to the bereaved family, friends, fellow learners, educators, and the wider school community. According to reports, the learner was shot inside the school yard by an assailant who had boarded the same taxi as the learner. Arrests are imminent as leads on a person of interest are being followed up by police.

The death of a learner under these circumstances raises severe concerns regarding school safety and security. The PSA notes the ongoing challenges relating to inadequate security measures at many public schools throughout KwaZulu-Natal, particularly in historically disadvantaged and under-resourced communities. Reports of insufficient fencing, lack of security personnel, uncontrolled access points, vandalism, criminal activity, and violence continue to place learners, educators, and support staff at risk. No parent should have to worry about a child's safety when sending them to school. No educator should be expected to work in an environment where security risks are not adequately addressed.

The PSA believes that the protection of learners and school employees is a fundamental responsibility that requires urgent intervention by all relevant authorities. The PSA calls on the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education to conduct an urgent assessment of security measures at all public schools. Deployment of adequate security personnel, where necessary, is required with improved access control, fencing, lighting, and surveillance infrastructure. The Department must strengthen collaboration with the South African Police Service and community policing structures, whilst also providing psychosocial support and post-traumatic counselling to learners, educators, and families affected by this tragedy. Efforts should be made to develop a comprehensive provincial school-safety strategy that prioritises the protection of learners and education workers.

The PSA urges all stakeholders, including government departments, school governing bodies, parents, community leaders, and law enforcement agencies, to cooperate toward creating safe and secure learning environments. The PSA stands in solidarity with the affected family and school community. It is trusted that a thorough investigation will be conducted, with decisive action to prevent similar tragedies.

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