

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for faster delivery of safe schools and adequate support for education staff in KwaZulu-Natal
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has consistently called on the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education to accelerate the provision of safe and conducive teaching and learning environments whilst ensuring that educators and education support staff receive resources and support to perform their duties effectively.

The PSA notes with concern that many schools across the Province continue to face significant challenges, including infrastructure backlogs, inadequate water and sanitation facilities, learner-transport challenges, safety risks, overcrowding, and asbestos-containing structures. Although the Department has committed substantial resources to infrastructure development and education-improvement programmes, much remains to be done to ensure safe, dignified, and enabling environments for learners and employees.

The Department's 2026/27-budget commitments include measures to improve school infrastructure, provide additional classrooms, enhance water and sanitation services, eradicate asbestos-containing structures, strengthen inclusive education, and support learner-transport services. The PSA welcomes these commitments but emphasises that their implementation must be accelerated and closely monitored to ensure that learners and employees experience tangible improvements without unnecessary delays. The PSA remains concerned that educators and support staff are often required to deliver essential education services under difficult conditions. Infrastructure shortcomings, overcrowding, safety risks, inadequate staffing, and insufficient resources place additional pressure on employees and undermine effective teaching and learning. Education employees require safe workplaces, appropriate staffing levels, adequate administrative support, and the necessary tools and resources.

The PSA emphasises that investment in school infrastructure must be matched by meaningful investment in the employees who sustain the education system. Educators, administrative personnel, education specialists, learner-support staff, and school management teams are central to the delivery of quality public education and must be supported through adequate staffing, ongoing professional development, appropriate resources, and improved working conditions.

The PSA urges the Department to accelerate the eradication of unsafe and asbestos-containing school infrastructure, expedite improvements to water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities at schools, and address infrastructure maintenance backlogs and overcrowding in classrooms. School safety measures must be strengthened to protect learners and employees. Adequate staffing levels across schools and district offices must be ensured with the necessary support and resources to educators and support staff to improve educational outcomes throughout the Province.

Quality education cannot be achieved without safe schools, adequate infrastructure, sufficient resources, and properly supported education employees. Learners deserve a safe and dignified learning environment. Education employees deserve a workplace that enables them to perform their duties safely, effectively, and professionally. The PSA will continue to advocate for improved working conditions and adequate resources across the education sector. The Union is committed to protecting the rights and interests of education employees whilst contributing to the advancement of accessible, safe, and quality public education in KwaZulu-Natal.

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