

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA calls for increased safety following tragic accident at Thanda Primary School in Mpumalanga
<b>DATE</b>	09 February 2026
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

---

The Public Servants Association (PSA) learnt with sadness of the tragic death of a five-year-old Grade-R learner of Thanda Primary School in Nkomazi, Mpumalanga after being struck by a scholar transport vehicle that was reversing as learners were preparing to board for departure.

The PSA extends the Union's sincere condolences to learner's family, friends, educators, and the entire school community. No family should ever have to endure such a heartbreaking loss, and the PSA's thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by this tragedy.

The PSA acknowledges the intervention of the South African Police Service with the opening of a culpable homicide case and investigations into the circumstances surrounding this devastating incident.

This tragedy once again highlights the urgent need to prioritise learner-transport safety. All parties responsible for transporting learners, including drivers, schools, and relevant authorities, must ensure that strict safety standards are observed, vehicles are operated responsibly, and learners are supervised at all times.

The PSA calls on communities to unite in ensuring that learner safety is treated as a collective responsibility. All stakeholders, including schools, scholar transport operators, parents, and education authorities, are urged to work together in strengthening safety measures, enforcing compliance, and ensuring constant supervision of learners.

The PSA further noted that psychosocial support services are being mobilised for affected learners, educators, and the bereaved family. The Union encourages all those impacted by this tragic incident to access the available support during this difficult time. The PSA reaffirms the Union's commitment to advocating for safer learning environments for all learners.

END

