

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls on KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education to prioritise safety at Funulwazi Primary School, Pietermaritzburg
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) calls on the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education to urgently prioritise safety at Funulwazi Primary School in Unit 1, Pietermaritzburg.

Educators and other employees at Funulwazi Primary School are living in fear as ongoing crime and vandalism threaten to shut down the School and disrupt learning for hundreds of learners. Teaching and learning were halted on 21 April 2026 when parents, educators, and learners took to the streets to voice their concerns on safety and request urgent intervention.

The School has been targeted over the years. Classrooms have been stripped of essential items. There have been burglaries where thieves stole kitchen pots and damaged infrastructure. In one incident, criminals stole money, laptops, cell phones, and vehicles parked outside the School. More than 15 cases have been opened by the police and employees, but little progress has been made. Electricity cables were stolen, leaving the School without electricity. The impact of break-ins goes beyond physical damage, as educators have reported difficulties in maintaining a normal teaching schedule owing to interrupted lessons and reduced access to learning materials such as textbooks. Some classes are overcrowded or relocated owing to vandalism, which further affects the quality of education.

The PSA is extremely concerned about the unsafe environment impact on educators' ability to perform their duties. The situation further impacts on access to education and infringes on learners' right to education, leading to lower attendance and reduced participation as learners and teachers are constantly worried about their safety and the security of their belongings whilst at school.

The PSA calls on the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education to intervene urgently and strengthen security measures to protect school property and ensure a safe environment for teaching and learning. Repair of fencing, improved lights, installation of cameras, deployment of security personnel and collaboration with local police are some of the interventions that are needed to improve safety. Safety is a shared responsibility requiring swift action by the Department, authorities, parents, stakeholders, and the broader community.

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