MEDIA RELEASE	**PSA calls on Limpopo Education Department to act against disruptive School Governing Body members at Mmampatile Primary School**
DATE	30 April 2024
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned regarding the safety of the School Principal at Mmampatile Primary School in Limpopo, after School Governing Body (SGB) members blocked the gate denying him access to the school yard to do his job. The Principal was shocked when reporting for duty to find the group of SGB members at the gate causing commotion and blocking the gate. Attempting to engage the group did not yield any results as they were adamant in that the Principal should not enter the school yard.

The SGB was reacting to the letter from the Circuit that nullified election results owing to non-compliance with Departmental Policies and Prescripts governing elections of the SGB. It must be stated that it is not the first time the principal's life has been threatened, he was previous illegally chased out of school by a so called 'concerned parents' group. It seems as if the principal is targeted as an individual as he was the only one who was blocked even though he was not the author of the letter. The recurrence of this hooliganism within the school environment is not only problematic but it is causing trauma and stress to Educators whose lives are threatened by these acts. The learning environment which is also a workplace to the Educators must be a peaceful and conducive environment without risk to employees and the Department is failing to address this matter.

While the PSA engaged the Circuit Manager and appreciates the prompt reaction in ensuring that the South African Police Service was contacted to deal with the matter, the PSA is concerned about the happenings around the School. The PSA calls on the Department of Education in the province to show commitment by ensuring that there is order and safety at the school and decisively dealing with those that want to disrupt learning and education. The Department must open criminal cases against individuals who threatened the lives of the employees to send a strong message to those who are thinking of engaging in such illegal activities. These individuals must be banned from participating in the re-election process as they demonstrated that they are not only unfit to hold positions but that they lack professionalism with a very low understanding of dispute resolution and governance.

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