

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls on the Department of Education to implement more stringent vetting procedures for Educators
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) strongly urges the Department of Education to perform thorough vetting procedures before employing teachers. This is especially critical considering recent incidents that highlight the disturbing trend of young learners, particularly young girls, being victimised by those who are entrusted with their care and education. The PSA is deeply concerned by the growing number of reports of abuse in schools, and the PSA emphasises that the recent arrest of a teacher in Limpopo, accused of causing harm to a 13-year-old learner, is only the latest in a series of troubling events. The country is still fighting for justice for a learner from Bergview College in the Eastern Cape, whose tragic experience has ignited a national outcry. These cases cannot be ignored or minimized, and we must ensure that no child faces such victimisation in the future.

It is disheartening that, while the country is working hard to ensure justice for those affected, the Department of Education is unfortunately finding itself repeatedly in the news for all the wrong reasons. The PSA believes that the Department must take immediate action to address these concerns by reviewing and strengthening the vetting process for all individuals seeking to join the teaching profession. The integrity of the education system must be protected, and children must be safeguarded from abuse, neglect, or harm. The trust parents place in teachers and schools to care for and nurture their children must not be taken lightly.

The PSA reiterates its call for immediate action and a comprehensive review of policies, practices, and accountability mechanisms to ensure that educators uphold the highest ethical and professional standards. Let us not allow the future of children to be marred by further incidents of abuse.

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