

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>PSA concerned about delays in opening Mkondo Boarding School in Mpumalanga</b>
<b>DATE</b>	22 April 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

---

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about ongoing delays in the completion and opening of Mkondo Boarding School in the Gert Sibande District, Mpumalanga.

Despite assurances by the Premier during the recent State of the Province Address that the School will be operational in the second term, the facility remains incomplete and non-operational. Long-standing delays have hindered the project since its inception in 2019. Originally budgeted at R200 million with an 18-month completion timeline, the School has now been under construction for six years, with no definitive completion date provided.

The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads, and Transport, which is overseeing the project, has failed to provide updated or concrete timelines for its conclusion. Significant public funds have already been invested, including an allocation of R140 million in November 2022 and a further R60 million in early 2024. Despite this financial commitment, construction remains incomplete.

Over the years, contributing factors to the delays, as highlighted by the Provincial Legislature Committee Chairperson, have included the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on budget availability, delays in securing road servitudes and water-use licences, and the non-payment of subcontractors by the main contractor.

The PSA finds the continued lack of progress and transparency deeply disappointing and completely unacceptable. The PSA calls for an immediate, independent investigation into the use of public funds allocated to this project. Any evidence of mismanagement or misuse of resources must be met with swift and decisive accountability measures. It is unacceptable that after six years, and with hundreds of millions of Rands invested, Mkondo Boarding School remains an unfulfilled promise to the learners and communities of the Gert Sibande District.

END