

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA concerned about road worthiness of scholar transport following two accidents in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the road worthiness of scholar transport in Pietermaritzburg, in KwaZulu-Natal following two recent accidents in Imbali Unit.

The first accident took place on 11 September 2025, where a minibus taxi transporting learners, lost control owing to brakes not working and crashed into a building at Senzokuhle Creche and Pre-School. This resulted in five fatalities, and eleven learners remain in hospital. The second accident took place 12 September 2025 on the same road. A minibus taxi transporting school learners failed to climb an incline and rolled back. The driver was, however, able to control the taxi and the six learners were able exit safely before the taxi struck a concrete wall. The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport and Human Settlements and the Mayor of Msunduzi Municipality visited the scene following these accidents and conveyed condolences

By prioritising the roadworthiness of scholar transport, schools and transport operators can significantly enhance the safety of learners during transportation to and from school. The impact of scholar transport that is not road worthy is significant and far reaching. There is potential of increased road accidents, potential harm, and fatalities, with anxiety and stress being experienced by learners, parents, and guardians. This affects overall learning outcomes with learners being disrupted with a negative impact on their performance, especially as learners are approaching exam season.

The road worthiness of scholar transport is of critical concern. The PSA calls on the Department of Basic Education in partnership with the Department of Transport to collaborate and ensure that vehicles that transport learners are road worthy. The Department of Transport should also erect speed humps on the road on which the recent accidents occurred. The Department should further conduct regular inspections of scholar transport and issue fine for vehicles that are found to have irregularities to prevent further accidents. Minibus-taxi owners should implement regular maintenance schedules to keep vehicles in good condition and drivers must be trained and aware of safety procedures.

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