

MEDIA RELEASE PSA condemns robbery at Limpopo school: Calls for enhanced safety measures

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) strongly condemns the recent robbery at Nkatini High School in Malamulele in Limpopo, during which 41 school tablets and 15 cell phones were stolen.

This criminal act deprives learners and educators of essential educational resources and undermines efforts to improve teaching and learning outcomes in schools. The PSA is particularly concerned about reports that the suspects were allegedly armed with a firearm, a pick, a knife, and other housebreaking implements during the incident. Beyond the loss of valuable educational resources, the robbery has reportedly left learners and responsible educators traumatised. The incident occurred at a critical time when learners are preparing for examinations and should be focusing on their studies in a safe and supportive environment. Instead, this criminal act has created fear, anxiety, and uncertainty in the school community.

Schools are centres of learning and development and should be safe environments where learners and educators can pursue educational activities without fear of crime. The theft of technological equipment compromises the quality of education and places an additional financial burden on an already constrained education system.

The PSA is deeply concerned about the growing trend of criminal elements targeting public institutions and educational facilities. These incidents disrupt service delivery and hinder efforts to equip schools with the tools needed to provide quality education.

The PSA calls on law-enforcement agencies to conduct a thorough investigation, apprehend those responsible, and ensure that they are brought to justice. The Union further urges the Department of Education and relevant authorities to strengthen security measures at schools, including improved access control, alarm systems, security patrols, and community partnerships aimed at protecting public assets.

The PSA stands in solidarity with the affected school community and encourages members of the public to cooperate with authorities to combat crime and safeguard educational resources for the benefit of present and future generations. Protecting schools is a shared responsibility. Criminal acts against educational institutions are crimes against children's future and South Africa's development.

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