

MEDIA RELEASE                      PSA condemns shocking state of Coastal TVET College and calls for urgent intervention

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The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) is appalled and deeply concerned by reports regarding the dire financial situation plaguing Coastal TVET College in KwaZulu-Natal.

The College's inability to remunerate service providers has resulted in the unjust termination of contract workers, some of whom have served the College faithfully for more than ten years. Such a blatant disregard for employees' rights and welfare cannot be tolerated and the PSA will take the necessary steps through dispute resolution mechanisms to protect the Union's members from such unfair dismissals and advocate for their seamless transition into permanent positions.

This institution has a history of salary-payment difficulties, which has reached new depths with the recent shocking declaration by the Deputy Principal: Corporate Services that the College will not be able to fulfil its budgeted obligation of providing workers with long-overdue bonuses until March 2024. The PSA believes that the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, has failed to address persistent challenges faced by the College. It is now imperative that President Cyril Ramaphosa intervenes to also safeguard the future of learners, who are destined to be educated in these turbulent circumstances.

In addition, the PSA has received reports of asset confiscation of the College by the Sheriff based on court orders, further highlighting the extent of the College's indebtedness to numerous service providers. The never-ending cycle of interim leadership has left the College in a state of utter disarray, with the current acting Principal and Deputy Principal demonstrating a lack of competence in rescuing the institution. A comprehensive change is necessary to address this crisis. The PSA therefore demands the immediate appointment of a permanent Principal and management team to provide stability and steer the College towards a brighter future.

The PSA insists on a thorough investigation into the gross mismanagement and ill-treatment of employees by the Office of the Public Protector and the Public Service Commission to rectify this grave injustice and revive the hope and prosperity that should be afforded to every student and employee.

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