

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>PSA disappointed about disruption in scholar transport in Mpumalanga owing to non-payment of operators</b>
<b>DATE</b>	15 April 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is disappointed about the suspension of government-subsidised scholar transport services in Mpumalanga following reports of non-payment to service providers and issues related to contract validity.

It has come to the PSA's attention that the Mpumalanga Provincial Government has failed to pay transport operators for services rendered in February and March 2025. The Department of Transport has attributed the delays to the transition between the 2024/25- and 2025/26-financial years. The PSA, however, finds this justification inadequate and unacceptable, considering the essential role that scholar transport plays in ensuring access to education for learners, especially in rural and farming areas.

The PSA also notes that in Mpumalanga scholar transport is managed by the Department of Public Works and Transport, whereas in several other provinces, it falls under the Department of Education. The PSA believes that in order to enhance accountability and ensure that learner needs are prioritised, the responsibility for scholar transport should rest with the provincial Department of Education. Approximately 60 000 learners in Mpumalanga, from Grade R to Grade 12, depend on subsidised scholar transport, with many having no alternative means to reach their schools.

The PSA condemns the ongoing mismanagement and payment delays that have placed learners' right to education at risk and calls for urgent government intervention to resolve these issues and restore uninterrupted transport services in Mpumalanga without delay.

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