

**MEDIA RELEASE:** School governing bodies must be held accountable when elected to positions that decide future of schools

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**EMBARGO** None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has noted with concern that there was almost 4 000 cases of maladministration and abuse of resources during the last financial year at primary and secondary schools.

This information emerged schools prepare to elect new school governing bodies. The PSA has also noted that most of these cases investigated stemmed from governing bodies working in tandem with school principals to perpetrate these acts of maladministration and corruption. Whilst this occurs, learners have to suffer the consequences and have to study under very trying circumstances, including poor infrastructure and a lack of resources.

The PSA has raised concerns about the credibility of the process of appointing school governing bodies (SGBs). Leaders chosen to run schools must have integrity and be committed to improving the quality of education for learners. Government should implement strict vetting processes to prevent the appointment of individuals with criminal records. The country cannot afford to have SGBs that prioritise tender processes over the well-being of learners and educators. They must prioritise maintaining safety and discipline in schools.

The PSA trusts that individuals involved in any unlawful activity will not be included in the selection process where it involves the future of learners. The PSA recommends the implementation of strict rules and regulations for the consideration of nominated public officials. There should be clear criteria that guide the nomination of individuals who are suitable to be entrusted to serve in public offices.

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