



To: All Editors of Media Houses and Journalists

MEDIA RELEASE

National Teachers Union (Natu) is calling on the department of education to install metal detectors and employ armed security guards at schools. Natu Deputy President, Allen Thompson said, these security guards who will be paid by the department will search and seize guns, knives and other dangerous weapons from pupils.

This follows a shooting incident this week where two pupils lost their lives when one shoot the other over a girlfriend at Qantayi High, in Port Dunford Empangeni. "This incident happened in full view of other pupils and teachers. If metal detectors were in place it was not going to be easy for a learner to shoot the other learner in class. We are saying for every 200 learners the department should employ one security guard and that means if the school has 1 000 learners it will have five security guards. Security guards should search the bags of learners when they enter the school premises," said Thompson.

Thompson added that schools should be linked with police stations. "Police should patrol in the morning and in the afternoon and must be visible. If they visible learners and other criminals won't take advantage because police would be around."

Thompson said there had been too many incidents where people died in schools.

Earlier this year a teacher from Luvisi Primary, Vusi Ntombela who was a speaker at Nquthu Municipality was shot point blank in front of his pupils.

"Faction fights are sometimes spilled over to schools and you find pupils fighting and others carrying pangas and bush knives at schools. That is why we are calling for metal detectors to be installed in our schools for the safety of our pupils and teachers."

For more information please contact the NATU Deputy President and Spokesperson, Allen Thompson on 073 607 8141 Email: sathompson@natu.org.za