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Violence in schools a course for serious concern

The South African Council for Educators has noted with deep concern the fatal stabbing of a learner at Forest High School by another learner.

The violence engulfing our schools has also serious implications for the safety of teachers who are witnessing these events and expected to intervene in such, thus putting their own lives and safety at risk as has been seen recently with attacks directed at them.

We believe the need for societal involvement in resolving these situations are urgent and also ensuring that stringent safety measures are put in place in all our schools.

Whilst not advocating for the militarization of schools, properly trained and equipped security personnel needs to be deployed and more importantly the provisioning of psycho-social practitioners to be made available at schools to provide support and counseling to both teachers and learners in preventing the spread of these incidences.

Our sincere condolences to the families of both the deceased learner and those who are still recovering from the injuries sustained during this ordeal.

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