

MEDIA STATEMENT

ECOSA Expresses Condolences Following Tragic Incident at Lerutle Primary School

31 March 2026

In line with the Engineering Council of South Africa's (ECOSA) mandate to protect the public and uphold standards within the engineering profession, a process to assess the wall collapse matter that occurred at Lerutle Primary School during breacktime on 26 March 2026, has been initiated. A site inspection is currently being conducted, and ECOSA is working with relevant authorities to establish the facts surrounding the structural failure.

Should the investigation identify any engineering-related deficiencies or potential professional misconduct, ECOSA will take the necessary regulatory steps in accordance with the applicable legislative and professional framework.

This incident is deeply distressing and serves as a stark reminder of the critical importance of infrastructure safety, particularly in environments where children learn and develop.

ECOSA recognises the emotional toll this tragedy has placed on educators, learners, and the community at large and extends its deepest condolences to the family, loved ones, and classmates of the learner who tragically lost his life following the incident at Lerutle Primary School in Daveyton. Our thoughts are also with the injured learners, their families, the educators, and the broader school community during this profoundly difficult time.

ECOSA remains committed to ensuring that engineering work in South Africa is carried out safely, competently, and in a manner that protects the public. The Council will continue to support efforts aimed at preventing similar incidents and strengthening accountability where required.

We once again extend our heartfelt condolences to all those affected by this tragic loss.

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Issued by The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECOSA)

About ECOSA:

The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECOSA) is the statutory body established in terms of the Engineering Profession Act, 2000 (Act No. 46 of 2000). It is mandated to regulate the engineering profession in South Africa by setting and maintaining internationally benchmarked standards of education, training, and professional practice.

ECOSA is responsible for the registration of engineering professionals, accreditation of engineering programmes, prescription and enforcement of a Code of Conduct, and the

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disciplining of unprofessional conduct. Through these functions, ECSA safeguards the public, enhances the integrity of the profession, and contributes to the development of competent and ethical engineering practitioners who are vital to the country's infrastructure and socio-economic development.

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