

MEDIA RELEASE **COVID-19: Limpopo Education lies regarding compliance at Seshego High School**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is shocked by inaccurate reports by the Limpopo Department of Education on a Limpopo radio station on 22 June 2020 regarding Seshego High School's COVID-19 compliance of.

The Department's spokesperson, Tidimalo Chuene, stated that the Department was not aware of any problems at the School, other than what was reported by concerned parents regarding non-compliance. She further stated that standard operating procedures and weekly reporting showed that all is well at the School. This followed a concerned parent wrote to the radio station, Thobela FM, regarding the School's failure to ensure compliance with COVID-19 regulations and exposing children to risks.

The Department's statement that there was no report of non-compliance is not only a lie but a clear demonstration that it does not value the lives of educators and learners. The PSA visited the school on 9 June 2020 following reports from concerned educators that there were no toilets and water. A letter was addressed to the Department on the same day. The PSA also raised the problems at the School with the acting Head of Department, who undertook to deal with these matters, including the failure to scan learners' temperatures. These undertakings failed to yield results. Water and toilet problems have not been attended to. Learners are still not scanned and enter the School without wearing masks. There is no social distancing and learners are sharing textbooks.

The PSA calls on the MEC for Education to ensure accountability in her Department. The PSA maintains that Seshego High School is not complying, and employees and learners are at risk of being infected by COVID-19. There is further an urgent need to test educators and learners for infection to eliminate the possibility of asymptomatic cases.

END

