



Social media posts are rampant with posts by worried parents who dread their children's return to school. If the Minister was in touch with her constituency, she would have realised that not only parents but, unions, political parties and communities at large have been calling desperately for schools to remain closed.

With more learners attending school and parents who need to commute to transport children, the spread of the virus will flare up. In addition, the taxi industry is functioning as normal with full occupancy. Countless school employees, teachers, learners and parents make use of taxis with overcrowding posing a real danger of infection. It would be easy to lay the blame with taxis, but government has done little to assist them during the hard lockdown period – this while government is still prepared to bailout doomed state-owned enterprises. The continued corruption at Eskom with no consequence management resulted in billions being lost that could have been diverted to assist taxis that commute workers daily. It is the working class that reports to duty to clean hospitals, cares for patients, pays out social grants, offers security services, teachers and others who render a public service at their own peril.

The Minister of Basic Education is once again urged to stop and listen to society. Schools should be closed until the winter months have passed and only open in October 2020 to reduce the spread of the virus and save the lives of workers and future workers.

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