

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for urgent intervention by North West Premier and MEC following storm damage at Bapong and Logaga Primary Schools
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the total halt of teaching and learning at Bapong and Logaga Primary Schools in Ganalaagte Village in North West in the wake of recent devastating storms.

The storms caused significant structural damage to the Schools' buildings, severely compromising the safety of learners, educators, and support staff. Currently, parents are rightfully keeping their children at home out of fear for their physical safety, as the dilapidated and storm-ravaged classrooms have become a hazard rather than a place of learning. It is, however, unacceptable that in a democratic society, the right to education is suspended owing to weather events and a lack of disaster preparedness.

The PSA urges the Premier of North West and the MEC for Education to treat this situation as an emergency of the highest order. The PSA demands immediate infrastructure assessment. A technical team must be dispatched to Ganalaagte to assess the extent of the damage. Emergency learning facilities are required with the urgent provision of mobile classrooms or safe alternative venues to ensure that teaching resumes without further delay. Formal assurance must be provided to parents and the community that no child will be expected to learn in an unsafe structure. An investigation is required into why these Schools were so vulnerable to storm damage, given recurring infrastructure budget allocations in the Province.

The PSA reminds the North West Provincial Government that "business as usual" is no longer an option when the future of rural learners is at stake. Learners in Ganalaagte cannot be left behind whilst the rest of the country progresses. The PSA will continue to monitor the situation closely and will not hesitate to escalate this matter should the MEC and Premier fail to provide a concrete timeline for repairs and the resumption of schooling.

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