

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for urgent investigation by MEC Kwazi Mshengu on disappearance of large quantities of PPE
DATE	03 June 2020
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) in KwaZulu-Natal is disturbed by media reports, that three Districts of Education, could not account for large quantities of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's), that disappeared en-route to schools in the province. The media statement issued by MEC Kwazi Mshengu, is unfortunate because two weeks ago the MEC assured labour and the public that all the PPE will be dispatched to all schools before 1 June 2020.

This confirmed our long view that the Department of Education in the province is not ready for the re-opening of schools, owing to schools having their PPE stock stolen or not distributed at all. Furthermore, cleaners were not appointed, head counts were not done for additional educators, and support staff to accommodate the new way of teaching and learning, created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The PSA also condemns those responsible for stealing PPE's, as highly insensitive as this vital equipment deprives our learners of essential safety needs. The PSA trusts that all the stolen PPE will be replaced by the suppliers, through their insurance or the departmental insurance, because the PSA will not allow the department to misuse public funds, that were allocated to prevent the spread of COVID-19, hence we call for an urgent count of all PPE distributed, to all schools and investigation on stolen stock.

The PSA has written to the MEC Kwazi-Mshengu, demanding a full-investigation on the disappearance of large quantities of PPE in the province with immediate effect.

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