

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA concerned about Limpopo Department of Education's supply chain management**

DATE 1 July 2020

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about flawed supply chain management processes at the Limpopo Department of Education that are impacting on learners.

The PSA was shocked that in response to a recent incident where two learners were sexually assaulted, the Department reported that an eNatis check prior to re-opening of schools revealed several non-compliant operators providing learner transport. The checking operators' credibility of operators should have occurred when the Department received applications and not after a service provider was appointed. The Department further stated that services of non-compliant operators were suspended, and only qualified service providers were engaged to take on routes that were without service providers.

The Department has many questions to answer in this regard, including how much these non-compliant service providers were paid. Was it not possible for the Department that have access to the eNatis system to verify operators' operators during the application process? Failure to verify operators resulted in non-complaint operators benefiting inappropriately at the expense of needy learners. The Department also recently reported that 42 schools could not re-open as service providers failed to deliver personal protective equipment as per agreement. Only one of the six service providers appointed managed to deliver on time.

The PSA is disturbed by the lack of consequence management for service providers and corrupt officials who are defrauding the Department. The Department recently announced that contractors will be engaged to erect ablution blocks at 215 schools. The *Public Finance Management Act* states that financial irregularity constitutes misconduct. Obvious flaws in the supply chain management process are of a grave concern and the PSA calls on the MEC of Education to ensure that measures are put in place to avoid a further waste of taxpayers' money and eliminate threats to learners' health and safety.

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