

MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19: PSA concerned about the state of readiness in Eastern Cape schools

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about the working progress that the Department of Education in Eastern Cape is making in preparing for Educators and Administration staff to return to school.

Instruction Note 18 was issued which indicates that Educators and non-educators will return to schools will be given a 48hours notification to return to schools as soon as the Principals confirm receipt of all Personal Protective Equipment. This was to ensure that all employees return to a safe and healthy environment at school and confident to recall learners back to school being prepared and ready for a healthy and safe school environment.

During the Steering Committee meeting held on 25 May 2020, it was reported by all Districts that the process of delivering of PPE has started on 23 May by a number of service providers that were appointed, and all the challenges encountered were escalated for the urgent attention of the Superintendent General to avoid delaying the progress.

However, the PSA is still concerned about the deep cleaning and disinfecting of school premises which has not yet been done in preparation of schools reopening on 1 June as pronounced by the Minister of Basic Education. The PSA calls on the provincial administration consider postponing the reopening on 1 June to utilise this period for school preparations to ensure that all necessary health and safety requirements are met.

END

