



MEDIA RELEASE

PSA condemns ill-treatment of Department of Education employees at Mogodumo District

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) was shocked to witness the conditions of employment for employees at the Limpopo Department of Education's Mogodumo District Office, in Lebowakgomo.

The office, which houses three circuit offices, namely Mogodumo, Nokotlou, and Mphahlele, does not have water or electricity. Employees do not have access phones, forcing them to use their private phones when engaging with the provincial office. The dilapidated building has a damaged roof. Toilets are locked and not usable owing to a lack of water, forcing employees to use buckets in their offices. Employees are also subjected to unfavourable weather conditions owing to a lack of air conditioners or heaters.

The Department is not only failing to provide employees with working tools to ensure optimum work performance but is also failing to provide a workplace that is safe does not pose a risk to employees' health, as required by section 8 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The PSA condemns the abuse of employees and violation of their Constitutional rights.

The PSA calls upon the MEC of Education to immediately close the building and bring the management to account for the violation of human rights and blatant disregard of the *OHS Act*, which places legal burden on the employer, to provide safe and healthy workplace. It must further be noted that water is a basic requirement for infection control and the practice of good hygiene, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The PSA has also requested the intervention of the South African Human Rights Commission in this matter.

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