

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA condemns the plan to provide only 215 schools with appropriate sanitation facilities

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), is shocked by the decision taken by the Limpopo Department of Education, to provide only 215 schools with proper sanitation facilities, whilst there are more than 500 schools without proper toilets. The Department of Education pledged previously that pit toilets will be eradicated by 2020, however the budget allocation is not even addressing 50 percent of the schools without proper toilets. Although the intervention at these schools will be welcomed, the budget allocation was inadequate and there should have been readjustment noting the dire situation the province is facing.

The COVID-19 pandemic calls for consciousness when it comes to hygiene and schools with unhygienic, dangerous, and dilapidated pit toilets will be a fertile ground for the spread of the virus. It is now even more important for the learners in the province to be provided with an environment conducive for learning and good health. The provision of proper toilets at these schools will not only ensure compliance with the Norms and Standards for Environmental Health but will also restore the dignity of the learners.

The PSA has been at the forefront of the battle for proper sanitation for the learners and will not stop until all schools in Limpopo are provided with proper sanitation facilities. The children of Limpopo deserve better and the Department needs to work around the clock to ensure that pit toilets become thing of the past. The PSA will remain vigilant to ensure that the department conforms to basic hygiene practices and to respects the rights of learners and educators.

The department is called upon to demonstrate its commitment to eradicate pit toilets in schools. There is a need for the fast-tracking, in the delivery of proper sanitation if the department is serious in ensuring the containment of COVID-19 at schools.

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