

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA disappointed on blatant fabrications about schools reopening readiness on 08 June 2020
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which represents thousands of educators and administrative staff in schools across the country, is shocked by other unions sudden change of heart and support of the exaggerated fabrications, regarding the readiness of schools to reopen on 8 June 2020.

The PSA is extremely disappointed that these unions have agreed with the Minister of Basic Education, that not all schools can open for Grade 7's and Grade 12's respectively. The PSA continued to receive reports from its Provincial Offices and members, have over the weekend found that schools, specifically those in the rural and poorer communities still do not meet the required safety standards. Photos received showed dilapidated classrooms, some of which, have had their ceilings destroyed and the floor is a mixture of cement and ground, these conditions alone pose a safety risk for teachers, and learners. This truly begs the question, that if these rundown and vandalised schools could not have been fixed in previous years, how is the same administration now reporting that 96% of schools are ready to receive learners on 8 June 2020. It will be short of a miracle if 96% of schools are indeed truly ready. The PSA is extremely disturbed by the fact that the department and other unions can agree, to leave other schools behind whose learners will be expected to write the same examination, with those going ahead with schooling from 08 June 2020.. Discriminating against poorer schools will lead to further inequality. These learners will be left behind when education is the only means that can assist to alleviate poverty. The department discriminate against poorer communities and schools, but the COVID-19 virus will not. The PSA has noted with concern the number of educators that were infected in the last two weeks and believes this number will grow exponentially over the next couple of weeks when schools resume.

Schools in poorer communities still do not have access to water and sanitation, even after 25 years of democracy, but it now took government less than a month to perform miracles to fix these problems. Were poorer schools and communities deliberately failed by our government over the past 25 years?

The Minister in her media briefing on the opening of schools, indicated that visitors will not be allowed. The PSA believes this is purposefully done to ensure that no one will observe, and report back on the true situation our educators and learners will be faced with daily. The Minister and her unions have in fact told the nation, that we are now in an "animal farm" situation, this is an approval that those who have economic means will always come first when it comes to education and the poor must succumb.

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