

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**COVID-19: PSA not confident that KZN schools will be ready to reopen for on 1 June**

DATE	26 May 2020
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the decision by the Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) to postpone the return of Educators to school.

The Department issued circular No 31 of 2020 postponing the return of educators to schools on 25 May 2020 after a final assessment conducted indicated that schools were not ready to open. This is due to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that were delivered to the District Offices but have not reached the schools yet. This decision however does not apply to Circuit Managers and Principals as they are key to ensuring delivery and receipt of PPE at school level. School Management Teams and Teachers were informed to report for duty on Thursday, 28 of May 2020.

The PSA has always indicated that schools are not ready to open in KZN and the latest decision by the Department is a clear indication of the situation. Apart from the lack of PPE, the PSA has also discovered that the school cleaning staff was used to deep clean the schools, insufficient sanitisers, and the complete lack of temperature scanners was also a challenge.

Although it is a good move by the Department to postpone, the PSA doesn't have confidence that the three-day postponement is sufficient to turn around the situation in ensuring that all schools will be disinfected and that sufficient PPE will be delivered in all 6000 schools in the province KZN.

The Union has demands that the KZN Department of Education conduct a proper assessment before learners are rushed back to school on 1 June.

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