

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA shocked by level of unpreparedness for North West Department of Education regarding the reopening of schools
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) in North West, has received various calls from members of the Department of Education, who fear for their safety and that of learners when returning to school. PSA shop stewards have reported that most of the schools in the province are yet to receive their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's), there has been no training regarding COVID-19, as per the current safety directives and no deep cleaning has been conducted, since schools do not possess Certificates of Compliance indicating that the appropriate cleaning has taken place.

A number of schools are still to appoint cleaners or even procure disinfectant material, subject to release of School Norms and Standards for School Funding (NSSF), which can only be received by their school accounts at the end of May 2020. Compliance has been left to the Principals and Senior Management Teams, with no proper direction and support as well as no resources, as the NSSF is the key budget to enable the execution of some of these functions. Where PPE's have been received, it has been discovered that they are insufficient by virtue of some not corresponding with number of learners and educators. Permits for workers are yet to be issued although the employer is calling them to report back to work.

The PSA calls upon the MEC to be honest and accept that the department is not ready and furthermore calls upon all the role-players to engage in the interest of health and safety of workers and learners at schools. Educators and Learners must return to a safe and healthy environment which will help the containment of the virus.

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