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| <b>MEDIA RELEASE</b> | PSA urges North West Department of Education to create conducive learning and teaching environment |
| <b>DATE</b>          | 13 March 2026  |
| <b>EMBARGO</b>       | None   |
| <b>ENQUIRIES</b>     | communication@psa.co.za  |

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), in the wake of the strategic planning *lekgotla* hosted by the North West Department of Education, from 9 to 10 March 2026, calls for tangible results.

Whilst the PSA acknowledges the importance of strategic planning for aligning departmental goals, reviewing the annual performance plan, and setting measurable targets, the Union remains concerned about the persistent shortage of classrooms and deteriorating school infrastructure across the Province. Overcrowded classrooms, unsafe learning environments, and inadequate facilities continue to undermine teaching and learning, placing unnecessary pressure on educators and learners. Strategic plans will have little effect if they do not translate into concrete actions that address these infrastructure challenges.

The PSA calls on the Department to prioritise the construction of new classrooms, refurbishment of existing infrastructure, and provision of adequate facilities, particularly in schools most affected by overcrowding. The PSA stresses that the involvement of public servants responsible for implementing education programmes is crucial to ensure plans are practical and effective. The PSA urges the Department to ensure that the outcomes of the *lekgotla* translate into practical interventions that improve school infrastructure, reduce overcrowding, and create a conducive environment for quality education.

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