

MEDIA RELEASE PSA welcomes appointment of new North West Education MEC: Calls for urgent labour-relations reset

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) noted the recent reshuffling of the North West Provincial Executive Council by the Premier and welcomes the appointment of Dr Desbo Mohono as the new MEC for Education.

The PSA further noted the movement of MEC Virginia Tlhapi to Community Safety and Transport Management and MEC Wessels Morweng to Arts, Culture, Sports, and Recreation. The PSA acknowledges the Premier's stated objective that the changes are intended to inject renewed energy into government and improve service delivery. The PSA believes that any effort to improve service delivery must place employees at the centre of the process. Committed and supported public servants are fundamental to an effective education system.

The PSA congratulates Dr Mohono on her appointment and wishes her well with the new responsibilities. Her previous experience as Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature provides her with valuable insight into provincial governance and oversight. The PSA looks forward to engaging her constructively on challenges confronting employees in the Department of Education.

The PSA calls on the new MEC to strengthen engagement with organised labour. Meaningful consultation with unions is essential if government is to identify practical solutions to challenges affecting educators and other employees. The Union is prepared to engage constructively whilst defending the rights and interests of members. The PSA believes that improved service delivery cannot be achieved through administrative or political changes alone. It requires adequate staffing, properly supported employees, functional labour-relations structures, safe working environments, and timely resolution of workplace disputes.

Recent challenges experienced at schools, including concerns regarding employee wellness and psychological support, demonstrate the urgency of strengthening support systems in the education sector. Employees who are expected to serve learners effectively must receive appropriate institutional support.

The PSA will not be drawn into political debates surrounding the reasons for the cabinet reshuffle. The Union's focus is on ensuring that the change in leadership translates into tangible improvements for employees, learners, and communities across the North West. The PSA looks forward to a constructive relationship with the MEC based on meaningful consultation, accountability, and respect for collective bargaining.

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