



MEDIA RELEASE **PSA welcomes decision for Limpopo Department of Education to revise plan to eradicate pit toilets**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the decision taken directing the Limpopo Department of Education to revise and provide new plans to eradicate pit toilets in the province.

The Department was taken to the High Court on this matter, and it was found that its plans to eradicate pit toilets in 14 years was unreasonable and unconstitutional. The Court also ordered both the Minister of Education and the MEC for Education to provide six-monthly reports on the implementation of the revised plan.

The PSA has been at the forefront of this battle with the Department of Education, to show seriousness and commitment to eradicate pit toilets as this compromise the safety and dignity of learners and educators. Some learners resort to using the bush, exposing themselves to the risk of assault or being injured by animals rather than using the dangerous pit toilets. The PSA reiterates its position that eradication of pit toilets can only be achieved in the near future if the Department could do away with its reliance on external service providers where it is paying exorbitant amounts to upgrade sanitation structures. Despite a reported R300 million having already been spent on this project, the impact has been minimal.

The PSA calls on the Department of Education to insource this project, employ builders and plumbers to make implementation and monitoring of its plan much easier.

END

