

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA horrified by state of neglect of Schuitdrift Combined Farm School in Tshipise Village**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), is shocked at the conditions that learners and educators are forced to endure at Schuitdrift Farm School in Tshipise Village, in Venda in Limpopo.

Whilst visiting the school this week to donate a mobile library to learners, PSA representatives were told that the school has stopped learners from using the toilets on the premises to avoid the risk of children using dilapidated, filthy, and dangerous pit toilets.

“The schools 144 learners are forced to relieve themselves in the bush, exposing them to the danger of snakes, which are prevalent in the area. The seven educators are using two dysfunctional toilets and are forced to carry buckets of water to use the toilets, owing to a water problem, which is humiliating to say the least,” said PSA Provincial Manager in Limpopo Provincial Manager, John Teffo.

“The situation is worsened by the fact that this is a combined school catering for Grades R to 9, offering no privacy. Learners’ safety comes under threat as the area is also frequented by strangers from outside the community in search of employment during the harvest season,” said Mr Teffo.

“This situation is especially saddening as just recently the Premier of the Province, in his State of the Province Address (SOPA), talked about the successes his administration had achieved. He, however, made no mention of the issue of providing school children access to safe and hygienic toilets, which is a basic right enshrined in the country’s Constitution. Must a child must die or be physically assaulted before the necessary action is taken to improve school infrastructure in rural areas? The PSA urgently calls on the Limpopo government to intervene and prevent a tragedy that is waiting to happen,” said Mr Teffo.

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