

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

15-06-2020

## Covid-19 Regulations – ELRC

Members will recall that schools reopened for learners on 8 June 2020, albeit unprepared by the insistence of the Department of Basic Education, which was supported by the Provincial Education Departments. The PSA is however still concerned regarding what is happening at schools in Limpopo, which clearly demonstrates that schools were not ready to start. It must be noted that around 48 schools in the rural areas remained closed, which disadvantaged these children as the department did not prioritise their schools in terms of basic services.

The PSA was alerted that clerks at school are intimidated to check learner's temperature, after educators correctly refused to do it as it does not fall within their scope of work. Furthermore, schools without water and toilets are opened and learning is continuing, despite the failed commitment of the department to provide schools with water tanks and mobile toilets. The COVID-19 Steering OHS Committees, have not been established and Compliance Officers have not appointed. The PSA previously asked regarding the appointment and training of scanners wherein the department indicated their readiness.

The PSA is worried about the lives of the employees and learners as continuing with learning without access to water exposes them to the risk of the infection. The PSA also established that in various schools, employees and learners are not screened and having their temperature taken, when they enter schools in the morning, which is very risky as the scanning of temperatures is a requirement at all school to ensure containment of the virus.

The Department of Education will be engaged to deal with these issues in the interest of saving lives of the educators and learners, as we do not want to be reactive by waiting for the situation to be worse before doing something.

Further problems can be reported at 082 880 2937.

GENERAL MANAGER