

MEDIA RELEASE: PSA alarmed about unsafe conditions at Manogelo Primary School in North West

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EMBARGO: None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the ongoing neglect of Manogelo Primary School in Mokgola Village, in North West where Grade-6 learners are being forced to study in a parking lot owing to the dilapidated condition of the buildings.

Reports from concerned parents indicate that when it rains, learners are not able to attend school, highlighting the unsafe and unsuitable learning environment to which learners are exposed. The Principal of Manogelo Primary School has long raised these issues with the North West Department of Education, but to date, there has been no meaningful action or resolution. The Department's suggestion that the School should raise funds for new infrastructure is unrealistic and unacceptable, particularly in a rural community where resources are limited. The spokesperson for the Department of Education was recently quoted blaming the Principal and Deputy Principal for the situation, stating that adequate classroom space is available. Furthermore, it was promised that a mobile classroom would be provided by April 2025. This promise, coming after years of neglect and in response to media intervention, raises serious concerns about the Department's commitment to addressing the real and urgent needs of the School.

The PSA is alarmed by the fact that it often takes media coverage to force the Department of Education to act. This delay and lack of urgency in dealing with critical issues facing schools is unacceptable. Education should be a top priority, yet it seems that only when a situation is exposed by the media does the Department act, leaving schools and employees to fend for themselves in the meantime.

The PSA urges the Department to provide immediate assistance to Manogelo Primary School and other schools with similar problems to ensure that proper learning environments are made available to all learners, particularly those in rural areas who are most vulnerable. The situation at Manogelo Primary is a stark reminder of the ongoing neglect of the education system and the urgent need for accountability and action by the Department.

The PSA further urges the Department to prioritise the safety, well-being, and education of all learners, and to ensure that no child is left behind owing to poor infrastructure and a lack of resources.

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