

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls upon Northern Cape Education MEC to intervene amidst chaos at Kakamas High School**

DATE 9 June 2022

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) was shocked to learn that learners at Kakamas High School in the Northern Cape could not sit for mid-year examinations owing to a lack of question papers.

The School was put under administration by the district after failure to pay suppliers owing to poor financial management. This measure did not yield any positive results, as the School is still without basic resources such as cartridges and functional photocopies. The School was directed to submit a priority for items to be purchased by the Department but no purchases were made yet, with no explanation. This has made it impossible for the School to print question papers and the June examinations could not proceed, with a major impact on learners. Educators have tried to use their own money to pay for cartridges and paper to print educational material but funding this expense for the June examination became impossible.

In addition, the feeding scheme was suspended, and telephones and internet are not working owing to non-payment of services accounts. Subsequently, parents took a decision to close the School on 8 June 2022 after observing that there were no improvements in the situation and that the education of their children is compromised. Although the decision will not assist with the situation, it is a clear call for help as the Department has dismally failed to ensure that education is prioritised. Parents are demanding accountability pertaining to the School's finances. The Department did not follow procedures to put the School under administration, which deepened the crisis.

The PSA calls upon the MEC of Education in the Northern Cape to urgently intervene as learners' right to education is being trampled by uncaring and incompetent officials. Educators are placed in difficult situations as the School is not properly resourced to enable them to optimally perform their duties. Should examination results not be favourable, the same Department will be pointing fingers at these educators who are working under difficult circumstances because of the Department's inability to provide a conducive environment for teaching and learning. The MEC should pay an urgent visit to the School, engage the community, and restore order before matters escalate beyond control.

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