

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA commends Minister of Basic Education's prioritisation of school infrastructure development and eradication of pit toilets**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) commends the Department of Basic Education for the commitment to prioritising school infrastructure development and the eradication of pit toilets.

This focus on infrastructure development, particularly in rural areas, represents a significant step toward ensuring the safety of learners and addressing the challenges of scholar transport. The PSA, representing the interests of some 245 000 public-sector employees, PSA welcomes the Minister of Basic Education's initiative in this regard. Developing school infrastructure and eliminating pit toilets are urgent concerns that pose serious risks to learners, educators, and school support staff. Investing in school infrastructure will lead to improved national examination results, enhance productivity, and provide adequate safety for all concerned.

The PSA, however, urges the Minister to expedite infrastructure development before the start of the rainy season. During such times, many learners and educators, especially in rural areas, face difficulties reaching their schools owing to poor road conditions. The lack of sufficient classrooms to accommodate learners should also be addressed.

The PSA will continue to encourage educators to remain resilient and calls on the Minister to enhance their safety as they fulfil their constitutional duties.

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