



MEDIA RELEASE: **PSA concerned about dire shortage of educators in Northern Cape Primary School**

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EMBARGO: None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is deeply concerned that the Northern Cape Department of Education has failed to act swiftly to address the ongoing shortage of educators at Van Rensburg Primary School in Britstown.

This situation has been prevalent for more than a year. Parents took matters into their own hands and closed the Primary School, with the hope that the Department will respond and address the dire need for educators. The facts were brought to the attention of the Department but yielded no results. In 2021, three educators were interviewed for Grade-R posts but only one was appointed for a class with 82 learners. The Grade-1 class has 169 learners with only 3 educators. The Grade-5 class, consisting of 110 learners, has only two educators. The educator-learner ratio is overstressing the capacity of educators and, as a result, quality attention to learners most in need thereof cannot take place.

The PSA has called on the Head of Department (HoD) to urgently intervene to alleviate overburdened educators by expediting the appointment of additional educators. It was stressed in communication to the HoD that failure to address this situation will result in a huge group of learners being negatively affected and thus impacting on their future as productive citizens.

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