

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA condemns overcrowded classrooms in Limpopo and demands urgent intervention
DATE	28 January 2025
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the ongoing crisis of overcrowded classrooms in Limpopo schools, particularly at Renaissance and Musina High Schools.

Reports indicate that Grade-8 learners at these schools continue to be placed in classrooms exceeding acceptable capacity, with some classrooms accommodating more than 90 learners. This situation is a direct result of the Limpopo Department of Education's failure to plan adequately for increasing number of learners transitioning from primary to secondary schools.

The PSA finds it unacceptable that despite being warned for more than a decade about the need for additional schools in Musina, the Department has yet to implement long-term solutions. The impact of overcrowded classrooms is severe, affecting the quality of education and the well-being of educators and learners. A learning environment with such high numbers per class limits individual attention, compromises safety, and places immense pressure on educators. It is also deeply concerning that many learners remain unplaced, forcing desperate parents to seek alternative solutions they cannot afford. Whilst the PSA acknowledges the Department's commitment to providing mobile classrooms and redeploying educators, these are temporary measures that do not address the structural failures in Limpopo's education system.

Since the overcrowding of classrooms is extremely detrimental, the PSA demands immediate interventions. All learners should be placed, and no child should remain out of school owing to government's inaction. The Department must ensure that every unplaced learner is accommodated immediately. There is a need for the deployment of additional educators. Reports indicate that Musina High School alone requires five additional educators. Renaissance High is still being assessed. The PSA calls for the expedited appointment of qualified educators to manage overcrowding. The Department must present a clear, actionable plan to build new schools in Musina and other affected areas. The reliance on mobile classrooms is not a sustainable solution.

The PSA further urges the Department to engage meaningfully with parents, school governing bodies, and community leaders to find long-term solutions to Limpopo's education challenges. The PSA stands in solidarity with affected learners, parents, and educators and will continue to monitor the situation closely. If the Department fails to take immediate action, the PSA will escalate the matter through legal and policy channels to ensure that learners in Limpopo receive the quality education they deserve.

END