

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA demands immediate action on delayed delivery of learning and teaching support materials in KwaZulu-Natal ahead of 2025 academic year

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EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) unequivocally condemned the delayed and incomplete delivery of Learning and Teaching Support Materials (LTSM) in preparation for the 2025 academic year, highlighting the grave risks posed to the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) education system. The PSA expresses its deep concern over KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's failure to ensure that all LTSM is allocated and delivered promptly, with the Department falling short of its commitment to have these materials fully distributed by the end of 2024.

The PSA stresses that the delayed allocation of these essential materials is a direct threat to the operational readiness of schools and will undeniably hinder teaching and learning outcomes. Despite the Department's attempts at progress, the failure to meet deadlines has left schools in a state of limbo, undermining their ability to adequately prepare for the academic year ahead. The incomplete delivery of LTSM is particularly concerning, given the vital role these materials play in equipping learners and teachers for success.

Moreover, the PSA is gravely concerned by the Department's failure to process the Section 21 allocations, a critical funding mechanism for schools. The lack of clarity and transparency surrounding this allocation further exacerbates the situation, leaving schools at risk of being under-resourced and unable to meet the educational needs of learners. The impact of this failure will be felt across the province, particularly in schools already struggling with overcrowded classrooms and a shortage of teaching staff and resources.

The PSA is also vehemently opposed to the half allocation of norms to schools, which has serious implications for the effective functioning of educational institutions. This short-sighted approach jeopardizes the equitable distribution of resources, leaving learners with insufficient stationery and other essential learning tools. The PSA asserts that no student should be deprived of the full complement of resources required for their education, and any attempt to distribute these materials in a piecemeal fashion is an affront to the integrity of the education system.

In response to this ongoing crisis, the PSA is demanding that the MEC of Education provide a comprehensive and transparent report on the allocation of the 100% norms to schools and disclose the Department's full budget outlook. The public has a right to know how taxpayers' money is being allocated and why these delays are occurring. The PSA calls for urgent corrective action to be taken to ensure that schools are fully resourced by the start of the 2025 academic year, with all learners receiving the necessary materials to support their education.

The PSA warns that the continued failure to resolve these issues will have devastating consequences for the quality of education in KwaZulu-Natal. Delays in the delivery of LTSM will not only compromise teaching and

learning but will also exacerbate the already considerable challenges faced by educators and students alike. The PSA stands firm in its position that the Department of Education must act swiftly to rectify these failures, as the future of the province's learners depends on it.

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