

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA urges Department of Basic Education to address learner admission problems and strengthen security

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EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the inefficiency of the Department of Basic Education's school admission system across South Africa, with thousands of learners still not being placed.

This situation has become a permanent feature of the school opening in the country, resulting in protests by frustrated parents who demand that their children are placed. The Department does not seem to have a solution for this ongoing infrastructure inadequacy challenge. Logic dictates that with population increase, there is a response by adding more classes to accommodate these learners and avoid overcrowding that compromises the quality of education. There is also a need for more human resources as access to education is a fundamental right enshrined in the South African Constitution. Current legislation that allows for the admission of children of undocumented parents is further not assisting as the country is already struggling with accepting children of citizens.

Government's failure to address this pressing matter is endangering the safety of government employees as they must deal with angry parents. The country has over the years witnessed various incidents where frustrated parents blocked school gates and employees were not allowed to go home before children were admitted. The PSA thus urges the Department to strengthen security measures at departmental buildings and schools during the admission period to mitigate risks faced by employees. The employer has a legal obligation to provide a workplace that is safe and without risks to employees. The PSA calls upon the Department to address the matter urgently and effectively to avoid chaos.

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