

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA welcomes appointment of HOD for Limpopo Department of Education**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the appointment of Ms Onica Dederen as the Head of Department (HOD) and Accounting Officer of the Limpopo Department of Education.

The post had been vacant for more than twelve months. The non-filling of this crucial position created a leadership vacuum in the Department, which had the potential to destabilise operations, as it is not easy for employees in acting capacity to fully execute the mandates of such positions. It is encouraging that the HOD is not new to the Department and understands departmental challenges, which will assist in addressing such matters.

The Department's challenges are well documented and include infrastructure problems, no access to running water, non-functional ablution blocks and dismal working conditions. The Department is also experiencing problems with recruitment processes, particularly for school management positions, often resulting in capable and qualified candidates not being appointed. Victimisation and harassment of educators are rife in the province, which damage the morale of dedicated educators and affect their ability to provide quality and teaching.

The PSA has on numerous occasions complained regarding the failure of some district and circuit managers, without any response from the employer and setting a poor precedence to employees that accountability is non-existent in the Department. Whilst the PSA congratulates the new appointee, the Union calls on her to ensure an open-door policy, implementation of consequence management, eradicate nepotism in appointing teachers and principals in schools and create a conducive working environment.

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