



MEDIA RELEASE **PSA welcomes closure of unsafe Sigonde Primary School in Limpopo**

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the closure of Sigonde Primary School in Musina, Limpopo by a Labour Inspector of the Department of Employment and Labour.

The building was closed owing to non-compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The Inspector issued prohibition notices because of the presence of snakes on the premises, huge cracks in classroom walls, and the presence of bats classroom roofs, posing a danger to the health and safety of learners and staff.

The PSA regards conditions at the School as a massive health and safety risk. The closure is a relief, as the Department of Basic Education subjected leaners and staff to an unsafe environment in contravention of health and safety regulations. The closure of the School could, however, have been avoided had the Department dealt with the problems timeously.

The PSA has on numerous occasions called on the Limpopo Provincial Government to ensure that dilapidated buildings are dealt with so that the safety of workers is not compromised. Section 8 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* dictates that every employer shall provide and maintain, as far as is reasonably practicable, a working place that is safe and without risk to the health of employees. Many buildings housing government departments are unsafe and dilapidated and the PSA advised the Department of Public Works to conduct a full audit on the safety of these buildings. This will ensure the safety of employees and members of the public and eliminate wasteful expenditure.

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