



MEDIA RELEASE **PSA welcomes R41 million infrastructure investment to refurbish Marude Secondary School in Thohoyandou**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the announcement of a R41 million infrastructure investment allocated to refurbish Marude Secondary School in Thohoyandou, in the Vhembe District of Limpopo.

The PSA is on record for calling for the renovation of schools in the province as many schools are dilapidated and have no access to working toilets and drinkable water. These schools, in addition, lack infrastructure such as laboratories and libraries, have congested classrooms with broken windows, leaking roofs and inadequate desks and chairs.

The project was launched by the MEC for Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure together with the Education MEC as part of a school-infrastructure upgrade. The upgrade will include a nutrition centre, a new guard house, five new classrooms, three workshops, and 18 new waterborne toilets. Existing classrooms will be renovated, and electrical works will be upgraded. Other work will include walkways, a paved and covered assembly area, a new steel palisade fence, new covered and uncovered parking bays, which will go a long way in ensuring compliance with the national norms and standards for environmental health. The project came at a time where people are suffering owing to the impact of COVID-19 and will provide much needed relief in terms of job opportunities. The project is expected to earn the local community economic spinoffs over an estimated period of 24 months.

Projects of this nature, however, have the potential of allowing unethical people to enrich themselves through fraud and corruption, with some service providers inflating prices when dealing with Government. The PSA thus calls upon those entrusted with these responsibilities to guard against situations that could lead to the mismanagement of funds. The PSA calls on the MECs of the relevant Departments to ensure proper monitoring and evaluation of this project to avoid any waste of money and to finish the project as per the project plan to the benefit of educators and learners.

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