

Update: Reopening of schools

The PSA received a number of complaints from members concerning the hazardous state of schools they are stationed in after the State President's announcement of the reopening of schools on 26 July 2021.

The PSA has noted with dismay after some visits to schools that the state of affairs is not only a contravention to the *Occupational Health Safety Act* but also a danger to the lives of learners and educators. Schools in and around the Mbombela Region, especially in rural areas, are still experiencing water challenges, damaged infrastructure and some are still using a pit-toilet system.

The PSA has also noted that some schools are still shutdown as a result of contravention of COVID-19 protocols. The Department's Infrastructure Unit ought to have repaired facilities to ensure a safe environment.

The PSA requested an urgent meeting with the HOD to discuss the matter. Should employer not respond by 6 August 2021, the identified schools will be reported to Department of Labour and Employment for investigation.

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER