



FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION (DHET) - EASTERN CAPE

12-03-2025

PSA concerned about classroom conditions at DHET in Mdantsane

The PSA has serious concerns regarding the current state of classroom conditions at the Department of Higher Education and Training in Mdantsane. The classrooms, which are situated in a small church building, were intended to serve as a temporary solution but have continued for years owing to a lack of proper infrastructure.

Key challenges

- **Overcrowding:** More than six educators are sharing this cramped space, with over 40 students in each class. This overcrowding makes it incredibly difficult for educators to engage with students individually, creating a challenging environment for quality teaching and learning.
- **Noise and distractions:** The close quarters lead to high levels of noise, disrupting focus and concentration. The constant distraction from overlapping voices complicates the educator's ability to deliver lessons effectively, negatively impacting the overall learning experience.
- **Lack of privacy:** The cramped conditions leave little to no privacy for students and educators, further hindering an effective educational environment.
- **Absence of basic facilities:** There are no ablution facilities available, raising serious concerns about hygiene, health, and general comfort for students and educators. Access to basic amenities is essential to maintaining a safe, respectful, and comfortable environment for all.

Considering these issues, the PSA took action by raising these issues with the employer in the Mdantsane DHET, sadly without any improvement in these conditions. On that basis, the PSA is urging the Head of the DHET to take swift action to address these challenges. Potential solutions include better infrastructure, finding alternative classroom spaces, or working with local authorities to improve conditions.

If you have concerns or wish to join the PSA in this effort, please reach out to **Phumela Qilingele** on **079 871 9202** or phumela.qilingele@psa.co.za. Your voice is crucial in improving working and learning conditions for educators and students. Let us work together to ensure that the educational environment fosters success for all.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER