



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

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KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ENGAGES UNEMPLOYED EDUCATORS WITH COMPASSION AND TRANSPARENCY

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education today held a constructive and empathetic engagement with unemployed educators who have been camping outside the Department's Head Office. The meeting was led by the Deputy Director-General for Corporate Services Management, reflecting the Department's commitment to listening, dialogue, and peaceful resolution of concerns.

The Department reiterated its appeal for calm and restraint in matters relating to education, while affirming its dedication to resolving challenges through constructive engagement, mutual respect, and adherence to due processes.

During the engagement, the Department provided a detailed explanation of the procedures currently in place for the placement of surplus educators as a result of declining learner enrolment or other contributing factors. These educators remain employees of the Department and continue to receive salaries, making their placement a priority to ensure the effective utilisation of available human resources within the education sector.

The MEC for Education, Mr Siphon Hlomuka, has expressed serious concern about the growing number of unemployed educators. The MEC has therefore appealed for patience and understanding, and the department remains to address the prevailing unemployment challenges.

"We are always willing to engage, as we are accountable to the broader community. Our processes are transparent and legitimate, which is why I directed senior officials to convene this special meeting," said MEC for Education, Mr Siphon Hlomuka.

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Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education

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The Department further clarified that it does not have foreign national educators employed except those employed by the school governing bodies.

In addition, the Department highlighted critical shortages in specialised subject areas. It was noted that none of the educators participating in the sit-in possessed the following subject combinations currently required by the system:

Pure Mathematics (FET)

Coding and Robotics

Technical Mathematics

Physical Sciences

Life Sciences and Mathematics

Nautical Sciences

Maritime Economy

Agricultural Sciences

Civil and Electrical Technology

Digital Systems

Following the engagement, unemployed educators undertook to discontinue the sit-in and return home, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to engage with senior officials and hope that they would be considered once the Department and the unions have exhausted the placement of surplus educators through provincial task team processes.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education reaffirmed its commitment to continued engagement, transparency, and compassionate leadership as it works tirelessly to address educator employment challenges.

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