

TO : NEWS EDITORS
FROM : MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DATE : 15 DECEMBER 2010

MEDIA STATEMENT

The Mpumalanga Department of Education refutes claims made by the Suid Afrikaanse Onderwyserunie (SAOU) that a vacancy list issued by the Department will affect the operations of schools next year.

The Department states to categorically that the intention of issuing the vacancy list is to ensure that all schools have the required educators before schools re-open and it is in the spirit of the collective agreement that was entered into by the Department and unions on 20 April 2010.

The agreement states amongst others that the process of indentifying and transferring educators in addition shall be initiated and concluded by 31 December 2010, in terms of the provisions of ELRC Collective Agreement No 2 of 2003.

It further notes that the contracts of temporary educators who are already re-employed or approved for re-employment shall be extended up to 31 December 2010 in approved posts.

The SAOU is the signatory to this collective agreement.

The closed vacancy list issued in November 2010 and the due date for applications was 09 December 2010.

The expectations are that School Governing Bodies of the affected schools would make it their obligations to accelerate the process so that by January 2011 the majority of educators are placed accordingly.

There is no law in this country that prevents the operation of School Governing Bodies when schools are closed.

Our view is that when schools are closed, an enabling environment is created to focus on issues needed to be dealt with for the smooth running of schools.

The Department will be actively involved in the process and is going to review the implementation process when the need arises.

For now, we appeal for the cooperation of all stakeholders required to be involved in the process.

The Department has always applied an open door policy and should the unions wish to engage us we will be more than willing.

End

**Issued by the Communications Directorate
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