

MEDIA STATEMENT

RELEASED ON 27 JANUARY 2026

EMBARGO: NONE

SWARTRUGGENS COMBINED SCHOOL IN THE CROSS HAIRS

The SAOU has several members at Swartruggens Combined School. We understand that there is a shortage of space for learners to attend school in the feeding area of the school. It is unfortunate that the Department did not step in years ago and ensure that the area has sufficient capacity to address the needs of the community and the learners.

Swartruggens Combined School does not have an objection to expanding and accepting learners, however, the problem is that the Department has failed to provide the necessary infrastructure and facilities to accommodate additional learners. The Department dropped off 5 empty classrooms on the premises, however, these classrooms are empty shells without power, water or any safety equipment. Sufficient staff or learning materials were also not provided in order for the children to be taught.

The SAOU urges the North West Department of Education to not further neglect their obligations and to ensure that the school is provided with the essential resources and assistance required.

The school governing body of Swartruggens Combined School has consistently indicated that they are willing to admit extra learners but that they do not have the resources to do so. It is extremely worrying that the Department has simply ignored the requests and policies of the Governing body, dropped new learners off at school and exceeded its powers while failing to fulfil its obligations.

The SAOU will not hesitate to take serious legal action if any of our members are prejudiced by the Department or if the educators are not provided with a fair and safe workplace.