



The Vanguard of Educators' interests

05 July 2020

To: All Media Houses

ANGELINA MOTSHEKGA IS PERPETUALLY MISLEADING THE NATION ABOUT THE REAL SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS.

Greetings

As **EDUCATORS' UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA (EUSA)**, we have not moved an inch in our call that President Cyril Ramaphosa must fire the incompetent minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angelina Motshekga. It is vividly clear that, the minister has no concrete plans to act in the best interests of the teachers and learners during this trying period of a deadly pandemic and also to change the country's education system for the better.

Instead of dealing properly with the issue of the covid-19 pandemic in our schools, the Minister resorted to going live on the national television and lied about the real situation in the South African schools. Just a week after she made an irrational decision to send teachers and pupils back to school while the country grapples with the covid-19 pandemic, she lied on ENCA (channel 403) stating that all covid-19 infected teachers and learners did not contract the virus at school, but imported the virus from their communities. As if her lies were not enough, she came back today, to continue where she left off and deliberately lied by saying: "Only a small percentage of teachers and learners have contracted covid-19". Her calculations were wrong in many respects and misleading. Not all 440 000 teachers returned to schools on the 8th of June 2020 as a large number of them did not report back due to comorbidities. Her calculations were therefore based on the total number of teachers, that is 440 000, and this is extremely wrong.

Educators' Union of South Africa finds it even harder to accept the Minister's report as a true reflection of what is happening in our schools. Principals and DoE officials are instructed to hide information about the confirmed positive covid-19 cases. This is done so that the DoE improper and irrational decision of reopening schools on the eve of the country's pandemic peak can be seen to be succeeding. EUSA is in consultations with its legal team regarding this matter, which could result in the union opening charges against a number of principals and DoE officials.

Angelina Motshekga in her imprecise report didn't say anything about the huge number of schools that couldn't open on the 8th of June, which are still closed because they are far from meeting the Covid-19 safety and health regulations because to her, inequality in South African schools is a non-issue. Having the minister of Angelina Motshekga's calibre at the helm of an important department

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such as ours, shows that the Government of the day is careless about the future of our country. EUSA will organise pickets in different DoE district and provincial offices countrywide to intensify its call to the president Cyril Ramaphosa to remove the incompetent Angelina Motshekga and close down all schools till the country passes the pandemic peak.

EUSA remains steadfast in its initial position that schools shouldn't have been reopened from the first place as this premature reopening of schools will definitely end in tears. We know that this improper reopening of schools was not motivated by good intentions, instead it was propelled by the intentions of looting public purse through unregulated tenders.

Educators' Union of South Africa encourages all teachers to continue reporting those principals that are hiding the critical information, as this cruelty is posing threat in both teachers and learners lives.

Comradely yours

----by email---

S Bhengu

President

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