



# PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS' UNION

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## **PEU MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE OPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2020**

The Professional Educators' Union (PEU) welcomes and wishes all teachers good luck, as schools open tomorrow, 13 January 2020, for the new academic year. It is our fervent hope and belief that, at this point in time, everyone is fully recharged and ready for the noble task of nation building.

The new academic year is undoubtedly and understandably bound to start in style, as the country is still on cloud nine, savouring the performance by the matric class of 2019, which has emboldened and still imbues us with a greater sense of courage to do more. At 81.3% pass rate, the performance is not only meritorious but an all-time record high performance since the dawn of our new democratic order. We urge our teachers and all other stakeholders who contributed positively, to continue with the support and good work, for us to maintain standard. May we also urge all schools to utilise the coming two days profitably, for academic activities to start in earnest on Wednesday.

As we prepare for the new academic year, PEU has learned with a deep sense of sadness and utter indignation, on the gruesome murder of the Principal of Jabulile Secondary School in Gauteng, Emmanuel Tshivhase, who was shot dead after he reportedly pulled-off the road to answer his cell phone, just 3km away from the school. We roundly and unequivocally condemn this senseless and criminal act, and further urge the law-enforcement agencies to relentlessly work around the clock, to bring to book those who robbed the country of such a visionary, resourceful and renowned leader, who led his school with greatness.

We thus seize this moment, to convey our sincere and heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, the entire school community and MEC Panyaza Lisufi and team. Whilst this may be an incident that happened outside the school premises, it remains a stark and painful reminder that as teachers, we remain vulnerable and had to always watch our back, as we endeavour to educate the nation.

**Issued by General Secretary: Ben Machipi 079 515 1165**