



MEDIA RELEASE **2021-Matric results: PSA calls for more support for learners and educators**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), noting the release of the 2021-Matric results, congratulates learners and educators who despite severe challenges, managed to ensure a pass rate of 76.4%.

Despite an increase of 0.2% on the 2020-Matric pass rate of 76.2%, it is still evident that the country has one of the most unequal school systems in the world. Matric learners at private schools, according to the Independent Examinations Boards, achieved a pass rate of 98.06%.

The PSA remain deeply concerned about the on-going challenges faced by learners and educators, especially in rural schools, related to poor infrastructure and a lack of resources. South Africa, for example, still has more than 3 000 pit toilets at schools. Additionally, the sector is plagued by challenges including a lack of community support and poor support for educators. The on-going impact of the COVID-19 pandemic compounded existing challenges and resulted schools closures and reduced contact learning time. Vandalism of several schools throughout the country during this period further depleted strained resources. Learners in rural schools were further disadvantaged owing to a lack of resources to continue their studies on-line.

The Department of basic Education, as recipients of the biggest portion of the country's budget, has a responsibility to ensure that teaching and learning can take place in a safe and well-resourced environment. The PSA repeats its calls for more efforts to equalise education and provision of resources for learners to achieve their education goals as a means of escaping poverty and ultimately finding employment.

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