

MEDIA RELEASE                      Mandela Day 2020: PSA to support communities

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) will commemorate Mandela Day 2020 from 18 July 2020 onwards by reaching out to communities across the country suffering hardship owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The PSA has honoured Mandela Day since inception with various outreach programmes. This year is particularly special as the PSA also commemorates 100 years of service as a trade union for public sector workers.

In the spirit of Mandela Day 2020 namely, to take action, inspire change and make everyday a Mandela Day, the PSA focused its efforts to alleviate some of the challenges faced by members and the public. In Gauteng, the PSA organised a nurse from Steve Biko Hospital to share information regarding COVID-19 at Zodwa Special School in Atteridgeville, Pretoria. Sanitisers and masks will be distributed to learners and educators and learners will also receive stationery packs. In Johannesburg, Adiba Frail Care Centre will receive bed covers and towels, blood pressure metres, instant strips, winter socks and adult nappies.

In the Western Cape, the PSA will donate a food garden and gardening equipment to help Ouma Lena's Home to sustain itself by growing their own food in Stilbaai. In Eastern Cape, Khayalitsha Youth Centre, a boys' centre near Port Elizabeth will receive soccer balls, sanitisers, and washable masks for each boy, as well as disposable gloves and gas heaters. The PSA will also donate ten toilets at Willowvale High School, Mngqabe JSS in Ngqeleni and Nurse Night Primary School in Qumbu.

In Mpumalanga, the PSA will donate food parcels and blankets to communities from Gutshwa Trust. In the Free State, water tanks were donated to rural schools in Qwa-Qwa to address poor infrastructure in schools and assist with hygiene during the pandemic. In the Northern Cape, the PSA will visit Huis Harmony Old Age Home in Springbok and Kgomotsego Old Age Home in Kuruman while sanitary items will be distributed in Limpopo. In North West, the Union will assist Omolemo Care and Support Centre, which feeds and teaches more than 75 poverty-stricken children aged between four and 16.

In KwaZulu-Natal, the PSA distributed food parcels to child-headed families in Nanda, Zululand and Phoenix. Nqutu, Umzimkhulu and Mpophemeni schools each received six bicycles to assist children who travel long distances to school.

All COVID-19 Regulations are taken into consideration during the PSA's initiatives, which also aim to embody the legacy of a Union in service of South Africans.

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