

MEDIA RELEASE PSA donates solar-rechargeable lights to disadvantaged learners

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EMBARGO None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) commemorated Workers' Month by donating solar-rechargeable LED lights to thousands of disadvantaged Grade-11 and -12 learners across the country.

The donation is part of Union's ongoing corporate social investment initiatives. In this intervention, more than 3 000 learners were supported in completing their schoolwork during loadshedding periods. These lights are portable and can be charged using solar or electrical energy. The lights are donated to learners at schools identified by the Department of Basic Education and the PSA as under-performing schools in 2022, to offer support to affected learners. The learners at 16 identified schools (quintile 1 to 3) are also further impaired by loadshedding that impacts on their ability to study effectively. Many of the identified schools are in deep-rural areas where there is a lack of electricity.

The PSA is extremely concerned about South Africa's deepening power crisis, which impacts negatively on citizens, the economy, service delivery and also learners' ability to do homework, study, and exam preparations in the evening, forcing many to use candlelight. Most households cannot afford generators and solar power. This means that learners must study under difficult conditions in the evening or are limited to do schoolwork during the day. This reality impacts especially on Grade-11 and -12 learners nearing the completion of their schooling and contributes to lower pass rates.

The PSA trusts that this intervention will assist this group of learners in making a success of their secondary schooling and support them as the country's future workers. The PSA, apart from protecting and promoting public-sector employees' rights and interests, is committed to support communities in pursuit of a better South Africa for all citizens.

Members of the media are invited to the following handover event:

Date: 31 May 2023

Time: 09:00

Venue: Hans Kekana Secondary School, 4660 Majaneng, Temba, Hammanskraal, 0407

END

