

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA applauds Grade 12 Class of 2025 on National Senior Certificate 88% pass rate

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) congratulates the Class of 2025 on achieving a record-breaking 88% National Senior Certificate (NSC) pass rate, including a record in bachelor's passes, and reaching a significant academic milestone despite ongoing challenges.

More than 920 000 South African learners wrote the 2025 NSC examinations. Their achievements reflect months of dedication, discipline, and perseverance under demanding circumstances. Many of these learners navigated their academic journey under exceptionally difficult conditions, including disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather events that damaged already inadequate school infrastructure, and the persistent educator shortages.

It is encouraging to note that all 75 districts achieved a pass rate of 80% and above. These results are a tribute to the dedication of educators, parents, and school communities. Their role in guiding, supporting, and motivating learners, often in resource-constrained environments, remains indispensable to the development of quality public education.

This milestone signals meaningful progress in the basic education sector and highlights the collective efforts to improve learning outcomes nationwide. It reinforces the PSA's conviction that education is key to unlocking South Africa's full potential. The PSA recognises efforts by the Department of Basic Education (DBE). Vital interventions such as enhanced teacher support, focused exam-preparation programs, and improved roll-out of educational resources played a pivotal role in driving this outcome.

Whilst the results are encouraging, the PSA stresses that Grade-12 outcomes carry significant weight in shaping learners' future prospects, influencing access to tertiary education, skills development, and employment opportunities. The PSA therefore urges government to intensify investment in public schooling by prioritising infrastructure development, adequate staffing, and provision of resources to ensure a stable quality-learning environment for all learners. The PSA also calls on the DBE to develop strategies and allocate resources to support learners' enrolment and performance in gateway subjects such as Mathematics and Accounting. The fact that only 34% of these learners wrote Mathematics and that the pass rate for Mathematics and Accounting has declined is concerning.



Grade-12 results, however, do not mark the end of a learner's journey. There are multiple pathways to success, including supplementary examinations, skills development programmes, vocational training, and further education opportunities. Learners are encouraged to explore these options.

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