

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA applauds KwaZulu-Natal MEC of Transport and Human Settlements for employing 300 Interns
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<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) applauds the decisive action by the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport and Human Settlements in respect of employing 300 Interns by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport.

This initiative reflects a transformative vision for inclusive economic growth and public-sector renewal, rooted in practical, long-term investment in the youth of the province. The PSA regards this as not merely a short-term intervention, but a critical milestone in reshaping the trajectory of young professionals in South Africa. It is a strategic and deliberate response to youth unemployment, skills underutilisation, and institutional succession crises in the public sector.

The partnership, forged through a memorandum of understanding between the Department and the Coastal TVET College, is a commendable innovation in public-sector human-capital development. It demonstrates the Department's foresight in bridging the divide between formal education and practical workplace experience. This gap has, for too long, denied deserving graduates' meaningful entry into the labour market. The MEC's call to action, urging the youth to deploy their skills in service of the nation and expedite infrastructure development for the benefit of communities, captures the ethos of public service. These 300 young professionals represent the next cadre of public servants whose talents must be harnessed, sharpened, and elevated to ensure sustainable delivery of public goods in an evolving democratic state.

The PSA calls for this cohort to be integrated into a structured succession planning framework. The Department's Human Resource Management divisions must embed these graduates into clearly defined career pathways, enabling them to grow through mentorship, performance-based development, and skills refinement. The PSA further calls for the immediate appointment of qualified mentors and certified coaches with a proven record of ethical leadership and professional excellence, to guide this cohort through their developmental journey.

This initiative represents a blueprint for progressive governance, recognising that building state capacity is inseparable from investing in the youth. The PSA therefore challenges all departments in KwaZulu-Natal, and nationally, to replicate and institutionalise similar programmes that respond to the constitutional imperative of dignity through employment and equitable development. As the country commemorates Youth Month under the theme "*Our Youth, Our Future*", the PSA reiterates the Union's commitment to advocating for tangible programmes that realise socio-economic justice. The MEC's leadership is laudable and instructive for a state machinery often paralysed by policy indecision and administrative inertia. Let this be the dawn of a new era where public institutions become incubators of talent, innovation, and ethical leadership.

The PSA is ready to cooperate with departments in ensuring that this generation of public servants is nurtured, protected, and empowered to lead the state towards a more capable, efficient, and people-centred future.

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