

MEDIA RELEASE:	PSA assists learners at KwaZulu-Natal rural schools with donation of 20 bicycles
DATE	31 March 2025
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association of South Africa's (PSA) Provincial Office in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, in March 2025 donated 20 bicycles to learners at schools in rural areas of the province.

Rural schools in KwaZulu-Natal face numerous challenges, including limited access to transportation, which can hinder learners' academic performance and overall well-being. Millions of learners in South Africa walk to school. Often, long distances must be travelled with some learners walking more than 15 km every day to reach their destination. This journey takes hours and contribute to late arrivals at school and missed classes. Long commutes are tiresome and may also affect learners' performance at school. In addition, there are concerns about the safety of learners who walk long distances.

The PSA, as part of the Union's ongoing investment in communities, donated ten bicycles to Nhlazadolo Combined School between Blood River and Utrecht. Another ten bicycles were donated to Mfulamhle Combined School in uMzimkhulu. The PSA's assistance brought hope and excitement to the learners, educators, and the communities. The bicycles will enable learners to travel efficiently to and from school, reducing the risk of pedestrian accidents and increasing their mobility. The donation is expected to assist in improving school attendance by learners and decrease the number of dropouts.

The PSA, whilst advocating for the rights of public-sector employees, also strives to make a difference in communities. As enshrined in section 29 of the South African Constitution, everyone has the right to a basic education and the PSA trusts that the Union's donation will assist students to achieve that right and benefit them in improving their access to education. The PSA, however, urges the Department of Basic Education to also assist by providing scholar transport, with priority to be given to rural schools, as government is obliged to ensure that learners' right to education is not infringed upon.

END