

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for adequate psychosocial support for matriculants ahead of release of 2025 National Senior Certificate results
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) acknowledges the anticipation surrounding the release of the 2025 National Senior Certificate (NCS) results next week. This period is marked by heightened anxiety and emotional strain for thousands of learners and their families across South Africa.

Grade 12 results often determine future opportunities, including tertiary education and employment, placing immense pressure on learners. Many learners experience increased anxiety, depression, and even suicidal thoughts during this period. Emotional distress among learners can ripple into households and communities, requiring a holistic support approach.

The PSA urges the Department of Basic Education, Provincial Education Departments, Department of Social Development, as well as the religious sector, to deploy trained counsellors at districts and circuit offices during and after the release of results. Furthermore, these structures could activate toll-free helplines and digital platforms for immediate emotional support. The Department can also partner with Non-Governmental Organisations and mental health professionals to provide community-based counselling services. Proactive communication to learners and parents about available support channels is critical in this period.

Media plays a critical role in communication, educating and informing society, hence they are called upon to have programmes and articles to support and motivate learners. Radio reaches millions of people, and parents and learners can benefit from motivational and educational programmes during this time. The PSA remains committed to advocating for the well-being of learners and educators. The Union calls on government and civil society to prioritise psychosocial interventions, ensuring that every matriculant receives the emotional support they need to navigate this critical transition.

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