



**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA celebrates 2020 Academic Year**

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EMBARGO                                        None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing thousands of Educators and Administrative Staff in schools nationwide applauds Educators, who in the most difficult year to date, persevered and pushed through to ensure that learners can complete their 2020 academic year. Educators selflessly prioritised Grade 12 learners above their own safety to ensure that they can write their final exams and move on to start their after-school careers. Educators had to adapt their teaching methods to the conditions of Covid-19, which increased educators' workload tremendously. The PSA recognises the difficult conditions faced including adhering to all Covid-19 Regulations to ensure that the academic year could be completed.

This success, however, did not come without sacrifice and the PSA also pays tribute to the more than 1200 Educators and Administrative Staff who died due to the virus. It also remembers the thousands of parents and learners that succumbed to Covid-19. Their sacrifice will not be in vain and they will be remembered for their selfless sacrifices in ensuring that learners can succeed and have a brighter future. The PSA hopes that Education officials from both provincial and national level, learned from the 2020 academic year and will provide decisive leadership that will protect the lives of Educators and learners during the pandemic. The PSA also calls on these officials to ensure that educators are regarded as frontline workers so they can receive vaccination immediately.

The PSA congratulates the learners who have obtained their National School Certificate (NSC). These learners were tested and persevered during an extremely difficult year and despite the pandemic showed a positive attitude. They are an example for all learners to come and the class of 2021 should be inspired by them. To those learners who did not obtain their NSC this is not a time to despair. Tomorrow brings new opportunities to show courage and determination. Life will always be filled with disappointments and setbacks, but these are seldom remembered or everlasting. The true test of character is to get back up and to push through despite the odds.

The PSA wants to encourage you to work even harder this year as it will prepare you for your future.

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