

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA commends Deputy Minister of Higher Education's intervention for Northern Cape matrics and calls for sustained support
<b>DATE</b>	26 August 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	<a href="mailto:communication@psa.co.za">communication@psa.co.za</a>

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the intervention by Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training by bringing the Matric Support Programme to Kuruman and Douglas in the Northern Cape.

This is a step in the right direction but cannot end here. For decades, learners in rural and underserved areas of the Northern Cape have been abandoned, with little to no access to higher-education information, funding opportunities, and career guidance. A once-off visit is not enough to address deep-rooted inequality.

The PSA demands that the Department of Higher Education and Training expands the Matric Support Programme to every district in the Northern Cape. The Programme should be made permanent, with annual sessions before matric exams. Consistent participation by the NSFAS, SETAs, the National Skills Fund, and private partners such as *Old Mutual*, *Sanlam*, *Assupol*, *Metropolitan*, and *Liberty* must be ensured to give learners practical guidance on funding and career options. Follow-up support should be provided to learners after these sessions to track progress into the Post-School Education and Training sector.

Without sustained intervention, thousands of talented learners in the Northern Cape will remain excluded from higher-education opportunities. This is unacceptable in a democratic South Africa that promises equal access for all.

The PSA applauds the Deputy Minister for bringing the programme closer to rural communities but demands firm commitments from government to institutionalise this initiative. The future of learners in the Northern Cape cannot depend on sporadic visits.

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