

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA commends launch of Grootvlei Climate Smart Horticulture Centre, Mpumalanga

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EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes and commends the recent launch of the Grootvlei Climate Smart Horticulture Centre at the Grootvlei Power Station in Mpumalanga.

This significant milestone, achieved through a strategic partnership between Eskom, the Government of the Netherlands, and the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, represents a critical step forward in linking South Africa's Just Energy Transition (JET) to concrete local economic opportunities.

As the energy landscape shifts, the PSA believes that such initiatives are essential in ensuring that the move toward a lower-carbon economy does not come at the expense of community stability or regional food security. The PSA is particularly encouraged by the immediate and tangible outcomes already being delivered by this project in the Dipaleseng Municipality. Currently, eight community members are undergoing specialised training as greenhouse facilitators, a move that directly addresses the need for high-level technical skills in the Province. The upcoming Agripreneur Development Programme, set to commence in April 2026, will empower 75 local agripreneurs. The PSA views this as a vital employment multiplier, as each agripreneur is expected to hire additional community members, collectively contributing to the creation of substantial sustainable jobs by the year 2030.

This initiative serves as a primary pilot under Eskom's JET Programme, demonstrating how repurposed energy infrastructure can be utilised for future-oriented economic activity that extends far beyond the traditional energy sector. By focusing on practical training and value-chain development in climate-smart horticulture, the centre creates a viable alternative for land and infrastructure that might otherwise have become dormant. The PSA echoes the sentiments of Eskom Board Chairperson in acknowledging that successful partnerships are the bedrock of a transition that protects livelihoods whilst modernising economic output.

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