

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA concerned about payment delays for September stipends for Education Assistants
<b>DATE</b>	9 October 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about the delayed payment of September 2025 stipends to thousands of Education Assistants (EAs) employed under the Basic Education Employment Initiative (BEEI).

Despite assurances by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL), many EAs remain unpaid, causing undue financial hardship to vulnerable workers who rely on these stipends to support themselves and their families.

The PSA is further alarmed by the ongoing blame-shifting between the DBE and DEL. Whilst the DBE claims to have submitted all required documentation, including attendance registers, the DEL maintains that incomplete or late submissions have hindered payment processing. This administrative failure has left over 150 000 assistants unpaid, undermining the credibility of a programme meant to empower youth and strengthen education delivery in public schools.

The PSA calls for immediate resolution of the payment backlog and urgent disbursement of all outstanding stipends. Both Departments must take responsibility for this debacle and ensure transparent communication to affected assistants and the public. Accountability for officials responsible for the delays, in line with the principles of good governance and the *Public Finance Management Act* must ensue. To avoid a recurrence of this situation, there is a need for systemic reforms to ensure timely submission and verification of documentation, thus preventing future disruptions.

Education Assistants play a vital role in supporting teaching and learning in schools, noting that the country is experiencing a shortage of educators. Their contribution must be respected through consistent and timely remuneration. The PSA stands in solidarity with all affected and will continue to monitor the situation closely.

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