

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA issues urgent warning to 2025 matriculants regarding predatory "bogus" colleges

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EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) in the Northern Cape prepares for the release of the 2025 matric results and issues a critical directive to all learners, students, and parents to exercise extreme vigilance against the rise of unregistered and illegal higher education institutions.

Given the province's unique geographic landscape, the PSA is particularly concerned about the proliferation of predatory "pop-up" colleges and unverified online institutions that target unsuspecting youth, offering qualifications that are ultimately unrecognised by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

The exploitation of aspiring students by these "bogus" colleges is a profound injustice that extends beyond financial loss. For many families in the Northern Cape, tertiary education represents a hard-won opportunity for upward mobility; however, enrolling in an unaccredited institution results in a qualification that holds no professional value.

This not only sabotages the career prospects of our youth but also undermines the strategic integrity of the provincial labour market. The PSA maintains that professional resilience must be underpinned by academic legitimacy, and we refuse to see our future public servants misled by fraudulent entities.

The PSA, a union with a 105-year legacy of advocacy and protection, urges all prospective students to perform a comprehensive "status check" before committing any funds or signing enrollment contracts.

A legitimate institution must be registered with the DHET and have its specific programs accredited by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) or the relevant Quality Council, such as Umalusi. The PSA warns the public to be wary of institutions that operate from temporary premises, those that demand full tuition payments upfront, or those that cannot provide a valid DHET registration number upon request.

While the PSA calls for heightened oversight and swifter intervention from provincial law enforcement and education authorities, the first line of defence remains an informed and sceptical public. The PSA encourages all residents of the Northern Cape to consult the official DHET registers or contact the PSA Provincial Office for guidance on verifying an institution's status.

Protecting the educational dreams of the youth is essential to the long-term prosperity of our province and the continued excellence of our public service.

END

