

MEDIA RELEASE PSA marks milestone as shop stewards graduate

DATE 05 May 2026

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

On 5 May 2026, the Public Servants Association (PSA) celebrated another milestone in the Union's efforts to expand access to higher education and lifelong learning for the Union's members as 14 shop stewards graduated from the Industrial Working Life Programme (IWLP).

This five-year, part-time Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology is offered jointly by the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and the Workers' College of South Africa.

The PSA has opened doors to multiple learning opportunities for the Union's members. This was achieved through strategic partnerships with sectoral education and training authorities, government agencies, higher education institutions, and worker education organisations such as Ditsela Workers Education Institute, Workers World Media Production, the International Labour Resource and Information Group, and the Workers' College of South Africa,

In 2025, ten PSA members successfully completed a Higher Certificate in Project Management through the Union's partnership with PSETA and Mancosa. This achievement was complemented by numerous short courses and full qualifications undertaken by PSA shop stewards in collaboration with SETAs such as the ETDPA SETA, EWSETA, and FASSET.

The IWLP provides majors in Sociology and Industrial Organisation and Labour Studies designed to empower workers and unionists. The programme combines semester-based modules with a winter-school component, ensuring a comprehensive and flexible learning experience.

Despite the immense challenges of balancing work, family, social commitments, activism, and academic responsibilities, the shop stewards who recently graduated demonstrated extraordinary courage, dedication, and resilience. The PSA proudly salutes these determined champions of labour and social justice as their achievements embody the spirit of perseverance and collective empowerment.

END