

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA salutes KwaZulu-Natal educators and learners: Calls for active community support during 2025 winter holiday programmes
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) commends and salutes all educators and learners in KwaZulu-Natal for their extraordinary commitment, perseverance, and resilience during the first half of the 2025-academic year.

Amidst growing challenges facing the education sector, including overcrowded classrooms, under-resourced schools, and safety concerns, educators and learners have remained focused and determined in the true spirit of public service and educational justice.

The PSA welcomes the strong leadership and message of support from the MEC for Education, Mr Sipho Hlomuka, during this critical winter break. The PSA joins the MEC in urging learners, especially Grade 12s, to rise to the occasion and fully utilise the Department's Winter School Programmes, which are essential tools for academic recovery and success.

The PSA commends those educators who will continue to teach during winter school holidays. These frontline workers are the unsung heroes of the nation's future. Their selfless dedication to empowering learners, even during school holidays, must be recognised, supported, and rewarded.

The PSA urges learners to treat these winter programmes as an opportunity to take charge of the future and not be distracted. To those travelling or far from home, attend the nearest centres, wear school uniform with pride, and show the country that KwaZulu-Natal learners are determined to succeed. Parents and guardians have a critical role to actively support learners. The PSA calls on communities to create safe environments, monitor learner attendance, and work with schools to ensure no child is left behind.

The PSA further calls on the Department of Education to intensify monitoring and support at all winter school centres. No learner should sit in a class without learning materials, and no educator should teach without proper support. The PSA is committed to pursue quality, accessible, and dignified education for all. The PSA will continue to expose and challenge any failures in the system that threaten the future of learners.

The PSA wishes all learners and educators a safe and empowering winter holiday. May this period reignite the fire for excellence and awaken the collective responsibility in building a stronger, smarter KwaZulu-Natal.

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