

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA salutes NARYSEC graduates: Demands expanded investment in rural youth development
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) salutes the 242 young graduates of the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) Programme in North West.

These graduates represent a new generation of skilled youth ready to break the cycle of poverty and unemployment in rural communities. Their success demonstrates the power of state investment when directed toward working-class development rather than profit-driven policies.

This milestone is, however, also a call to action. This graduation is proof that government-led initiatives can create jobs, grow food security, and empower communities to resist economic marginalisation. Programmes such as NARYSEC are essential weapons in the struggle against youth unemployment and rural underdevelopment.

Whilst the PSA commends the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development, and all partners, this achievement must not be a token gesture. The PSA demands increased funding, broader training opportunities, and a national rollout of similar programmes to reach all provinces. South Africa cannot continue to fail its youth whilst private capital exploits rural labour and extracts wealth from communities.

The PSA recognises these graduates as a force for transformation. With training in agriculture, hospitality, tourism, and entrepreneurship, they hold the tools to rebuild rural economies. The PSA calls on these graduates to organise, lead, and defend their communities against systemic neglect whilst building sustainable livelihoods.

The PSA urges government to treat youth skills development as a revolutionary priority and not a ceremonial event. Job creation must not be reduced to speeches and photo opportunities. The PSA demands structural changes, including increased budget allocations, state-driven enterprise development, and direct support to rural youth initiatives.

The PSA pledges solidarity with all young workers and rural communities striving for economic justice. The success of these graduates proves that rural development is possible and essential for national growth. It is time for decisive action to end rural poverty and create a self-sufficient, productive economy led by skilled youth.

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