

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA supports Northern Cape launch of <i>One Million Trees Campaign</i> : Calls for broader environmental action
DATE	29 September 2025
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the Premier of the Northern Cape's leadership in launching the *One Million Trees Campaign* as part of President Cyril Ramaphosa's flagship programme.

This initiative, which resorts under the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment's National Greening Programme, seeks to plant ten million trees over five years across South Africa, with the Northern Cape committing to 115 000 trees.

The PSA recognises the importance of this campaign as a meaningful step in mobilising government, the private sector, interfaith groups, business, NGOs, and communities to take active measures against climate change. Planting trees is critical in improving air quality, reducing carbon emissions, and safeguarding future generations. Public servants, as citizens and service providers, will also benefit from greener and healthier environments in their workplaces and communities.

Whilst the PSA fully supports the campaign, the Union stresses the need for government to couple this initiative with broader environmental and developmental interventions. The Northern Cape continues to face severe drought, water scarcity, and deteriorating infrastructure that affect communities and workers. Planting trees will have limited impact unless supported by water-conservation projects, investment in renewable energy, and long-term maintenance of green spaces.

The PSA further calls for the active inclusion of schools, hospitals, and government departments in this campaign, ensuring that public facilities where workers and citizens interact daily are prioritised. Such an approach will strengthen the combat against climate change and foster environmental awareness and responsibility across generations.

The PSA is committed to partnering with government in ensuring sustainable development, environmental protection, and improved living conditions for all residents of the Northern Cape. Planting trees is a step forward, but government must go further by investing in resilient infrastructure and programmes that create jobs, protect natural resources, and safeguard the province's future.

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