

**MEDIA RELEASE**

PSA urges 2025 Matriculants to beware of "bogus" colleges

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**EMBARGO**

None

**ENQUIRIES**

[communication@psa.co.za](mailto:communication@psa.co.za)

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) in North West urgently advises the 2025 cohort of matriculants, prospective students, and their parents to remain hyper-vigilant as they navigate the tertiary education application and registration process. As the province awaits the release of the final matric results, the PSA notes with concern the historical rise of unregistered "bogus" colleges that specifically target young people in rural and urban centres, offering unrecognised qualifications in exchange for hard-earned family savings.

These illegal institutions often mimic legitimate colleges, utilising sophisticated marketing to mask their lack of accreditation from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). Enrolling in such an entity is not merely a financial risk; it is a strategic setback that can result in years of wasted effort. In a province like the North West, where the labour market is highly competitive, an unrecognised qualification acts as an immediate barrier to entry in both the public and private sectors, leaving graduates with no professional standing despite their academic toil.

The PSA, with a 105-year legacy of protecting workers' rights and public service integrity, emphasises that the mental and financial well-being of our youth is a non-negotiable priority. The Union urges all families to conduct thorough due diligence before any contracts are signed or registration fees are paid. A legitimate institution must provide valid proof of registration and demonstrate that its specific learning programs are accredited by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) or a relevant Quality Council. Prospective students should be particularly wary of institutions that demand large upfront cash payments or lack a permanent physical campus in the province.

While the PSA calls on the Provincial Government and law enforcement to intensify the crackdown on these fraudulent entities, the Union maintains that an informed public is the most effective defence. The PSA encourages all learners to verify the status of their chosen institutions through official DHET registers or by contacting the PSA North West Provincial Office for guidance. Protecting the credibility of the educational outcomes is vital for the future of the province and the continued excellence of the South African public service.

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