

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes Department of Basic Education's intervention to pay subsidies for KwaZulu-Natal special schools
DATE	29 October 2025
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the Department of Basic Education's (DBE) intervention to pay subsidies for special schools in KwaZulu-Natal.

This comes after some of the special schools were forced to remain closed after the school holidays owing to a funding crisis. The Department states that the delay in the payment of subsidies was due to unforeseen technical glitches, the payment was scheduled for 16 October 2025 and has been rescheduled.

Affected schools in KwaZulu-Natal received payment on 23 October 2025. This intervention will help revitalise special schools and enable them to pay for necessities such as electricity and water as well as the overall functioning of these institutions. This will enable these schools to provide quality education and support services to learners with disabilities and special needs. The payment will come as a relief to parents, educators, and learners who have been impacted by the recent closures.

Education is a basic right for citizens, enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa. Closure of schools infringes on this right. Learners with special needs should not be discriminated against and should be given an equal opportunity to education. The PSA thus welcomes the payment of the subsidies as a positive step towards promoting inclusive education in South Africa. It highlights government's responsiveness to the needs of learners with disabilities and commitment to fostering an education system that values diversity and promotes equity.

The payment of subsidies will, however, not eliminate all challenges faced by special schools such as broken-down scholar transport, dilapidated buildings, and a shortage of support staff. The PSA urges the Department to prioritise timely payments of subsidies to schools and ensure that there is increased funding for adequate support, investment in infrastructure development, regular monitoring and evaluation of progress of special schools as government is obliged to implement reasonable measures to make education accessible to all.

END