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| <b>MEDIA RELEASE</b> | <b>PSA welcomes donation of Robotics lab to rural school in KwaZulu-Natal</b> |
| <b>DATE</b>          | 22 April 2025   |
| <b>EMBARGO</b>       | None  |
| <b>ENQUIRIES</b>     | communication@psa.co.za   |

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the donation of a state-of-the-art laboratory by the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies to Sibongumbovu Combined School in Cedara, KwaZulu-Natal.

The laboratory, which is equipped with robotics kits, smartboards, laptops, and coding tools, is aimed at nurturing technology skills for learners. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has piloted Coding and Robotics as a new subject at schools, which is currently being launched at various schools across South Africa. Teaching Coding and Robotics can assist learners to develop their ability to engage in critical thinking, work collaboratively, enhance academic skills, foster creativity, and problem-solving skills.

Educators are being trained and upskilled to enable them to teach Coding and Robotics to learners, but it will be difficult to efficiently learn if there is no equipment. The PSA therefore welcomes the donation of the lab, especially in a rural area as every child has a constitutional right to education, deserves a fair chance to strive in the digital age, and should be able to access the same education as learners in urban areas.

Sibongumbovu Combined School is located in a disadvantaged community and caters for some 200 pupils from Grade R to 12. The School has faced several challenges, including limited funding, water shortages, and limited school resources. Despite these challenges, the pass rate has improved and therefore the School was chosen for this lab as it shows potential to transform learning outcomes.

The PSA appreciates efforts by the Department of Communication and Digital Technologies but urges the DBE to also undertake similar initiatives for other schools to be prepared for the new curriculum and equipped for the digital age.

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