MEDIA RELEASE PSA welcomes launch of Mpumalanga's first Skills Development Zone: Calls for tangible results

DATE 11 November 2026

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the launch of Mpumalanga's first Skills Development Zone (SDZ), led by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, at the Nkangala District Council Chamber in Middelburg.

This is an important initiative towards aligning education and training with the Province's economic and labour market needs. The PSA believes that stronger cooperation between government, educational institutions, and the private sector is essential to addressing skills shortages, reducing unemployment, and creating meaningful employment opportunities. Mpumalanga's key industries, including mining, electricity generation and petrochemicals, require a skilled workforce, whilst emerging sectors demand continuous reskilling and upskilling.

The PSA supports the expansion of apprenticeships, learnerships, internships, and training opportunities, particularly for young people, women, persons with disabilities, and people from disadvantaged communities. Local businesses and entrepreneurs must also benefit from opportunities created through the initiative.

The PSA, however, emphasises that the success of the SDZ must be measured by means of practical results rather than announcements. Government must ensure adequate resources, effective implementation, monitoring, and accountability to guarantee that skills development programmes translate into real employment opportunities. The PSA further highlights the importance of capacitating public servants and institutions responsible for implementing these programmes. Workers must be equipped to respond to changing economic demands and opportunities presented by green and digital economies.

The PSA calls on all stakeholders to ensure that this project delivers tangible benefits to workers and communities, contributes to economic growth, and promotes inclusive and sustainable employment.

END