

MEDIA RELEASE PSA welcomes outstanding achievements of KwaZulu-Natal 2025 matriculants

DATE 13 January 2026

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the outstanding achievement of the KwaZulu-Natal Matric Class of 2025.

The year marked a historic milestone with the national pass rate reaching an impressive 88%, which is the highest ever recorded in South Africa, showing a 0.7 % increase since 2024. KwaZulu-Natal emerged as the top performing province with a commendable pass rate of 90.6%. These results reflect the dedication, resilience, commitment of learners, educators, parents, and stakeholders.

KwaZulu-Natal's achievement is particularly noteworthy as the Department of Basic Education (DBE) faced many challenges during 2025 that disrupted administrative operations, school readiness, and service delivery. One of the most urgent crises involved severe financial instability by March 2025, where the Department had already overspent its budget and needed a boost to finish the year. School readiness was also a major issue as 50% of schools in the province had not received essential learning and teaching support materials such as stationery and textbooks.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education faced criticism regarding unpaid service providers, particularly those supplying the National School Nutrition Programme, as persistent financial non-compliance led to service providers not being able to deliver food to schools. Natural disasters destroyed school buildings and reduced teaching time for learners.

The PSA extends congratulations to the Matric class of 2025 and applauds learners and educators for leading the way against all odds and consistently improving performance over the years with a notable increase in Bachelor's passes and distinctions.

The PSA further acknowledges interventions by the DBE, which contributed to this milestone, and calls on the Department to sustain this academic excellence by prioritising service delivery, efficient management of budgets and ensuring that vacancies are filled to enable KwaZulu-Natal to continue to excel.

END