

FOR PSA MEMBERS: GENERAL (23/2019)

04-10-2019

## Teachers' Day 2019: PSA calls for conducive teaching and learning environment

On 5 October 2019, the Public Servants Association (PSA), representing thousands of members in the Education sector, joins the world in honouring dedicated South African educators who chose this profession and, despite challenges, want to remain in class to nurture future workers.

Teachers' Day is celebrated annually worldwide to pay homage and acknowledge the contribution of educators to society. The PSA in addition to lauding educators, calls for continued and concerted efforts from all stakeholders to address and root out shortcomings that are preventing the sector from performing optimally.

Limited resources, poor infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms, poor remuneration, as well as health and safety in schools are some of the major challenges that contribute to a shortage of skilled teachers, owing to some teachers leaving for greener pastures and failure to attract youth in this profession.

Sadly, there are increasing reports of violence perpetuated against teachers in schools, where they are often subjected to verbal and physical violence from learners. The socio-economic elements that influence the behavioural patterns of learners also calls for the involvement of all stakeholders to deal with this scourge of violence in schools. The PSA especially calls on the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, to lead in ensuring that more stringent measures are implemented to ensure a conducive environment for teaching and learning.

The PSA views Education is an esteemed occupation that offers the first stepping stone to towards a better future. The profession should therefore be treated with the utmost respect, adequate resources should be allocated teachers and remuneration should befit the responsibly bestowed on educators.

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