



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GENERAL 17/2025**

05-10-2025

Teachers' Day 2025: *The Teachers We Need for the Education We Want*

On 5 October 2025, Teachers' Day is commemorated, providing an opportunity to honour the dedication of educators whilst also confronting the stark realities they face. In South Africa, the day serves as a sobering reminder that the future of the nation is shaped by teachers, often under conditions that are unworthy of their dedication. The PSA recognises the efforts of educators in ensuring that learners are prepared for a brighter future.

Educators are conveyors of knowledge, mentors, role models, and community anchors. Despite their profound impact, educators, particularly in rural and marginalised communities, are exposed to navigating crumbling infrastructure, inadequate resources, and a lack of recognition.

The crisis in education is undeniable. Projections by the Department of Basic Education reveal that by 2030, South Africa will require 428 000 educators to sustain the learner-educator ratio. With some 405 000 educators currently in the system, the looming shortfall is troubling. Already, schools in rural areas struggle with overcrowded classrooms, shortages of teaching materials, and the absence of basic necessities such as electricity and running water. These conditions directly undermine the quality of education and the country's development.

The 2025 UNESCO theme, "*The Teachers We Need for the Education We Want: The Global Imperative to Reverse the Teacher Shortage*", could not be more relevant. Addressing the crisis demands urgent, decisive action, including properly funded bursaries, targeted recruitment drives, improved remuneration, mentorship, and career pathways that restore the dignity of the profession. Educators must be equipped to deliver the curriculum and to respond to trauma, inequality, and the demands of a rapidly evolving digital world. The emotional toll of working in high-stress, under-resourced environments can no longer be ignored.

On Teachers' Day, the PSA applauds South African educators for serving with commitment. This day should be a turning point towards real and lasting change, where educators are no longer expected to do more with less, but are given the respect, resources, and safe working conditions they deserve.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER