



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GENERAL 25/2026**

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Teachers' Day 2026: PSA calls for investment in Education Sector to shape South Africa's future

The PSA joins the global community in commemorating Teachers' Day 2026, recognising the invaluable contribution of teachers, lecturers, and educators towards development and the future of society. This year's theme, "Uniting for Excellence, Elevating Achievement, and Empowering Educators to Shape South Africa's Future", highlights the vital role educators play in shaping the Country's future and the need to ensure they have the support and working conditions required to fulfil this responsibility.

Educators work under increasingly challenging circumstances, including overcrowded classrooms, resource shortages, infrastructure challenges, administrative pressures, safety concerns, and growing behavioural and social challenges amongst learners. At the same time, many learners face poverty, inequality, food insecurity, violence, limited access to technology and learning materials, and challenging social and family circumstances. These challenges affect learning and place additional pressure on educators, who are often called upon to provide support beyond traditional teaching responsibilities.

The PSA urges government to prioritise the education sector by ensuring that critical vacancies are filled, sufficient numbers of qualified educators are recruited and retained, and educators receive resources, professional development, and support. Safe and properly maintained schools and learning institutions, manageable workloads, and reduced administrative pressures are essential to allowing educators to focus on their primary responsibility of teaching, developing, and empowering learners.

The PSA calls for greater investment in making teaching and lecturing attractive and sustainable professions for young South Africans. Addressing educator shortages require long-term planning and a commitment to fair treatment and decent working conditions. Uniting for excellence also requires meaningful collaboration between government, educators, parents, learners, and communities. Education is a shared responsibility. Strong partnerships can make a meaningful difference to learner achievement. This is particularly important in the TVET sector, where colleges play a critical role in equipping young South Africans with the skills needed to access employment, contribute to the economy and build sustainable futures.

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GENERAL SECRETARY