



PSA brings LIGHT to FUTURE WORKERS

The PSA assisted South Africa's future workers by providing solar rechargeable LED lights to more than 3 000 learners to enable them to continue with their schoolwork in the evenings and during loadshedding periods.

Through this corporate social responsibility project, the PSA donated 3 058 lights to learners in Grades 11 and 12 at 16 secondary schools from low-income households across the country's nine provinces. The pioneering project was conducted in May 2023 to demonstrate the PSA's support for future workers during Workers' Month.

The PSA is extremely concerned that loadshedding is impairing learners' capacity to study in the evenings and do assignments as South Africa struggles with disabling loadshedding. The PSA implemented this program to help alleviate this problem. The Department of Basic Education categorised schools that benefited from the initiative as quintile-1 schools that scored poorly based on their 2022-matric results. According to the *National Norms and Standards for School Funding*, a quintile-1 score indicates a poor/impoorished school based on the unemployment rate and literacy rate of the neighbourhood in which the school is located.

The lights were presented to the identified schools for distribution to affected learners, noting that the lights remain the schools' property for continuous use by learners.

The solar rechargeable LED lights are portable and do not require any electricity for charging. They can, however, also be charged using conventional electricity. When charged, an LED light can provide up to four hours of light and thus extend study time for learners.

PSA Provincial Offices visited the schools during May 2023 to present the lights and encourage learners. In North West, an educator at Letlopi Secondary School in Maubane, Kanathutshelo Munonde, described the PSA's intervention as a "wow experience." He said the solar lights would come in handy in the deep-rural area where there is no electricity at all. "I believe the lights will have a big and positive impact on learners' ability to study. They are now encouraged to study because they will have something brighter to illuminate the room with for them to continue with their schoolwork," he said.

The PSA believes that this intervention will help these learners succeed in secondary school and support their education journey as future workers.

