

MEDIA RELEASE                      Africa Day: PSA calls for strengthened education on continent

DATE                                      25 May 2024

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With Africa Day 2024 being commemorated under the theme of strengthening education across the continent, the Public Servants Association (PSA) calls for intensified efforts to address systemic barriers that have marginalised millions of learners across the continent.

The PSA, representing thousands of educators and administrators in South Africa, understands the power that education has to change lives and society. Education is critical for development in Africa, serving as a catalyst for economic growth, social progress, and sustainable development. Numerous challenges, however, hinder the realisation of inclusive and equitable education systems. Inadequate infrastructure, insufficient funding, unequal access, and outdated curricula continue to impede educational advancement in many African nations.

Under the banner of Africa Day, unions from various sectors across the continent continue to advocate for transformative change in education. Collaboration seeks to promote inclusivity and ensuring that education is accessible to all, regardless of gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, or geographical location. The quality of education must be enhanced by advocating for educational standards that meet international benchmarks of quality and excellence. This involves investing in well-trained educators, modernising teaching methods, and providing access to learning resources and technology. It is key to align education with the 21<sup>st</sup> century needs and equipping learners with knowledge, skills, and competencies required for success in a rapidly evolving world. This includes integrating technology, promoting entrepreneurship, and emphasising critical thinking, creativity, and innovation.

By uniting in their commitment to building resilient education systems, unions across Africa are sending a powerful message of solidarity and determination. Education is a fundamental human right and a strategic investment in the continent's prosperity and stability. On Africa Day, the PSA calls for a collective resolve to prioritise education as a cornerstone of Africa's development agenda to ensure a brighter and more equitable future for all Africans.

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