

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA concerned about Limpopo Matric results**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) congratulates Grade-12 learners in Limpopo who passed despite the challenges they faced.

Limpopo has some of the most dilapidated school infrastructure and a lack of resources for learners, including access to libraries and laboratories. COVID-19 exposed existing challenges, including a lack of technological resources, manpower, infrastructure, and sanitation. The pandemic reduced learning and teaching time with the implementation of the rotation system, however, those who were able to embrace technology benefited from online technology. Not all learners in Limpopo had the benefit accessing technology to continue their learning online. Owing to the lack of equipment, data, and poor network, learners struggled more compared to other provinces.

The PSA is troubled by the fact that the pass rate in Limpopo declined by 1.5% and is still languishing at the bottom as it is the only province that failed to obtain a pass rate of at least 70%. The need for investment in technology to support education remains critical, particularly in the rural communities and schools.

Whilst the PSA congratulates those who succeeded, the Union equally wants to encourage those who did not succeed to persevere. Additionally, the Department of Education must ensure that psychosocial services are availed to counsel learners who might need such services.

The Department of Education needs to reassess and prioritise education through constant training and retraining of educators to embrace technological advancements, invest in technology and infrastructure development, and conduct skills audits of school management teams to determine the level of competence. There is a need to ensure that cadre deployment is not allowed in the education sector, as this contributes to the Province's poor academic results, as it weakens the capacity of schools to properly implement plans.

The PSA further cautiously welcomes the decision by the Department to procure tablets for Grade 1 and 8 learners in 2022 owing to poor security at schools as well as poor network in most rural areas.

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