



**MEDIA RELEASE**                                      **PSA concerned about non-renewal of 2 400 Educator contracts at Western Cape Department of Education for 2025**

**DATE**    3 September 2024

**EMBARGO**    None

**ENQUIRIES**    communication@psa.co.za

---

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing thousands of Educators employed by the Western Cape Department of Education (WCED), strongly opposes the recent decision involving the retrenchment of 2 400 Educator contract positions.

The contracts of these Educators will not be renewed for 2025 owing to an alleged massive budget shortfall of R3.8 billion, which weighs on the WCED for the next three years. This shortfall stands despite the WCED already implementing a drastic R2.5 billion budget cut. It has frozen the filling of posts of non-educator staff at the Head Office and in districts, leaving the current educator vacancy rate at 21%. This development poses a significant threat to the quality of education and the well-being of learners and Educators.

The PSA is extremely concerned about the impact of this decision on the education system. Reducing the already dwindling number of Educators at this scale will exacerbate existing challenges. These including larger class numbers, decreased individual attention for learners, and increased workload pressures on remaining staff.

These terminations/non-renewals are counterproductive to the goals of providing quality education and supporting educational development. The PSA urges the relevant authorities to reconsider this decision and explore alternative solutions that do not compromise the future of the education system and contribute to the country's soaring unemployment figures.

The PSA remains committed to advocating the rights of educators and the betterment of educational standards. The PSA will continue to engage with stakeholders to seek a resolution that prioritises the needs of learners and Educators.

END