

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA condemns examination blunder at TVET College
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing employees at the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), has learned with dismay that students at a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College were given the wrong question paper during their examination in November 2024.

Reports indicate that students writing the Material Level 2 paper as part of the National Certificate Vocational (NCV) qualification on 12 November 2024 were tested on only 20% of the Level 2 curriculum, whilst 80% of the content was derived from the Level 3 curriculum. This regrettable error has inconvenienced students and raised concerns about the credibility and integrity of the examination process. The PSA is extremely concerned that such a serious mistake could occur in a department tasked with educating and training students for specialised careers in trade, industry, technology, and science. The Department of Higher Education and Training is entrusted with the responsibility of providing quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education, ensuring students obtain internationally recognised qualifications. It plays a critical role in equipping students with the necessary skills to meet the demands of the evolving labour market. Incidents such as these undermine confidence in the system and jeopardise students' prospects.

The PSA urges the Department to improve the training and capacity of its officials to prevent such costly errors. It must prioritise capacity-building initiatives to ensure that examination processes are efficiently planned and executed. It must develop and implement robust quality assurance measures to enhance student outcomes and foster a culture of learning and excellence. The issuing an incorrect question paper can have long-term negative consequences on students' academic progress. Such administrative failures must be prevented at all costs. Stringent monitoring and evaluation mechanisms must be put in place to ensure accuracy and fairness in all examination processes.

The PSA calls on the Department apologise unreservedly to affected students, acknowledging the time, effort, and dedication they invested in preparing for the correct examination material. The PSA also urges *Umalusi*, the examination quality assurance body, to intensify its oversight role in monitoring the Department's examination processes. The Department must be held accountable, and strict quality control measures must be implemented before any examination paper is issued.

Whilst the PSA welcomes the investigation into this incident, the Union urges the Department to invest significantly in staff training and development to prevent such errors. The future of South African students depends on a reliable, fair, and effective education system. The PSA will continue to advocate for the highest standards in education and training.

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