

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA congratulates Class of 2024 on historic academic achievement
DATE	14 January 2025
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) congratulates the Class of 2024 on their historic academic achievement of 87.3%, the highest National Senior Certificate pass rate since 1994 and an improvement of 4.4% on 2023 results.

These learners entered secondary school at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. They faced challenges and overcame struggles to become the most successful group of matriculants since the dawn of democracy. A total of 724 156 learners wrote the matric exams, and almost half of them achieved a bachelor pass, which serves as university entrance. The country also saw 319 000 learners earning distinctions, with every province achieving a pass rate higher than 84%. The PSA commends all provinces for improved matric performance in 2024. The Free State is further congratulated for being the top performing province for the 8th consecutive year with a 91% pass rate. The achievement reflects the improvement in the quality of the education in South Africa.

Representing thousands of Educators and School Administrators, the PSA fully understands the challenges associated with basic education. These include lacking infrastructure and resources, a shortage of staff especially in rural areas, school safety, and addressing learner mental-health challenges. Educators, however, stepped up in put in overtime over weekends to ensure that learners excelled. It is clear that government needs to invest in Educators to ensure continued progress in the education sector.

The PSA applauds Educators for their efforts and parents for their support. Despite the success, the PSA calls on the Minister of Basic Education to address conditions in the sector, including improving Educators' salaries and resources, supporting their development, and protecting posts. The PSA also remains concerned about inequalities in the education system and high dropout rates that require urgent attention.

Learners who were not successful are encouraged to pursue opportunities to achieve their goals and become a part of growing the country's economy. The PSA is proud to see young people excelling and calls on government to support job creation for young people to enhance the country's future.

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