

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes collaboration by Department of Basic Education and Department of Employment and Labour in Limpopo in implementing Phase 5 of BEEI
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the Department of Basic Education's collaboration with the Department of Employment and Labour, supported by the Industrial Development Corporation, in implementing Phase 5 of the Basic Education Employment Initiative (BEEI).

The launch of the BEEI is a significant step forward. This initiative, as part of the Presidential Employment Stimulus, aims to create more than 200 000 job opportunities for young South Africans. It focuses on providing roles such as teaching assistants, general school assistants, and other support positions at schools. The program is designed to equip participants with valuable work experience and skills whilst addressing youth unemployment.

The collaboration with the Department of Employment and Labour, supported by the Industrial Development Corporation, ensures effective implementation and stipend distribution. Participants will receive structured training and mentoring, along with a monthly stipend of R4 000 and a data allowance. This initiative supports schools and empowers local communities by prioritising youth from nearby areas. It is a meaningful effort to uplift education and provide stepping stones for future opportunities.

The PSA's call for introducing learnerships and internship programs is a constructive suggestion that could strengthen the BEEI. Addressing understaffing in schools is a crucial step towards improving the quality of education and ensuring that learners receive the attention and resources they need. Programs such as learnerships and internships provide on-the-job training and creates a pipeline for skilled professionals to fill staffing gaps at schools. It would, however, be strategic for the Department of Basic Education and its partners to further consider tailored programs that prioritise the inclusion of qualified educators. This could be achieved through specific teaching roles, mentorship programs for assistants, or opportunities to upskill whilst working in the initiative.

This approach could create a win-win situation. Schools would benefit from experienced educators, whilst qualified persons gain meaningful employment. The PSA is advocating for more sustainable and comprehensive solutions to challenges in the education sector. By combining employment initiatives with capacity-building programs, schools could benefit from a steady influx of qualified personnel, and young people could gain skills that serve them in the long term.

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