

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA wishes 2020 Grade-12 learners well for final exams

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EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which represents thousands of educators and administrative staff in schools across the country, wishes 2020 Grade-12 learners well for the upcoming matric exams.

The exams are the culmination of years of dedication by educators and learners. The Class of 2020 is, however, going into the exams in a year marked by unprecedented challenges. This year was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic that drastically reduced teaching time and impacting on preparation for the final exams.

The PSA thus wants to encourage all learners to persevere to conclude their schooling. The PSA is aware of the many additional hours learners and educators had to put in to ensure that they are ready for the exams and believes that these commitments will be rewarded. Since schools reopened on 8 June 2020, most Grade-12 educators have not taken a break. Most educators worked extra hours to compensate for teachers who were not able to work during this period and for teaching time lost.

Some teachers also participated in provincially arranged extra classes and were promised payment by the Department of Basic Education but are yet to be paid for the additional hours worked. At the same time, teachers are also still awaiting their salary increases that were due on 1 April 2020 and which the employer failed to implement.

During the year-end exams, educators will also be required to work longer hours as COVID-19 regulations will require additional time to complete tasks. The PSA therefore wants to thank all educators for their commitment and sacrifices to prepare learners for their final exams. The PSA also wishes to thank parents and other stakeholders ongoing support of learners and educators during this challenging year – this support made an invaluable contribution towards learners' future.

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