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| <b>MEDIA RELEASE</b> | PSA wishes 2024 Grade-12 learners well for final examinations |
| DATE                 | 14 October 2024   |
| EMBARGO              | None  |
| ENQUIRIES            | communication@psa.co.za                                       |

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) extends wishes of support to the country's Grade-12 learners as they embark on their last lap of their secondary school journey.

It is natural to have mixed feelings of excitement and anxiety during this time, but learners are urged to stay focused on their goals and maintain a positive mindset and prioritise their well-being. Taking regular breaks, eating healthily, and getting enough rest is just as important as studying.

Based on the PSA's assessment, it appears that provinces are well prepared to ensure the successful administration of the 2024-final examination, having rigorously prepared all necessary logistics, security measures, and learner support systems. Implemented interventions such as targeted assessments, supplementary classes, weekend classes, camps and last-push programmes across the country have ensured that learners are prepared. The PSA also reached out and supported learners from non-performing schools by donating solar-powered lights to assist with night-time studies and even mattresses for some of the schools where camps were organised.

Parents are urged not to place unnecessary pressure on learners but rather provide support to assist them on remaining focused throughout the examination period. The PSA further expresses gratitude to the educators and school support staff for their dedication in ensuring that learners are prepared for the exams. Learners are called upon not to participate in any actions that would compromise and sabotage their own futures, including endeavours to illegally access question papers.

The PSA calls on the Department of Basic Education to ensure collaborative efforts with other relevant departments, such as the SA Police Service for security and the Department of Social Development for psychosocial support for learners, to ensure incident-free examinations. Leaking of questions papers is a consistent threat to the integrity of the exams, which necessitates diligent planning and systems to avoid this.

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