

Draft Statement of the Premier, Media Briefing: Release of the 2024 Matric Results

Premier Dr. Zamani Saul

Tuesday, 14 January 2025

Tabernei Diamantstad, Kimberley

MEC Abraham Vosloo

Acting Head of the Department, Dr. Michelle Ishmail;

Members of Teacher Unions;

Members of the Media;

Our top three learners and their parents;

Good Morning

Let me start off by wishing you all a Prosperous 2025, may this year be the year in which you achieve all that you have set for yourselves. Always remembering that hardwork pays off.

Programme Director, the Northern Cape Provincial Government recorded a number of milestones in 2024. Our Key highlights for 2024 are

1. As a Province we received the highest number of clean audits, 8 clean audits in total. This we achieved through putting proper systems in place in an effort to enhance accountability and transparency.
2. We also managed to create a huge number of Jobs last year. In the first three quarters of the year we created 27 000 jobs. This we managed to achieve due to the initiatives rolled out by the Provincial Government with our key stakeholders.

And lastly, last year amongst our key highlights for the year is the Matric results that we are celebrating here today. We broke an all time record by receiving 84.2%.

So for Provincial Government, 2024 was a good year, and we are working towards an even better year in 2025. Reaching many little milestones that might seem insignificant for some, but for us and the people of the Northern Cape it is the little milestones that count.

Programme Director; Although we will do it again when we enter the hall, allow me to, on behalf of the Northern Cape Provincial Government congratulate the top three learners and their parents for the sterling performance last year. Kutlo Motlhoioa

(Kimberley Technical High School), Petrus Nel (Duineveld High School) and Kutlo Motshwana (Galaletsang High School).

You have made us proud. We sincerely wish you well in your future endeavour and look forward to welcoming you back into the Province to come and help us build a Northern Cape we are all proud of.

Today, we can proudly state that we are reaping the rewards of years of investment into a system that we believe can change the Northern Cape. You will remember that in 2019, The Northern Cape Provincial Government took a conscious decision to prioritise Health and Education. Education, because of our firm belief that we not able to attain our vision of Modernising, Growing and making the Northern Cape a successful Province if we do not educate our young people. We went out galvanising support from our key stakeholders to help us improve the education system.

The annual release of the Matric Results provide us with the opportunity to benchmark our education system against National standards. It further allows us to give recognition to our top achievers who have excelled academically and prepare for their tertiary education.

The Class of 2024 has done remarkably well and exceeded our expectations. This is also an indication that our education system in the Province has stabilised and we are witnessing a gradual improvement in our Matric results year on year.

A total of One hundred and Seventy Nine thousand, nine hundred and seventy eight thousand (179 978) answer scripts were marked by 839 Markers, 45 Chief Markers and 45 Internal Moderators. The Quality Assurer, Umalusi found that we have sound systems in place and the whole examination process was conducted with integrity. So, our results have been certified by Umalusi as a true reflection of the academic ability of our learners, free of irregularities and having been conducted with integrity.

The Northern Cape registered thirteen thousand and thirty-nine (13 039) full time candidates for the 2024 National Senior Certificate Examination. This is the second biggest cohort of candidates which have registered for the National Senior Certificate Examination compared to the previous years.

A total of twelve thousand nine hundred and thirty seven (12 937) candidates wrote all subjects in the 2024 NSC examination, ten thousand eight hundred and ninety two

(10 892) candidates successfully completed their final examination, bringing the overall pass rate of the Northern Cape to 84,19%.

The pass rate for this year has considerably increased with 8,39% from 75,8% to 84,19%. Over the past 5 years, we have seen a steady growth of 18,19% in the matric pass rate from 66% to 84,19%. Although, we remain in position 9, we have surpassed our target of 80% and this is a clear indication that we are well on our way to the top.

A total of 102 candidates could not complete the NSC examination due to valid reasons e.g. ill health, death in the immediate family, etc. and will be afforded the opportunity to complete the National Senior Certificate during the May/June Examination.

A total of 15 schools in the Province obtained a 100% pass rate. These schools will be named later during the Matric Awards Ceremony.

Out of the twelve thousand nine hundred and thirty seven (12 937) full time candidates that sat for the full NSC Examination, 2034 subject distinctions were obtained, this is an increase of 4% and 4 951 candidates obtained access to Bachelor's degree university entrance, an increase of 8,3%.

The performance of learners in Mathematics has increased with 5,8% (62,8% pass rate), whilst Physical Science decreased with 0,6% (66,6% pass rate).

We will place more focus on these subjects for 2025 to increase participation and improve performance which will broaden the landscape of possibilities for our learners.

It is worth noting that all Districts performed above 80%, **the pass rate for our five Districts are as follows:**

- The ZF Mgcawu District has recorded the highest pass percentage of 86,3% with an increase of 4,9%;
 - The Namakwa District recorded a pass percentage of 85,9%, an increase of 4,3%;
 - The Pixley Ka Seme District has recorded a pass percentage of 85,4% with an increase of 11,2%;
-

- The Frances Baard District follows with a pass percentage of 84,6% with an increase of 10,7% and;
- The John Toalo Gaetsewe District recorded a 81,4% pass percentage with an increase of 7,7%;

Allow me to congratulate the ZF Mgcawu District, which is our best performing District in the 2024 NSC Examinations.

We would also like to congratulate the Pixley Ka Seme District who recorded the highest improvement in the 2024 NSC Examinations.

We have agreed that we need to classify all schools performing below 70% as under-performing. For the 2024 National Senior Certificate Examinations, we have 20 schools performing below 70%.

In our efforts to further improve on our results in the 2024 National Senior Certificate results, we will assess our Provincial Improvement Plan to ensure that we make improvements where necessary.

Veritas High School in the Pixley Ka Seme District is our top performing public school in our Province, followed by Friersdale Combined School and Martin Oosthuizen High School in the ZF Mgcawu District.

Diamantveld High School is also the top Mathematics and Physical Science School in the Province, with a 95,3% (Physical Science) and 98,3% (Mathematics) pass rate in these subjects.

Dikgatlong High School in the Frances Baard District showed the best improvement in the Province with a pass rate of 100% an increase of 46,30%.

The top performing school per Quintile is as follow:

Quintile 1: Dikgatlong High School in the Frances Baard District.

Quintile 2: Veritas High School, in Pixley Ka Seme District

Quintile 3: Pitso Jantjie High School in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District.

Quintile 4: Warrenton High School, in the Frances Baard District

Quintile 5: Martin Oosthuizen High School in the ZF Mgcawu District.

Finally, As the Northern Cape Provincial Government we pledge to continue supporting all candidates who fell short of meeting the minimum requirement to pass these exams. We will assist them in the subjects not achieved, to ensure that they complete the requirements for passing. We further urge parents to refer these learners where needed, to school for the necessary support.

Where learners need to re-write the exams in 2025, we request these learners to contact the nearest district office for assistance in getting placement in an examination centre.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the MEC for Education, Mr. Abraham Vosloo, the Acting Head of the Department, Dr. Michelle Ishmail and all Senior and Middle Managers for the leadership they have provided to schools.

My best wishes to all, especially the Class of 2024 for all your future endeavours. You have made yourself and us, as Province very proud.

I thank you!
