

MEC Mac Jack

Opening of Marking Centres - Diamantveld HS

Sunday, 1 December 2019

Senior Management of the Department

Most importantly, our Educators, our Markers

It's with great sadness that the Northern Cape Department of Education received the shocking news last week Wednesday, that the Provincial Secretary of SADTU, Vincent Fikile Ntathu passed on. His untimely death has sent shock waves throughout the Province, in particularly the Education sector.

He was a lifelong fighter, being active in the trade union movement for more years. During his life he has participated in and led several important union struggles, fighting for the rights and the interests of the working class, gaining the genuine respect and support of his

colleagues and comrades. His death is not only a loss to his family, but also the education fraternity as a whole.

The Northern Cape Department of Education wishes to express its full solidarity with his union, and extend our sincere condolences to his family, colleagues and friends. May his dear soul rest in eternal peace.

Today, we observe World AIDS Day, which is annually commemorated on the 1st of December and is an opportunity for every community to unite in the fight against HIV, show support for people living with HIV and remember those who have died.

The theme this year is: “Communities make the Difference”. Every sexually active South African is at risk of contracting HIV. We call on all South Africans to recognise that HIV and AIDS are chronic diseases, and that people living with HIV can have full and happy lives. We each have a responsibility to treat those who are

struggling with an HIV-positive diagnosis with compassion, those struggling with AIDS with care, and ourselves and our sexual partners with respect. Addressing stigma and discrimination is important in mitigating the impact of HIV.

World AIDS Day is important as it reminds the public that HIV has not gone away and that collectively, there is the need to increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education to maintain and achieve the aims and objectives of the country as set out in the National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs and TB 2012-2016.

Adolescence is a critical period of development where young girls and boys are grappling with issues of self-identity and are bombarded by social challenges of HIV/AIDS, sexuality, alcohol and drug abuse.

The Curriculum is designed and aimed at supporting the cognitive development of learners to enhance their

personal decision making skills for responsible social behavioural conduct. In support to the Curriculum programme, we engage learners through different activities, particularly designed to handle all social ills. These programmes include; Peer Education, Educator and Learner Life Skills Training, Social mobilization with communities and school based advocacy, as well as Care and Support programmes for all vulnerable learners to be referred.

As the Department, we remain committed to the realisation of a better and more prosperous future for our beautiful country. It is our collective responsibility as Government and the society at large to protect our children and learners at all costs to ensure that they complete their school academic career and have access to these opportunities that awaits them.

Ladies and Gentleman,

We have reached the final stage of the 2019 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations, with high hopes and expectations for the Class of 2019, that they will do us proud. The Northern Cape has once again adhered to the norms and standards of the NSC Examinations, and we have concluded it with no major incidents reported. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the overall success of NSC Examination.

Firstly, allow me to congratulate all of you who we carefully selected to fulfil this very important duty, the marking of 2019 NSC Examinations in the Northern Cape.

Marking is considered as one stage in an integrated, collaborative process of teaching and learning, requiring awareness of the teacher's dual role as a coach and assessor are now calibrated. It also requires the marker to understand fully the subject content and the context of the learners.

It is in this context that we all upon you, as a cream of intellectuals, to maintain the moral and ethics of the teaching profession with this big task at hand.

The following should be considered when marking:

- The quality and quantity of marking;
- How you deal with the mistakes;
- Consistency and fairness of marking;
- Accuracy and conversion to point;

As educators, we know our children. When you mark the answer scripts, take into account what was more or less expected from the learner. The marking of answer scripts should always advantage the learner. Meaning the educators or markers should mark from a point of view of understanding the context of the learner.

We rely on your experience and expertise to fast-track and identify mistakes of the marking process. The points

you award must be fair, should not favour or prejudice any learner.

I have already assured the public that we only selected the best, crème de la crop, through a thorough selection process as marker to ensure the quality marking of answer scripts. We trust that you won't disappoint us and adhere to the following principles:

- Honesty
- Trustworthy
- Fairness
- Respect
- Responsible

I expect all markers to adhere to all these principles for the duration of the marking process. The Northern Cape Department of Education has written a total of 77 different question papers.

After a successful writing phase in which no irregularities or incidents that might have compromised the integrity of the examinations were reported, we are thankful and positive about the next phase of the process.

A total of 169 019 answer scripts need to be marked by 774 Markers, 157 Senior Markers, 22 Deputy Chief Markers, 65 Chief Markers and 65 Internal Moderators. Administrative duties will also be dealt with by 150 Examination Assistants.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the marking process is credible and reflect the candidates achievement. I wish you all of the best with the important responsibility bestowed upon each and everyone of you and trust that you'll enjoy your stay in Kimberley up to the 12th of December, when your work here is done.

In conclusion, I want to thank each and everyone who have contributed to the success of the NSC Examinations thus far. You have made significant sacrifices for the children of this beautiful Province.

Please convey our sincere appreciation to your family and loved ones, who have supported you during this period.

As we approach the festive season, may you and your family experience the joy and love this Season brings. Enjoy the well-deserved break and come back re-energised and ready for 2020.

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

I thank you!