



**Media Statement by the Premier, Dr Zamani Saul, at the Release of the 2022
Matric Results**

Department of Education

20 January 2023

Programme Director

MEC for Education, Mr Zolile Monakali

Head of the Department, Ms Moira Marais;

Representatives of our Teacher Unions;

Senior Management of the Department;

Members of the Media;

Most importantly, our top three learners and their parents

It is that time of the year when we conclude a very important milestone in the lives of many young people. Today is the end of twelve years of hard work and dedication of your schooling career and the start of a new chapter in your lives.

This occasion provides us with the opportunity to reflect and make an honest introspection of the quality of the education system we need now and in the future. It further allows us to give recognition to our top achievers who have excelled academically towards their bright futures.

The Class of 2022 has done remarkably well and excelled academically against all odds. We should be mindful, that the Class of 2022 was in Grade 10, when the COVID pandemic wreaked havoc in our country, more especially in the education sector. With a considerable learning backlog and very little exposure to formal assessments, with their dedication and commitment, they have shown us what can be achieved.

Of course all of this was possible through matric interventions and support programmes which the Department facilitated in all our schools and Districts. This is also an indication that our education system in the Province is stabilising and we are witnessing a gradual improvement in our Matric results over the past three years; in 2020 we stood at 66% in 2021 at 71.4% and in 2022 at 74.2%.

It is quite noteworthy that all these improvements have not matched or surpassed the national average, which for the year under review stands at 80.1%. We are about 6% below the national average and this demonstrates the kind of work and planning that we must put up this year.

Examination Administration

We wish to extend a word of gratitude to the Department of Education for the way in which they have administered the exams. Let me give you an example of the level of managerial skill that the department needed to successfully administer the 2022 National Senior

Certificate Examinations

A total of one hundred and ninety seven thousand, eight hundred and forty three (197 843) answer scripts needed to be marked by 766 Markers, 164 Senior Markers, 21 Deputy Chief Markers, 82 Chief Markers and 82 Internal Moderators. The Quality Assurer, Umalusi found that we have sound systems in place and the whole examination process was conducted with integrity. As a result, Umalusi has accredited our results as an accurate assessment of our students' aptitude, free from any irregularities, and the product of honesty and integrity.

Analysis of the NSC Results

The Northern Cape registered thirteen thousand eight hundred and thirty one (13 831) full time candidates for the 2022 National Senior Certificate Examination. This is the biggest cohort of candidates which have registered for the National Senior Certificate Examination compared to the previous years. A total of 13 574 candidates wrote all subjects in the 2022 NSC examination, 10 072 candidates successfully completed their final examination, bringing the overall pass rate of the Northern Cape to 74, 2%.

As I have mentioned the pass rate for 2022 has considerably increased with 2, 8% from 71, 4% to 74, 2%. A total of 257 candidates could not complete the NSC examination due to valid reasons such as ill health, death in the immediate family, amongst others and will be afforded the opportunity to complete the National Senior Certificate during the May/June Examination.

Details pertaining to the performance per district as well as the best performing schools, will be made known later this morning at the Awards ceremony.

Members of the media

I would like to recognize the presence of the top three candidates in our Province in no particular order: Lize-Mari Loots (Daimantveld High School), Emae Fourie (Duineveld High School) and Barend Badenhorst (Douglas High School). Later today, during the Matric Awards Ceremony, they will be officially recognised for their outstanding achievements.

We invited these remarkable young people and their parents to be with us today as we announce the outcomes of the Matriculation results for 2022. I want to also extend my congratulations to the parents who stood behind their children, supported them, encouraged them and sacrificed with them to reach the finishing line. Their achievements are as much yours and we applaud you for that.

With the good also comes the not so good in that there are students who did not make it this time around. As a Provincial Government we want to pledge our support to all candidates that 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 this year, 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. Zolile Monakali, the Head of the Department, Ms. Moira Marais and all Senior and Middle Managers for the leadership they provide to schools.

All District and Circuit officials, Curriculum Chief Directorate, Curriculum Coordinators and all Subject Advisors must be acknowledge for the role they have played.

A special word of appreciation to the Examination Chief Directorate as well as the District Examination officials for their commitment, involvement and outstanding manner in which they conduct examinations in our Province.

We would also like to convey our appreciation to the South African Police Services for their annual support and cooperation when we conduct the final matric examinations.

I thank all the unions that operate within this sector and all our dedicated teachers for their outstanding role in assisting the Northern Cape Department of Education into taking our combined efforts to greater heights.

I sincerely trust that this cooperation will continue. Please remember that these learners are our children who need our assistance and support at all times.

My best wishes to all, especially the Class of 2022 on all your future endeavours. You have made yourself and us, as Province very proud. To the Class of 2023, the bar has been set. I call on all citizens in the Northern Cape to dedicate and commit themselves towards the Education of our children and help us realise the vision of a modern, growing and successful Province.

Thank you

Released by the Northern Cape Provincial Government