

# Opening Remarks-Release of the 2021 Matric Results

MEC Zolile Monakali

Friday, 21 January 2022

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Members of the Executive Council;

Members of the Provincial Legislature;

Head of the Department, Ms. Moira Marais;

Representatives of our Teacher Unions;

Stakeholders in Education: MTN, Vodacom, Standard Bank, Fundi, South African Institute of Charter Accountants (SAICA)

Senior Management and Officials of the Department of Education;

School Principals present;

Members of the Media;

Most importantly, our top performing learners and their parents;

Today, we are gathered here to mark an important day as we celebrate the release of the matric results for the Class of 2021.

As government and the people of Northern Cape, we join the rest of the country in a collective note to our children who wrote the 2021 National Senior Certificate Examinations. We are gathered here to congratulate and celebrate our learners, the Class of 2021, which has made it despite very difficult circumstances. The 2021 cohort of learners have been tested not only through exams and the usual tests, but by the Covid-19 pandemic of unimaginable proportions in human living memory.

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The matric class of 2021 defied the odds to make it to this moment. You were able to rise beyond circumstances and excel during a pandemic. This is the Class that has demonstrated resilience and tenacity and raised above all the circumstances with the help of your teachers, family and friends. You had to battle with many upheavals and adjust to a new normal. There were doubts that set in, whether you will make it to, yet you made it this far because you worked hard.

We are here to say to all the learners, you have finally reached the pinnacle of your basic education and we now sit to assess the hard work you put in.

Today, we stand together marvelling at the journey we have travelled, the mountains we have climbed, the rivers we have had to cross and the valleys we have scaled for the past 12 years. We wish you well in your future endeavours and congratulate all the recipients of today's Awards.

As I conclude, allow me to extend a word of sincere appreciation to entire Education System in the Northern Cape, all our Teacher Unions, our partners in Education and the Northern Cape Provincial Government, under the leadership of Dr. Zamani Saul for your unwavering commitment and dedication towards the noble cause of Education. The future of our Province and country solely rest on Education. Every child is a national asset and every child must succeed in life!

Let me take the opportunity to welcome the first citizen of our Province, Dr. Zamani Saul who will deliver the Keynote Address during this auspicious occasion. I thank you!

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