

2025 Matric Awards Ceremony

MEC Abraham Vosloo

Tuesday, 13 January 2026

Old CRC Building, Kimberley

Honourable Premier, Dr. Zamani Saul

Deputy Minister, Mr. Alvin Botes

Members of the Executive Council,

Members of the Provincial Legislature,

Leaders of our teacher unions,

Acting Head of the Department, District Directors and Senior

Officials of the Department of Education,

Representatives of our Stakeholders and Partners in Education,

School Principals and Teachers,

Parents and SGB Associations,

Class of 2025,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is a joyful occasion and yes, we are celebrating the announcement of the 2025 National Senior Certificate results for the Northern Cape.

The annual release of the matric results is a moment of reflection, accountability and renewed commitment. It is a day when we celebrate achievement, acknowledge effort and confront with honesty the work that still lies ahead of us as a province committed to quality education for all.

Overview of Education in the Northern Cape

The Northern Cape education landscape is unique. We serve learners across vast geographical distances, in urban centres, small towns and deeply rural communities. Our schools operate under diverse socio-economic conditions, often facing challenges related to poverty, learner mobility, infrastructure backlogs, access to learning resources and teacher shortages in critical subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Accounting.

Despite these realities, our education system remains resilient. Over the years, we have strengthened curriculum delivery, improved teacher development programmes, expanded learner support initiatives and prioritised school governance and accountability. Our educators continue to demonstrate commitment under difficult circumstances and our learners show remarkable determination in pursuit of their dreams.

The matric results we announce today serve as a mirror, showing us where we are succeeding and where we must intensify our efforts.

While we celebrate the successes achieved, we must also be candid about areas that require urgent intervention. Learner performance, particularly in gateway subjects, remains a critical concern. These outcomes remind us that improving academic performance is not the responsibility of the education sector alone, it is a collective societal responsibility.

It is in this context that I wish to emphasise the critical importance of strategic partnerships in improving learner academic performance in the Northern Cape.

No education system can succeed in isolation. Strategic partnerships enable us to mobilise resources, expertise, innovation and support beyond the walls of our schools.

Our Premier, Dr. Zamani Saul launched the Multi-Year Improvement Plan 2035 which will serve as our blueprint for the next 10 years. It's a partnership between the Northern Cape Department of Education and the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), anchored in the National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030, which identifies education as the single most important investment in South Africa's future.

The MYEIP 2035 aligns with national imperatives to improve quality learning outcomes, expand access and ensure that all learners acquire the skills and values needed to contribute meaningfully to our democracy and economy.

The Plan is also tightly aligned with our Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP) and with the Department of Basic Education's strategic priorities. It offers a focused and practical framework to help the Northern Cape leap ahead of national performance averages, with the ultimate aim of unlocking the full potential of our youth and communities.

Importantly, the MYEIP 2035 is a social compact. It calls on all role players, educators, learners, parents, unions, the private sector, academia and civil society to work together in a spirit of unity and shared responsibility. It aims to mobilise additional technical and material resources, deepen community engagement and instil a culture of excellence, ethics and teamwork across the entire education system.

Our partnerships with Anglo American, Standard Bank, Telkom, SAICA, IDC, MTN and Vodacom have supported teacher training and subject content strengthening, learner tutoring and mentoring programmes, psychosocial support services, career guidance initiatives, digital learning solutions and infrastructure development. These collaborations have helped bridge gaps that the state alone cannot always fill.

As we move forward, we must deepen and formalise more of these partnerships. We must align our efforts around shared goals, use data to target interventions where they are most needed and hold one another accountable for results.

I call upon all our stakeholders and partners to continue walking this journey with us and I invite new partners to join hands with the Northern Cape Department of Education in shaping a stronger, more responsive education system.

In closing, I wish to congratulate all our matriculants on reaching this important milestone. To those who have achieved their goals, we celebrate with you. To those who did not achieve the outcomes they had hoped for, know that this is not the end of the road, there are pathways ahead and we remain committed to supporting you.

To our teachers, principals, officials, parents and partners, I extend my sincere appreciation. The future of education in the Northern Cape depends on our collective resolve to work together, innovate boldly and place learners at the centre of everything we do.

Let us recommit ourselves to building an education system that unlocks potential, restores dignity and prepares our young people to contribute meaningfully to the social and economic development of our province and our country.

I thank you.

I now call upon the Premier of the Northern Cape, Dr. Zamani Saul