

**Provincial Pledge Signing Ceremony
MEC Martha Bartlett
Kimberley Boys High School, Frances Baard District
Friday, 12 October 2018**

**Head of the Department, Mr GT Pharasi;
Senior Managers and Staff of the Department;
Representatives from our Unions;
Staff and Personnel of Kimberley Boys High,
Members of the media;
Most importantly, our learners, the Class of 2018.**

The Northern Cape Department of Education has always and will continue to ensure that we administer a National Senior Certificate Examinations free of any irregularities. We have always adhered to the norms and standards of the National Senior Certificate Examinations and this year is no different.

The necessary systems and measures are in place to ensure that the status quo will remain in the Northern Cape for many more years to come.

The Department of Education have done all we can to ensure that you are well prepared for the 2018 National Senior Certificate Examination.

The Department of Education expects you to be honest and to do your own work during the examination and to refrain from any type of examination irregularities, such as:

- Found in possession of a cell phone. Even if the device was switched off or if there was no information on it to assist you, you will be sanctioned;
- Copying from notes or textbooks or any other unauthorised material or from a fellow candidate;
- If you receive any help from a teacher or a friend during the writing of the examination;
- When you do not hand in your annexure for subjects like Mathematical Literacy;
- Using a friends exam number or a wrong exam number and;
- If you do not sit according to the seating plan. It is also very important to warn you against accepting answers that are imposed on you by anyone. Do not accept imposed answers. If you accept answers imposed on you, the following will be the consequences:

1. The imposed answers will definitely be detected at the marking centre. The system has advanced ways of detecting such answers.
2. Your results in the implicated subject/paper will be blocked for further investigation.
3. The investigation and hearings are a long process which may be concluded after the opening of tertiary institutions.
4. As you will be waiting for the outcome of the hearings, other 2018 Matric students will be busy with their first year tertiary education studies.
5. This means that your life will come to a complete standstill as you will be waiting for the outcome of the investigations and hearings.
6. If you are found guilty of accepting imposed answers, your results will be declared null and void.
7. You may be barred from writing the National Senior Certificate examination for a period on one or two or three years depending of the decision of the Chairperson of the hearing committee.
8. You will be given an opportunity to appeal the decisions taken by the hearing committee. This is another long-drawn process which will further delay your results.
9. Whilst waiting for the outcome of your appeal, your peers will be continuing with their tertiary education studies.
10. The fact of the matter is that you may lose 1 year of your plans or even 2 or 3 years depending on the outcome of the appeal process.

Therefore, imposed answers can easily destroy your life whilst the persons who imposed the answers on you are unaffected and continue with their lives. We do hope that this Pledge Signing Ceremony will make you aware of the dangers of any irregularities and salvage you from the frustrations of waiting for the long processes of investigations and hearings.

In conclusion; You do have a choice. Make the right decision. Be honest, be trustworthy, be a person of character and integrity. Make us proud. Study and work hard. Be calm before the examination, arrive on time for the examination and have your identity document and admission letter with you at all times.

Let me also take this opportunity to urge parents and the community at large to please give support to our learners as they prepare and write this important examination. Be there to help them, keep them positive and the right nutrition matters during this period.

Lastly, our message to young people is: you can succeed despite difficult circumstances, poor backgrounds and humble beginnings. Through sheer hard work, commitment and determination nothing can prevent you from achieving your full potential and your dreams. Visualise your dreams and be willing to put in time, energy and sacrifices to realise your goals. Do not be distracted by unwanted interferences from focusing on the important task of studying to become successful in life.

Let us aim high, strongly driven by our core values, where the dignity of your hard work in pursuit of excellence, reflects. We wish you all of the best and make the Northern Cape proud.

I thank you!