

PRESS CONFERENCE
State of Readiness
MEC Martha Bartlett
HOD BOARDROOM
Thursday, 11 October 2018

Head of the Department, Mr GT Pharasi;
Senior Managers of the Department;
Members of the media;

We have convened this press conference to declare that the Northern Cape Department of Education is ready to conduct the end-of-the year examinations in all grades, particularly the 2018 National Senior Certificate Examinations.

REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES

The 2018 NSC registration has been completed. We have registered a total of **12 198** full time candidates which represent an increase of **1 679** candidates when compared with **10 519** candidates in 2017.

From the **12 198** full time candidates **2 643** are progressed learners. When including part time candidates the number increases to **14 263**.

Progressed candidates may again opt for the Multiple Examination Opportunity in 2018. It should be mentioned that if any of the 12 198 full time candidates fail to complete the entire NSC examinations or progressed learners choose to make use of the Multiple Examination Opportunity, their results will not be taken into consideration for the 2018 NSC results.

REGISTRATION OF EXAMINATION CENTRES

All exam centres have been audited by provincial and district officials, based on a national instrument. The Northern Cape has registered **143** NSC centres which include **6** independent centres and **1** correctional service centre.

SUPPORT TO THE CLASS OF 2018

We have had various interventions with the sole aim of ensuring that our schools get maximum support with a strong emphasis on progressed learners.

Progressed learners are indeed close to our hearts and we did all we can to provide them with all the necessary support. Amongst those interventions were the following programmes:

- Conducted an audit on Curriculum Coverage using the School Bag Audit Tool by deploying District Management Teams and Subject Advisors as part of monitoring the reopening of schools in July 2018.
- Identification of learners for modulation, per district and by name.
- Conduct parental sessions with parents of modulated learners. Finalisation of Modulated Learners by end of September 2018.
- Curriculum Roadshows and Cluster meetings for 700 teachers in all the mainstream subjects (Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Geography, Business Studies & Mathematics Literacy etc.)
- Centralised subject clinics for **1060** teachers across all districts.
- HoD training for Mathematics and Physical Sciences in the Frances Baard district
- Development Clinics to assist teachers with lesson planning, teaching methodologies and development of assessment tasks, memoranda and analysis grids;

- On site School Support to underperforming and high enrolment schools;
- Custodianship Programme, where subject advisors adopt a school, to provide intense and radical support to schools which have underperformed in 2016;
- A total number of **6 800** learners supported during the Mapwork week
- Holiday school: Autumn, Winter and Spring Camps;
- Psycho-social Support to **953** and **969** Progressed learners in both Frances Baard and JTG respectively.
- Other interventions include: Weekend lock-in sessions, Saturday classes, Career Guidance, Cinema sessions, Compulsory Study Sessions, to mention a few and lastly;
- The final push programme, which included intense revision and consolidation of problematic content were instituted and monitored by Head Office and District Office officials.

THE STATE OF READINESS FOR THE 2018 NSC EXAMINATION

CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATION

The examination will commence on **15 October 2018** CAT (Computer Application Technology) and conclude on **28 November 2018**. All candidates will sit for NSC examinations on **23 October 2018** for English Home Language and English First Additional Language.

PREVENTION OF EXAMINATION IRREGULARITIES

The province will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that examination malpractices and irregularities during all phases including the writing phase are eliminated to 0%. All acts of dishonesty and possession of unauthorised electronic devices like cell phones will be monitored. A total of **143** Chief Invigilators

were appointed and trained to strengthen our efforts to eradicate examination irregularities for the 2018 NSC examination.

TRAINING OF INVIGILATORS AND MONITORING

In order to ensure credible examinations, all officials participating in the administration of examinations at various levels of the examinations will be trained. The Head Office officials have already concluded the training of Chief and Deputy Chief Invigilators at clustered centres in all 5 districts. This is followed by the training of Invigilators and Monitors.

Examinations will be monitored daily at the 1 correctional services centre, 6 independent centres and schools previously implicated in irregularities. School writing the Grade 12 public examination for the first time and those with newly appointed principals will have resident monitors as part of support.

The province will be monitor all storage points daily.

PRINTING, PACKAGING AND DISTRIBUTION

All papers are set by Department of Basic Education panels. The department is doing in-house printing under strict security measures.

Packing, boxing and distribution of question papers are done per district, per school, per paper. Security measures are brought in to track each and every question paper printed.

The printing has tight security systems for the prevention of leakage of information and Provjoc have been consulted for extra security. The province is confident that all candidates will receive question papers on time, on the day of writing.

SELECTION OF MARKERS

A thorough process was conducted to ensure that quality marking of answer scripts will take place. The selection of

markers was completed in September 2018 and the appointment letters to all markers are due.

COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION OF MARKING

The marking centres will open on 1 December 2018 and answer scripts and question papers will be delivered to marking centres. The marking session will commence on 1 December and concludes on **15 December 2018**.

END OF YEAR PROCESSES

Marking Centres will officially close 15 December 2018 and the capturing of results on 17 December 2018. The Umalusi Standardisation meeting is scheduled for 23 December and all Statement of Results will be at schools by **3 January 2019**.

RELEASE OF RESULTS

The National Minister of Basic Education will release the National NSC results on 3rd of January 2019 at 18:00 during a press conference.

The Northern Cape will release the provincial results on 4 January 2019, which will be followed by the Matric Awards ceremony the same day.

CONCLUSION

As a department we have done what we could, and it is now in the hands of every Grade 12 learner. This is the final leg; therefore we would like to request everyone, especially members of the community to ensure that they support the Class of 2018

now more than ever. We specifically requested parents to give maximum support to their children.

To the Class of 2018, this is your future and your future depends on your determination, commitment, discipline and focus. We are confident that the Class of 2018 will do the Northern Cape proud. I thank you!