

State of Readiness Press-Conference

MEC Mac Jack

Northern Cape Department of Education

Monday, 14 October 2019

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 administer the end-of-the year examinations in all grades, particularly the 2019 National Senior Certificate Examinations.

Last year, the Northern Cape achieved a pass rate of 73,3%, a decline of 2,3% from 75,6 % in 2017. The Class of 2019 has a mammoth task ahead, to ensure that they further improve on last year's 73,3% pass percentage.

Support to the Class of 2019

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:

- Curriculum Roadshows for teachers addressing weaknesses in learner performance as well as teaching methodology and marking techniques;
- 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 Members of the Executive Council subject adopt a school, to provide intense and radical support to schools which have underperformed in 2018;
- Holiday school: Autumn, Winter and Spring Camps;

- Other interventions include: Whole weekend lock-inn sessions, Saturday classes, Career Guidance, Cinema sessions, Compulsory Study Session, 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 2019 NSC EXAMINATION

As so far as the State of Readiness is concerned, allow me to put the following 8 key points forward:

1. THE CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATION

The examination will commence on 16 October 2019 (Computer Application Technology) and conclude on 28 November 2019. All candidates will sit for NSC examinations on 23 October 2019 for English Home Language and English First Additional Language.

2. REGISTRATION OF EXAMINATION CENTERS

All exam centres have been audited by provincial and district officials, based on a national instrument. The Northern Cape has registered 150 NSC examination centres which include 8 independent centres and 1 correctional services centre.

3. REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES

The 2019 NSC registration has been completed. We have registered a total of 11 512 compared to last year's 12 157 which records a decrease of 645 full time registered candidates. Of this year's 11 512 full time candidates 2 643 are progressed learners and have the option to make use of the Multiple Examination Opportunity. It simply means that they have the option to write four subjects this year and the rest during next year's May/June mid-year examinations.

It should be mentioned, that if any of the 11 512 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 2019 NSC results.

We have also registered 2 024 part time candidates for the 2019 NSC Examination. There will also be a first Senior Certificate examination in November 2019 for the 1 027 candidates who were absent with a valid reason in the May/June 2019 examinations and/or who failed subjects in May/June 2019. The results of these part-time candidates won't form part of the overall NSC results of 2019.

4. INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT

The province leaves no stone unturned in ensuring that examination irregularities are prevented especially acts of dishonesty and possession of unauthorised electronic devices like cell phones. A total of 150 Chief Invigilators were appointed and trained to strengthen our efforts to eradicate examination irregularities for the 2019 NSC examination.

5. PRINTING, PACKAGING AND DISTRIBUTION

All papers are set by Department of Basic Education panels. 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 province is confident that all candidates will receive question papers on time, on the day of writing.

6. SELECTION OF MARKERS

A thorough process was conducted to ensure that quality marking of answer scripts will take place. The required marker personnel were appointed as follows:

- **931 Markers**
- **46 Chief Markers**
- **46 Internal Moderators**
- **3 Data Capturing Supervisors**
- **3 Centre Managers**
- **6 Deputy Centre Managers**
- **130 Examination Assistants**

7. COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION OF MARKING

The marking centres will open on 1 December 2019 and answer scripts and question papers will be delivered to marking centres. The capturing of marks will take place up to the 12th of December 2019.

8. RELEASE OF RESULTS

The National Minister of Basic Education will have a press conference on the 7th of January 2020 at 18:00 to release the national results.

The Northern Cape will release our provincial results on 8th of January 2020, which will be followed by the Matric Awards.

CONCLUSION

As a department we have done what we could, and it is now in the hands of every Grade 12 candidate. 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 2019 now more than ever.

We specifically requested parents to give the maximum support to their children.

We are confident that the Class of 2019 will do the Northern Cape proud.

I thank you!