

2018 NC Matric Awards – Keynote Address

MEC Martha Bartlett

Friday, 4 January 2019

The Members of the Northern Cape Executive Council;
Speaker, Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Legislature
and MPLs;

Collective Leadership of the ANC led Alliance;

District and Local Mayors present;

Representatives from Standard Bank and MTN;

Religious Leaders;

Regional and Deputy Regional Commissioners of the
Correctional Services and their top 3 candidates;

Senior Management of the Department of Education;

Government officials present;

Principals and Educators;

Parents and learners;

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I'm profoundly honoured to address to address this auspicious occasion to announce and also celebrate the outcomes of the much anticipated 2018 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations.

It is always both an exciting and a tense time, not only for the learners and their parents, but also for the Northern Cape Province and its entire people. We are exceptionally pleased to spend this important day with the top achievers of the Northern Cape and all key stakeholders in our beautiful province.

The outcomes of the NSC Examinations are the most important occasion in the Education Calendar and these results are closely followed and commented on. We should be cognisant of the fact that the results are a reflection of the effectiveness of our education system.

As we analyse the 2018 NSC examination results, I wish to remind the public that the main purpose of the National Senior Certificate examinations is to provide learners with an exit national qualification.

Education remains a central, critical determinant of the economic and social success of any country.

It is probably the most effective means to eradicate poverty and ensure prosperity and growth.

Our Government has developed a basic education sector plan and is called: “Action Plan to 2014: Towards the realisation of Schooling 2025”.

This is a long term plan to respond to the challenges our Education System are faced with.

Allow me to provide you with a summary of the 2018 NSC results in the Northern Cape:

- A total of 9 909 candidates completed the NSC Examination, of which 7 264 candidates passed;
- The Northern Cape recorded a pass rate of 73,3%, a decline of 2,3%;
- All Districts recorded a pass rate above 70%;
- Namakwa District 83.7%, ZFM District 74,6%, JTG District 73,2%, Frances Baard District 71,4% and Pixley Ka Seme District 70,2%;
- Four (4) schools have recorded a 100%;
- Most improved school is Warrenvale High School in Frances Baard District from 47,4% in 2017 to 95,5% in 2018;
- 1 562 candidates obtained distinctions;

- 2 589 candidates obtained bachelors passes;

I wish to congratulate all learners who have performed well in the 2018 NSC Examinations.

Most of the learners who will receive awards at this ceremony here today studied under particularly difficult circumstances and we are proud of what you have accomplished.

We celebrate today bearing in mind that this is but the start of your journey to adulthood and excellence. You have laid a strong foundation upon which you can build and prosper.

As you move on to the next step of this journey in life, I would like to impart important advice as so eloquently stated by Robin Sharma when he said:

“Success is created through the performance of a few small daily disciplines that stack up over time to produce achievements far beyond anything you could have ever planned for. Daily ripples of excellence – overtime – become a tsunami of success”.

To those learners who could not succeed, there is always another tomorrow. John Maxwell once said, “A successful person is somebody who once failed but told himself that he is not a failure”.

Failure is not a permanent feature, but a temporary inconvenience that serves as a source of experience. All learners should immediately register and start preparing for the mid-year exams without delay. We want you to succeed and as Government, we will support you to do so.

Ladies and gentlemen, creating an enabling and conducive environment where quality learning and teaching can take place, not only rests on the shoulders of Government, but calls for a collective approach and action. We therefore call upon all communities and stakeholders to play their part in ensuring that education becomes a societal matter. Education is not about a classroom and a book. Collectively, this is our responsibility.

In conclusion, I want to thank our dedicated teachers and principals who have committed themselves to the delivery of quality teaching and learning.

I also want to acknowledge the role of our school governing bodies and parents who continue to support our schools and learners.

Allow me to extend a sincere word of appreciation and gratitude to all the sponsors of the Northern Cape Matric Awards; Standard Bank and MTN. Indeed you are heading the call that Education is a societal matter. We would also like to thank the JTG Development Trust for their generous support and contribution for the extended Spring Camps which benefitted 25 schools and 1044 learners in the JTG District.

As Government, alone we cannot adhere to the needs and outcry of our learners. Collectively, in the spirit of Thuma Mina we must contribute towards the realisation of the dreams and aspirations of our learners.

Finally, I would like to express our gratitude to all our partners in the Education sector for their unwavering commitment towards Education in the Northern Cape. We will however not rest, we need to work together and we need to work harder. Let us make 2019 a memorable school academic year!

Lastly, I would be failing in my political responsibilities if I do not remind you of the Final Voter Registration Weekend on 26-27 January 2018. Register to vote during 2019 General Election and be part of our democracy.

I thank you!