

# Release of the 2018 Matric Results

MEC Martha Bartlett

Media Briefing

Friday, 4 January 2019

---

Head of the Department, Mr GT Pharasi;

Representatives of our Teacher Unions;

Senior Management of the Department;

Members of the Media;

Most importantly, our top three learners and their parents;

We converge here annually on a matter of utmost importance for our country, the Northern Cape and its entire people. We are gathered here to announce to the 2018 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination results of the Northern Cape learners. They were entrusted to us, by parents and legal guardians, across the length and breadth of our province.

As the Greek Philosopher, Aristotle puts it “Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity”. Every society needs this ornament and refuge. It is in this regard that each and every person in society must be a stakeholder in education and our actions should

support the protection and promotion of teaching and learning at all times.

It is education that has a crucial role to play in realizing the noble objectives of our democracy on matters contained in our constitution and the National Development Plan Vision 2030, which are all about ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all.

We recognise that the National Senior Certificate (NSC) results are an important indicator of the quality of our education system. Whilst the nation rightly takes great interest in the NSC performance of our learners, we should all be reminded that we cannot only sit up and pay attention to our learners when they enter the Further Education and Training (FET) Band in Grade 10 or begin to concern ourselves when they reach Grade 12. We need to remember that good teaching and learning must take place from Grade R. The Department of Education recognises the necessity for the development of strong foundational skills.

The ANC led government has done remarkably well in dismantling the apartheid edifice in education, as well as extending formal access to learners in the compulsory education phase with nearly universal enrolment. Today, more children are in school until Grade 12. It is also estimated that about 85% of our learner population are now receiving at least 12 years of education, either in schools or colleges.

We cannot ignore the valuable role of all stakeholders within the education fraternity and we shall as we have done in the past, secure the commitment from political and traditional leaders, religious leaders, teacher unions, school governing body associations, representative council of learners and the community at large. This is a responsibility we must take very seriously if our agenda is to leave behind a lasting legacy of change and quality education that our people can be proud of.

Through the Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign, we have secured the commitment of our various education stakeholders, including teacher unions, school governing body associations and representative council of learners to work together to achieve quality education in South Africa. We have also encouraged the private sector to grow its efforts to support education development in the Northern Cape.

During the 2018 school academic year, the education system throughout the Northern Cape was confronted by external challenges which impacted negatively on valuable learning and teaching time as we were unable to monitor curriculum coverage. In the overall we were unable to provide the much needed support and guidance to schools and learners.

In the midst of service delivery protests especially in the Frances Baard District, parents opted to keep their children at home, as we could not guarantee their safety.

It resulted in a high absenteeism rate of learners and educators on an ad hoc basis during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters. We appeal to all school communities to exercise caution when embarking on public protest as it might jeopardise the right to education or negatively impact on the academic performance of a child.

In support of the Class of 2018, the Northern Cape Department of Education embarked on various intervention programmes to improve the academic performance of learners and ensure that they are well prepared for the NSC Examinations. These support programmes include the following:

- Appointment of Lead Teachers;
- Conducted parental sessions with parents of modulated learners;
- Short Holiday Camps;
- Top Achievers Camps;
- Talent Development Camps;
- SAICA Camps for Grade 11 and Grade 12;

## **Overview of the NSC Examination**

Allow me to illustrate the magnitude of managerial expertise required by the department to succeed.

We used 143 examination centres (including independent centres), 3 marking centres, 724 markers, 146 senior markers, 46 chief markers, 20 deputy chief markers, 46 internal moderators, and a whopping 173 873 scripts had to be marked and moderated.

The Quality Assurer, Umalusi found that we have sound systems in place and the whole examination process was conducted with integrity.

Our results have been certified by Umalusi, free of irregularities and having been conducted with integrity.

### **Analyses of the NSC Examination**

In 2018, a total of **12 157 full-time candidates** were registered for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination in the Northern Cape Province. In comparison to 2017, it represents an **increase of 1 638 candidates**.

A total of **9 909 candidates**, compared to the 8 735 candidates of last year including our progressed learners completed the NSC Exams, of which **7 264 candidates passed, 656 more candidates that passed** compared to last year, bringing our overall pass rate to **73,3%**, a decline of 2,3% in 2018. The overall pass rate, excluding our progressed learners is **75,2%**.

A total of **2091 progressed learners** made use of the Multiple Examination Opportunity (MEO), therefore their results will only be taken into consideration once they have completed the NSC Examination.

For the first time in the history of the country, all candidates who registered for the 2018 NSC Examinations will be allowed two (2) opportunities to register in one year to either improve their subject

performances or to complete their examinations in both June and November 2019 sittings.

Historically, our learners have been doing well in the supplementary examinations, with an increase in the pass rate between 2%-3% annually.

A total of **532 progressed learners** opted to complete the 2018 NSC Examinations, of which 214 learners obtained their National Senior Certificate and reflects a pass rate of 40,2%, a 12,6% decrease in comparison to 2017.

It's worth mentioning, that in the past this would normally be your learners who drop-out or fail to complete their schooling career. However, in the 2018 NSC Examinations, these learners obtained 14 bachelor passes, 82 diploma passes and 118 higher certificate passes.

Of the 9909 full time candidates that wrote and completed the NSC Examination, the number of distinctions increased from 1 538 in 2017 to **1 562** in 2018. The **bachelor passes** have also increased from 2 205 in 2017 to **2 589** in 2018.

2 798 candidates wrote **Mathematics** and 1 652 candidates passed which constitutes a pass rate of **59%**, an increase of 1,7%.

2 259 candidates wrote **Physical Science** and 1 512 candidates passed which constitutes a pass rate of **66,9%**, an increase of 10,1%.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The pass rates for our five Districts are as follows;

- The Namakwa District has recorded the highest pass percentage of **83.7%**, an increase of 0,8%;
- ZF Mgcawu District with a pass percentage of **74,6%**, an decrease of 3,4%;
- The John Taolo Gaetsewe District recorded a pass percentage of **73,2%**, an increase of 1,8%;
- The Frances Baard District recorded a **71,4%** pass rate, an decrease of 4,1%;
- The Pixley Ka Seme District a pass percentage of **70,2%**, an decrease of 3,9%;

It is worth noting that we had no District performing below **70% pass rate**.

**Four (4) schools** have recorded a **100%** pass rate in the Province namely:

- Kimberley Girls High School
- Hopetown High School
- Hartswater High School
- Vaalrivier High School

Our Top Schools are listed as follow:

- Top Quintile 1 school – Dibotsa High School
- Top Quintile 2 school – Tetlanyo High School
- Top Quintile 3 school – Baitiredi High School
- Top Quintile 4 school – Hopetown High School
- Top Quintile 5 school – Kimberley Girls High School

Our most improved school is in the Frances Baard District, **Warrenvale High School**, improving their pass rate from 47,4% in 2017 to **95,5%** in 2018.

We classify a school as underperforming, when the overall pass rate is below 60%.

In this regard, we have **32 underperforming schools**, mainly in the Frances Baard District.

Our interventions to underperforming schools will continue as well as unannounced visits to further reduce the number of underperforming schools in our Province.

In this regard we need to assess the impact, as well as the effectiveness of those intervention systems already in place, and come up with more creative and workable solutions to further improve performance in the affected schools as a matter of urgency.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Today we also recognise and acknowledge our top learners who have excelled through sterling academic performance in the 2018 NSC Examinations.

Allow me to acknowledge the presence of the top three candidates in the Province, Janneke Pienaar, Olivia Fielding and Alecia Brits.

Our top candidate in the Province hails from Diamantveld High School in Kimberley. Congratulations to Janneke Pienaar. Janneke, you have proven that hard work and dedication pays off.

Today, we also celebrate excellent achievements in specific subjects. Candidates obtaining level 7's in subjects such as Accounting, Home languages, Business studies, Life sciences, Mathematics, Physical science, History, Geography, Economics and technical subjects. These candidates will be named and honoured later today at the Matric Awards.

Finally, we will support all candidates that have not made it through these exams. We encourage you to try again and know that we do not always succeed the first time around. We will provide supplementary programmes to ensure that they complete the NSC Examination.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the Head of the Department, Mr GT Pharasi and all Senior and Middle Managers for their administrative leadership.

All District and Circuit officials, Curriculum Directorate, Curriculum Coordinators and all Subject Advisors need special mentioning and have to be acknowledged for the role they have played.

A word of appreciation to the Examination Directorate as well as the District Examination officials for their commitment, involvement and outstanding manner in which they conduct examinations in our Province.

I thank all the unions that operate within the sector and all our dedicated teachers for their outstanding role in assisting the Northern Cape Department of Education into taking our combined efforts to greater heights. I sincerely trust that this cooperation will continue. Please remember that these learners are our children who need our assistance and support at all times.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity once again to extend my sincere thanks to the collective leadership of the ruling party, the ANC, for the necessary guidance and for providing the much needed direction. The Premier of this Province, Ms Sylvia Lucas for her leadership, and all my political colleagues for the unconditional support and invaluable inputs.

The Legislature and its committees have continued to assert their oversight role and I thank them for our constructive engagements.

I also want to thank my family for all their unwavering support, without which I would not be able to manage this important portfolio.

I want to call on everyone to recommit themselves to the strenuous tasks that lie ahead of us in 2019.

I thank you!