

NC Matric Awards – Welcome Address

MEC Mac Jack

Wednesday, 8 January 2020

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;

Our stakeholders and partners in the Private Sector;

Religious Leaders;

Senior Management of the Department of Education;

Government officials present;

Educators, parents and learners;

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today is a day of celebration. It is a celebration of the outstanding success of schools and individual learners from throughout this province in the 2019 National Senior Certificate examinations.

However, we are mourning the untimely death of 8 candidates who passed on during the course of National Senior Certificate Examinations. On behalf of the Department of Education, please receive our deepest condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families, relatives, friends, fellow learners, educators and all those known to them.

Can we all rise and observe a moment of silence...

It is through education that we can change our lives for the better. Education is what will equip us to be able to adapt to the challenges and demands brought about by the dynamic international socio-economic conditions i.e 4th Industrial Revolution. Education underpins development in all sectors of society and any disruption in our education system is the destruction of the future of South Africa.

As we bid our final farewell to the Class of 2019, we will be honouring the top schools and give recognition to learners who have excelled through their sterling academic performance today.

But, it must also be remembered that there are hundreds of other young people and schools that are not present, but that have also contributed to the improvement in the quality of education and the overall pass rate in this province.

It is together, as government, private sector and society at large, that we have been able to improve the overall pass rate of our Province. Indeed we are heading the clarion call that Education is a societal matter, which requires the active participation of all stakeholders in this regard.

Congratulations to you all!

A central component of our vision for education in this province is to improve the overall performance of learners within the system. We are determined to ensure that every year, we increase the numbers of learners that write and pass their NSC Examination. This will ensure that more and more young people will take a major step along the road that will lead to their becoming full and productive citizens of the Northern Cape. Indeed every child matter and every child must succeed.

Premier, in responding to your clarion call of a modern, growing and successful Province, we have integrated the call into the strategic focus of the Department being that of "Building the Elements of, Capacity for and Momentum Towards a Modern, Growing and Successful Education System in the Northern Cape." Given the outcome of the NSC Examination results, we have since developed a Turnaround Strategy to improve the matric results.

This turnaround in the pass rate and the increases in various indicators are evident that we are making significant progress towards achieving our overriding objectives to improve the quality of learner outcomes.

We will continue to build on this improvement, as we believe that these results are sustainable and credible, and are a reflection of an overall improvement in the state of education in the Northern Cape.

The Class of 2019 have done themselves and the Province proud. They have provided us with the perfect stepping towards a modern, growing and successful Province. Congratulations to our top achievers and continue to do us proud.

In honour of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives so that we can have access to education and a better life, let us fulfil their dreams by recommitting ourselves to education. That is how we can build future leaders of South Africa in the Northern Cape. It is possible. It is our future, let's make it work!

I thank you!
