

State of Readiness Press-Conference
MEC Martha Bartlett
Friday, 14 October 2016
Emang Mmogo Comprehensive School,
Frances Baard District

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

Today marks exactly five (5) days before the start of the 2016 National Senior Certificate Examination. It is the culmination of nine months of gruelling work for learners, teachers and officials of the Northern Cape Department of Education. We are here to declare that this department is now ready to conduct the end-of-the year examinations in all grades, particularly the Grade12 Class of 2016.

Last year, the Northern Cape experienced a drop in the National Senior Certificate examinations pass rate. This year, we are confident that we have done all there is to do to ensure that we improve our learners future towards a better life. Our Improvement Plan was aimed to improve our learner performance at all levels, with emphasis on Grade 12.

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:

- One 4-hour Big Show revision session in Life Sciences per term;
- Autumn schools in all five districts;
- Lead Teacher programme to teach for a maximum of 12 hours on Saturdays and during the afternoons;
- Residential Winter Camps in all five districts;

- A Provincial Career Expo was held from 21-22 July 2016 at the 3-SAI Army Base in Kimberley in order to motivate learners to achieve at certain levels;
- Psycho-social support was provided to learners from identified schools in the Frances Baard and John Toalo Gaetsewe Districts;
- A radical intervention programme was also embarked on during July and August in Frances Baard and JT Gaetsewe Districts at approximately 20 schools in identified subjects;
- Spring Schools in all districts for the period 29 September to 09 October 2016;
- Compulsory study sessions during the evening and over weekends;
- Whole-weekend lock-in sessions;
- Mind the Gap support material in Life Sciences, Geography, Accounting, Economics, Geography, Life Sciences, Mathematical Literacy, Mathematics and Physical Sciences were issued.
- Subject Advisors continue to conduct revision sessions at schools in the high-risk subjects until

the commencement of the 2016 National Senior Examinations and even during the exams;

- Placement of HeyMath and HeyScience officials to underperforming schools;
- Finally, schools were instructed to develop a detailed revision programme for Term 4, prior to the start of the NSC examinations.

THE STATE OF READINESS FOR THE 2016 NSC EXAMINATION

REGISTRATION OF EXAMINATION CENTERS

The registration of the NSC examination centres was concluded in September 2016 and we are satisfied that all the public schools are in compliance with the registration requirements. The Northern Cape Province has registered **136** NSC examination centres, which include **3** independent centres, with signed contracts in place to conduct the NSC examinations.

REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES

The 2016 NSC registration has been completed. The province has 11 993 full time Grade 12 candidates registered and 1 665 part time candidates, totalling

13 658 candidates. This is 180 less full time candidates compared to the 12 173 fulltime candidates in 2015. The Province has 2 570 progressed learners which is 290 candidates more compared to 2 280 in 2015. Thus far, 980 candidates opted to modulate.

PREVENTION OF EXAMINATION IRREGULARITIES

The province will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that examination irregularities are prevented especially “group copying” and possession of unauthorised electronic devices like cell phones.

The focus of the 2016 NSC irregularity prevention strategy will be on the following:

- Quality invigilation
- Subject targeted monitoring
- Safe invigilation time tables
- Prioritisation of monitoring and involvement of all departmental officials
- Focus on the monitoring capacity in high risk centres

TRAINING OF INVIGILATORS AND MONITORS

The province is implementing a two level cascade model of training of Invigilators and Monitors. The province has trained chief invigilators on effective invigilation and monitoring strategies. We emphasised that no principal will be appointed as chief invigilator if he or she did not undergo quality training on how to protect the credibility of the NSC examination. A total of 136 Chief Invigilators and 404 Invigilators were appointed and trained to strengthen our efforts to eradicate examination irregularities for the 2016 NSC examination.

SELECTION OF MARKERS

A thorough process was conducted to ensure that quality marking of answer scripts will take place. The ranking of all markers who applied took place on 20 June 2016. The selection of markers was completed on 05-06 July 2016 and they were appointed as follows:

- 46 Internal Markers;
- 46 Chief Markers;
- 15 Deputy Chief Markers;
- 134 Senior Markers and

- 511 Markers.

THE CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATION

The examination will commence on 19 October 2016 and conclude on 29 November 2016.

COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION OF MARKING

The marking centres will open on 1 December 2016 and answer scripts and question papers will be delivered to marking centres. Marking will commence on 4 December 2016 and conclude on 15 December 2016. Marking centres will officially close on Saturday 18 December 2016.

RELEASE OF RESULTS

After the approval of results, head office staff will do the final checking from 26 December. The statement of results will be printed between 1 January 2017 and 3 January 2017. The statements of results will be sent to districts on 4 January 2017.

On 5 January 2017 the candidates will collect their results from their schools where they wrote the 2016 National Senior Certificate examination.

CONCLUSION

We can say in no uncertain terms that the Northern Cape is ready for the 2016 National Senior Certificate examination. 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 2016 now more than ever. We specifically requested parents to give maximum support to their children. They need to cut down on the duties they give to learners and afford them time and a conducive space to focus on their studies. Schools must also ensure that they assist our learners in areas that need more attention.

To the Class of 2016, this is your chance, your final and golden opportunity. This is your future and your future depends on your determination, commitment, discipline and focus. We are confident that the Class of 2016 is going to make the Northern Cape proud.

I thank you!