

**03 October 2019**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT: STATE OF READINESS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE 2019 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION**

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Acting Head: Education, **Mr. JR Nkosi**

DDG for Curriculum, **Mrs. Lucy Moyane**

Management of Lowveld High School

Representatives from the Media

Members of the Community who are following us from various media platforms

### **Sanibonani**

I wish to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to you for honoring our invitation to this Press Conference.

We felt that it may be necessary to bring you into confidence regarding our preparations to manage the conduct of the 2019 National Senior Certificate Examination.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education has already put in place plans to ensure that the 2019 Grade 12 examinations progress smoothly.

This Examination will commence in full scale from **23 October 2019** and will progress until **28 November 2019**.

The Appointment of Chief Invigilators and Invigilators as well as their training was successfully done in September 2019.

The cluster invigilation training facilitated by circuit managers will be concluded this week.

## **REGISTRATION OF EXAMINATIONS CENTRES**

Preparations for the administration of this examination starts with the registration of examination centres.

There are **555** examination centres that have been fully registered for 2019 and out of these **37** are in independent schools.

Examination Centres have been classified in terms of risk profiles and all high risk centres will have resident monitors.

Selected high risk centres will have departmental officials serving as chief invigilators.

## **CANDIDATE REGISTRATION**

Every effort was done by the Department to ensure accurate candidate registration which is critical for efficiency in examination management.

The Department has registered **56838** candidates who will participate in the 2019 National Senior Certificate Examination.

Ehlanzeni District has more Candidates compared to the other three districts and has registered **15 454** candidates followed by Nkangala District with **14 805**. Bohlabela District has registered **13 634** and Gert Sibande District registered **12 945**.

The Minister of Basic Education has approved provision for candidates who failed some subjects in the May/June 2019 examination to have another chance to write the 2019 October/November examination.

This includes:

- Candidates who wrote the Senior Certificate Examination
- Those who wrote the Supplementary Examination
- Those who opted for Multiple Examination Opportunities ( MEO) and
- Candidates who could not write the May/June examination due to valid reasons and had provided proof thereof.

Progressed candidates who wrote in June but failed were equally afforded the opportunity to register for November 2019. These candidates have the option of the MEO if they fail three subjects or more in preparatory examinations.

Final admission letters will be released to all candidates on **11 October 2019** and this will coincide with the Pledge Signing Ceremony to be held the same day.

## **SUBJECT ENROLMENT**

Notwithstanding that there is a decline in the number of candidates who registered in different subjects, the Department is concerned that the number of candidates who registered to write mathematics and physical science has decreased compared to 2018.

In 2018, **34 643** candidates registered to write mathematics and in 2019, **28 177** registered the subject which is a difference of **6 466**.

In 2018, **28 131** candidates registered to write physical science compared to the **24 044** in 2019, a difference of 4087.

Our desire is that we ensure that more candidates register and pass mathematics and physical science since they are subjects that are very key towards the attainment of critical skills that the province requires for economic emancipation.

## **QUESTION PAPER PRINTING**

The question paper printing process is already underway. The nerve, nodal and distribution points have been audited for compliance. We will continue to enforce strict compliance to norms, standards and procedures for the handling of examination material to ensure credibility and integrity in the management of this examination.

## **MARKING**

Marking will commence from **01 to 14 December 2019** in 17 marking centres. The appointment of markers, chief markers and internal moderators has been concluded.

## **SECURITY**

Every effort has been made by the Department to enhance security in all areas where assessment material is handled to ensure that we once again administer an incident free examination as it happened in the past nine years.

Vehicles transporting question papers will be escorted accordingly by law enforcement institutions.

## **PREVENTION OF IRREGULARITIES**

School Assessment Integrity Committees (SIAC) have been reconstituted and trained.

## **MANAGEMENT OF INQUIRIES**

All inquiries relating to this examination must be processed with Examination Centre Managers.

The Department has also established an Examination Help Desk that will assist from time to time to process general inquiries related to the examination.

The Help desk can be accessed on this number: **(013) 766 0033** during office hours.

## **PLEDGE SIGNING CEREMONY**

All the **56838** candidates will be expected to sign a pledge of good conduct on **11 October 2019**.

I will visit Makause Secondary School at Emalahleni Local Municipality to observe the signing of the pledge ceremony.

The pledge reads as follows:

### ***NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION PLEDGE***

*I.....hereby  
solemnly pledge:*

- a) To do my best in the forthcoming examination so that I can achieve the personal and academic goals I have set for myself.*
- b) To focus on my studies and devote all my time to revise the work that I have covered during the course of the year and strengthen all the skills that I need to be successful in this examination.*
- c) I will also be supportive of my peers as we prepare in earnest for this examination.*
- d) I will not be deterred by personal or other circumstance as I strive to achieve my National Senior Certificate qualification.*
- e) I pledge to uphold the principles of honesty and integrity in this examination by:*
  - i. Complying with all the rules and regulations relevant to the National Senior Certificate*
  - ii. Following the lawfully recognized instructions of the invigilator during the writing of the examination.*
  - iii. Not being influenced, in any way, to cheat in the examination by any person including the invigilator.*
  - iv. Not participating in any wrongdoing which includes, but not limited to: copying, being in possession of unauthorized material or electronic*

*devices (for Example Cell phone), accepting or providing assistance to another candidate, writing on behalf of another candidates or any other unauthorized action.*

*v. Reporting any form of wrongdoing that I am aware of to the school principal.*

*f) I solemnly make this promise and acknowledge that this pledge is binding on my conscience.*

## **PROCESSING OF RESULTS**

All Examination marks will be captured will be on **17 December 2019 to enable** standardisation processes by Umalusi.

The Department of Basic Education will announce the results on **08 January 2020**. The Province will announce the results in Gert Sibande District.

## **REQUEST TO PARENTS**

I wish to use this time to request parents to provide these learners with ample time for them to prepare for this examination and not to put undue pressure to the learners.

We request that parents provide an enabling environment for these learners to study until they write the last paper.

Equally we request the religious community to pray for our learners and schools so that our learners may face this examination with greater determination.

Our view is that the remaining days may be adequate for our learners to prepare for this examination. We therefore urge them to attend classes, do their tasks and be in constant contact with their teachers.

Let them also take advantage of the support that is provided such as the Radio Lessons, DSTV Channel **319** and Departmental website.

## **EXTEND BEST WISHES TO THE CLASS OF 2019**

On behalf of the Mpumalanga Department of Education, I would like to wish the class of 2019 all the best in the upcoming examinations.

All your years of studying and preparations have been a steady build up to this point.

As you approach the final stages of this twelve-year educational journey, it is important that you apply even greater effort in preparing for this examination.

We wish to assure everyone that will be sitting for the 2019 National Senior Certificate examination that we are behind them all the way – our support is guaranteed.

These examinations are not intended to put undue pressure and create anxieties, but they are simply the symbolic pinnacle of the hard work that goes into fashioning a finished product.

You have been equipped to make a mark in your final examination.

Those morning classes, weekend classes, afternoon classes, winter and spring classes that you attended are about to pay off.

Time management must be your top priority. Ensure that each section is given the necessary time it deserves so that you are able to complete all your questions on time.

Study all prescribed content in each subject, and ensure that you go through previous examination papers, as this exercise will guarantee that you are familiar with the question paper.

In the examination room, make use of the period that the invigilators provide for you to go through the examination paper as this will enable you to understand all instructions, and what is expected of you.

Your teachers, principals, school governing bodies and parents will continue to support you to ensure that the conditions for preparation and study are conducive. Please use the remaining time wisely to strengthen any areas of weakness as well as to go through revisions.

Remember that YOU CAN, you are ABLE, and you are GIFTED.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education wishes you the best on their 2019 Grade 12 examinations.

**Ngiyabonga.**