

# Congratulations Class of 2017



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MPUMALANGA  
THE PLACE OF THE RISING SUN





Let me congratulate the Class of 2017 for the sterling work and for making the province proud. Looking back from 2005, it becomes only fair to acknowledge that indeed there is improvement in the delivery of education in the province.

The 2017 Grade 12 results represent 12 years of hard work, the dreams, hopes and aspirations of the learners, their parents and that of communities they live in. It is regrettable that labour unrests and pockets of service delivery protests experienced in a number of municipalities hampered the desired progression with regards to effective teaching and learning.

A school calendar for each year provides only 200 school days and as such every second, minute, hour and day counts. If a day for teaching and learning is affected, plans that are put in place to improve the results get severely compromised and this is something we need to avoid at all costs. It is for this reason that we want to appeal to communities to ensure the smooth flow of teaching and learning without disruptions to promote not just the integrity of quality teaching and learning but also the well-being and future of our learners and children.

The number of full time learners who wrote all seven subjects in 2017 are 48 483 and of this number 36 273 have passed the National Senior Certificate Examination and the grade 12 class of 2017 has achieved a 74.8% pass rate.

This statistics regrettably depict a 2.3% decrease from the 2016 grade 12 pass rate.

The number of distinctions in the province has improved from 8084 in 2016 to 8941 in 2017. This means that there are 857 more distinctions this time around. There is also a recorded slight improvement in bachelor passes from 22.9% in 2016 to 23.4% in 2017. 4315 progressed learners wrote all subjects and out of this number 2433 passed.

This represent 56.4% pass rate in 2017 as against 54.5 % in 2016. This is encouraging and confirms the progressiveness of this policy decision considering that these children would have dropped out. We are noting with appreciation that more girl learners are making the grade. Of the 36 273 learners that passed, 19 489 translating into 53.7% are girls and 16 784 boys. “Ziphasile Izi-girls”

This is a clear demonstration that the programmes aimed at empowering the girl child are beginning to yield satisfactory results.

We must continue to work hard together with our communities to create an enabling platform for the emancipation of the girl child and the Department will intensify the implementation of the Caring4Girls programme to ensure that this positive trend is sustained.

In terms of school performances, of the 551 schools that presented grade 12, 18 of them obtained 100% pass rate. 225 performed between 80% and 99% while 203 performed above 60% but below 80%. We are concerned that there are schools that still perform below 60% and these have increased from 79 in 2016 to 106 in 2017.

We wish to reiterate our position that we don't expect any school to perform below 70% going forward. We should, for the sake of our children, hold each other accountable for this performance.

The school obtaining first position in the province for the 2017 academic year, passing all 231 learners that wrote is again Hoërskool Nelspruit.

The same school, Hoërskool Nelspruit, obtained the most distinctions with a total of 295. The most improved school in 2017 is Hlelimfundo Secondary School from Volkrust Circuit in Gert Sibande District.

This registered an improvement of 64.4% from 2016 and obtained 86, 5%. We congratulate all the schools that performed outstandingly at the same making a call to them to sustain this improvement.







# Thalenta Ngobeni Aces the Matric Class<sup>04</sup>

Acorn-Oaks Comprehensive High School Grade 12 learner, Mr. Thalenta Taivin Ngobeni (16) was announced as the Class of 2017 overall best learner in the Province.

Ngobeni says he finished Grade 12 at 16 years of age because in Grade 6 he was promoted to the next grade at the end of the mid-year exams based on his outstanding performance.

This bright learner dared the odds to achieve 100% in Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting.

He also achieved 260 out of 300 in Xitsonga Home Language, 258 out of 300 in English First Additional Language, 286 out of 300 in Life Sciences and 273 out of 300 in Life Orientation.

The learner from Kakumani Village in Bushbuckridge says he worked so hard that he would wake at 2am and focus on his studies all by himself. "It's about consistency and not giving up easily.

Most people think Mathematics is difficult but if you are consistent things get easier," he says.

He says he would go online to look at the results of top learners from 2016 and try his best to reach them as a way to encourage himself.

"I read online articles on my phone about the results of top learners from 2016 and I wanted to touch their levels.

I was working hard to become the number one learner in our circuit (Bohlabela) and I never expected to be the best learner in the province."

Ngobeni says hard work and consistency are the best tools to do well in one's studies. "After I finished writing my Grade 11 examinations, I started studying for matric.

And by the end of January I had finished all the work to be covered in first term of the matric year," says Ngobeni.

He has been accepted to read for a BCom in Actuarial Science at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Ngobeni says he feels "grateful" as he did not expect to do so well.

He says he chose University of Cape Town (UCT) because it is the best university in the country and because his older brother is studying towards a Biochemistry degree there.

Ngobeni's achievements highlight the massive potential that public-private collaboration to bolster learners from poorer communities.

Acorn – Oaks Comprehensive High School in Bohlabela district is a site of such a partnership between the Department of Basic Education, the Mpumalanga Department of Education, Vodacom and the Buffelshoek Trust.

The school acts as a "satellite school for the Mpumalanga Department of Education's OR Tambo Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy."

The Academy supports a total of ten schools in Bohlabela with the aim of stimulating quality education and excellence in Mathematics, Science and Technology.

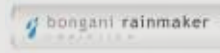
The Academy also aims at encouraging more learners to take up Mathematics and Science.

With mathematics and science levels in South African schools regarded as among the worst in the world, institutes like the Academy cater for a key need in the education of South Africa's learners.



The hard working 16 year old was lavished with the following prizes:

- A full bursary from the Mpumalanga Provincial Government
- R 10, 000 from Standard Bank
- R 20, 000 from SASOL
- A travelling bag and a Tablet from Old Mutual
- A laptop from Vodacom
- R 10, 000 from IDC
- A printer from Mustek
- A Bar Fridge and Microwave from Bongani Rainmakers
- Plus a brand new car (Toyota Aygo) sponsored by Freedom Stationery.



Ngobeni has a few words of advice to the matric class of 2018:



**“Find your own way to study that works for you. If you copy other people’s ways you might fail. Be consistent and do not give up.”**



**A brand new car to the overall best learner, donated by Freedom Stationery**





# Support Required

“It is our desire that every learner who is in our system makes the mark at the end of 12 years of schooling.

It is worrisome to note that there are **12 210** candidates who did not make it this time around. The good thing is that there are numerous opportunities that these learners must take advantage of, so that at the end of it all they get what is due to them.

I request principals to make it their obligation to advise these learners accordingly. At the same time, I urge families and communities not to put undue pressure on these learners. They deserve our full support.

Some of them qualify for the supplementary examinations; those who failed for the first time are requested to repeat the grade. Learners who opted for Multiple Examination Opportunities (MEO) should also be supported. Schools are directed to develop programmes to ensure that these learners receive tuition and support.

In the same breadth, we make a call to all young men and women who still need to complete their matric to register for the second chance programme where they will write examination in May/June 2018.

Online registrations on [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za) closes at the end of January. Support to these learners will be provided at designated face-face centres and through electronic media.”  
MEC Reginah Mhaule



## Provincial % of Pass – 12 Years

Provinces	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Free State	72,2	70,5	71,6	69,4	70,7	75,7	81,1	87,4	82,8	81,6	88,2	86,1
Gauteng	78,3	74,6	76,3	71,8	78,6	81,1	83,9	87	84,7	84,2	85,1	85,1
W. Cape	83,7	80	78,7	75,7	76,8	82,9	82,8	85,1	82,2	84,7	85,9	82,8
N. West	67	67,2	67,9	67,5	75,7	77,8	79,5	87,2	84,6	81,5	82,5	79,4
N. Cape	76,8	70,3	72,7	61,3	72,3	68,8	74,6	74,5	76,4	69,4	78,7	75,6
MPU	65,3	60,7	51,8	47,9	56,8	64,8	70	77,6	79	78,6	77,1	74,8
KZN	65,7	63,8	57,2	61,1	70,7	68,1	73,1	77,4	69,7	60,7	66,4	72,9
Limpopo	55,7	58	54,7	48,9	57,9	63,9	66,9	71,8	72,9	65,9	62,5	65,6
E. Cape	59,3	57,1	50,6	51	58,3	58,1	61,6	64,9	65,4	56,8	59,3	65,0
National	66,6	65,2	62,2	60,6	67,8	70,2	73,9	78,2	75,8	70,7	72,5	75,1

## Schools that obtained 100% pass rate

No.	School	Entered	Wrote	Passed	Pass %
1	H/SNelspruit	244	231	231	100,0
2	H/SMiddelburg	205	205	205	100,0
3	HTS Middelburg	196	195	195	100,0
4	H/SGeneraal Hertzog	188	187	187	100,0
5	HTS Witbank	166	166	166	100,0
6	H/SKanonkop	102	101	101	100,0
7	Manyangana High	101	91	91	100,0
8	Dayimani High	84	74	74	100,0
9	Gebhuza Sec	76	56	56	100,0
10	Hazyview Private	52	42	42	100,0
11	Nkotobona High	42	34	34	100,0
12	The King's School	18	18	18	100,0
13	Diwiti Sec	24	13	13	100,0
14	Mkhutshwa Sec	15	10	10	100,0
15	Umlalati Learning Centre	8	8	8	100,0
16	Laeveld Akademie	7	7	7	100,0
17	George Hofmeyer	6	6	6	100,0
18	Highveld MuslimComb	4	4	4	100,0



## Thaba Chweu Local Municipality



**Honorable Executive Mayor  
Cllr Selina Mashingo-Sekgobela**

### MUNICIPAL PERFORMANCE 2013 to 2017 NSC GRADE 12

NO	Municipality	Total Entered 2013	Total Wrote 2013	Total Achieved 2013	Pass % 2013	Total Entered 2014	Total Wrote 2014	Total Achieved 2014	Pass % 2014	Total Entered 2015	Total Wrote 2015	Total Achieved 2015	Pass % 2015	Entered 2016	Wrote 2016	Achieved 2016	Pass % 2016	Entered 2017	Wrote 2017	Achieved 2017	Pass % 2017	Variance
1	Thabachweu	1043	1023	775	75,8	834	824	668	81,1	875	868	744	85,7	906	865	768	88,8	951	846	740	87,5	-1,3
2	Victor Khanye	583	572	474	82,9	648	631	471	74,6	649	630	538	85,4	629	569	467	82,1	601	531	438	82,5	0,4
3	Msukaligwa	1446	1434	1088	75,9	1396	1370	1104	80,6	1692	1654	1180	71,3	1747	1548	1205	77,8	1996	1421	1170	82,3	4,5
4	Lekwa	864	855	671	78,5	668	658	557	84,7	891	878	725	82,6	983	942	824	87,5	1200	1022	837	81,9	-5,6
5	Emakhazeni	573	564	402	71,3	310	307	263	85,7	524	515	448	87,0	514	496	419	84,5	462	435	355	81,6	-2,9
6	Emalahleni	2787	2745	2284	83,2	2405	2380	1950	81,9	2629	2595	2195	84,6	3283	2834	2495	88,0	3583	2775	2244	80,9	-7,2
7	Chief Albert Luthuli	3775	3674	2916	79,4	3494	3406	2728	80,1	4177	4078	3242	79,5	4204	3539	2863	80,9	4244	3246	2565	79,0	-1,9
8	Nkomazi	6160	6047	5177	85,6	5744	5648	4860	86,0	7099	7014	6010	85,7	7571	6801	5468	80,4	6743	5783	4562	78,9	-1,5
9	Steve Tshwete	2079	2042	1726	84,5	1911	1881	1611	85,6	2239	2210	1907	86,3	2411	2313	1874	81,0	2503	2288	1782	77,9	-3,1
10	Mkhondo	1529	1488	1097	73,7	1553	1521	1078	70,9	2202	2131	1425	66,9	2123	1782	1178	66,1	2020	1431	1097	76,7	10,6
11	Mbombela	8168	7927	6428	81,1	7668	7441	5989	80,5	8639	8456	6809	80,5	10265	9013	7100	78,8	9420	7839	5903	75,3	-3,5
12	Govan Mbeki	2275	2227	1718	77,1	2186	2153	1643	76,3	2878	2815	2093	74,4	2604	2485	1928	77,6	2691	2275	1660	73,0	-4,6
13	Bushbuckridge	10322	10034	7191	71,7	9063	8929	6823	76,4	10664	10473	7956	76,0	12372	11589	8241	71,1	12917	10863	7737	71,2	0,1
14	Dipaleseng	236	234	170	72,6	238	236	192	81,4	492	491	263	53,6	372	299	195	65,2	282	261	179	68,6	3,4
15	Thembisile Hani	3967	3900	2847	73,0	3036	3013	2324	77,1	4293	4243	3299	77,8	4921	3974	3071	77,3	4262	3284	2218	67,5	-9,7
16	Dr. JS Moroka	3637	3595	2662	74,0	2977	2948	2176	73,8	3717	3688	2949	80,0	4345	3863	2841	73,5	4054	3103	2083	67,1	-6,4
17	Pixley Ka Isaka Seme	1094	1080	736	68,1	1044	1032	703	68,1	1532	1508	916	60,7	1544	1339	864	64,5	1571	1080	703	65,1	0,6



It is quite clear to us that for the past six years the province obtained results that are within the 70% pass rate bracket. It is about time that the province aims at moving from this trajectory.

We intend to do so by intensifying the implementation of performance improvement plans from day one of school re-opening. In this instance, the focus will be on basic functionality of schools, protection of time for teaching and learning and improving support for teaching and learning.

We will work with teachers to increase efforts on time on task through a differentiated approach of providing support to schools. This support to schools is categorised to focus on:

- Schools with an overall performance of 70% and above
- Schools with an overall performance below 70%
- Schools with a performance below 60% in each of the high enrolment content subjects
- Schools with an enrolment of 100 or more learners in the 11 highly enrolled content subjects in Grade 12.
- The OR Tambo Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy Secondary Schools and.
- The five Boarding Schools.

The Department will convene content workshops for teachers at the beginning of each term, closely monitor and improve the implementation of the 1+4 intervention model for Mathematics Teachers for Grades 4 to 12.

In addition, the Department will administer provincial common assessment in June and November in all exit grades in the GET Band and all Grades in the FET Band.

Equally, the recently released Report on Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) indicates that more needs to be done to improve reading especially in the lower grades.

Our attention therefore will be on supporting the teaching of reading, language and mathematics in the lower grades and thus we urge all our schools to support the Read to Lead Campaign.

In this way, the Department will be in a position to improve learner performance across all grades and in all subjects.

We are optimistic that the roll out of this plan will yield positive results. All that needs to be done is to create a favorable environment in all our schools and in all our municipalities.

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**It is about time that the province aims at moving from this trajectory.**

**MEC Reginah Mhaule**





"We must draw courage, strength and inspiration from the exemplary leadership and foresight from the founding father of our democracy, the late Tata Nelson Mandela who would have turned a 100 years old this year. In one of his quotes he says: "It is not where you start but how high you aim that matters for your success."

Indeed, we are aiming at reaching the highest pedestal of success and we invite every business institution operating within the province to come to the party and work with our schools to inculcate a culture of effectiveness, efficiency and high levels of professionalism." - MEC Reginah Mhaule



We remain indebted to teacher unions, associations of school governing bodies, business community, learner formations and all institutions that support our course to teach and educate the nation.

Teachers are the ones who bear the brunt at times under challenging circumstances. They rise above the expected norm to make sure that the learners are fully prepared for the examination.

It will be a gross disservice not to thank them. We therefore take this time to salute all our 32 000 teachers for the work well done. Let me take this time to congratulate the Class of 2017 and to wish them well in their new endeavors.

We implore all learners from Mpumalanga to be good ambassadors of the province as they pursue their dreams of a tertiary qualification within as well as beyond the borders of the province.

Nothing can hold you back from your dreams now.

Go on and realize your dreams towards making South Africa a great country for a great nation.

My wish for the New Year is that Mpumalanga Must Rise to the Occasion.

Ngiyabonga.





# Mpumalanga Department of Education

## Contact Us

### Head Office

Private Bag X11341  
Nelspruit  
1200  
Government Boulevard  
Riverside Park  
Building 5  
Mpumalanga Province  
Republic of South Africa  
Tel: (013) 766 5552/5349/5115  
Toll-Free: 0800 203 116  
Fax: (013) 766 5577

Toll free Line: 0800 203 116  
Exam Help Desk: (013) 766 0033  
Dial-a-Tutor: 087 805 1350  
website: [http://www.mpumalang  
a.gov.za/education](http://www.mpumalang<br/>a.gov.za/education)



### Bohlabela District Office

Former Mapulaneng College of Education  
Private Bag X9399  
Bushbuckridge  
1280  
R533 Graskop Road  
Tel: (013) 766 7418  
Fax: (013) 708 5158

### Ehlanzeni District Office

Former Mgwenya College of Education  
Kanyamazane  
Private Bag X1014  
Kanyamazane  
1214  
Tel: (013) 766 0300  
Fax: (013) 794 3234

### Gert Sibande District Office

2 De Jager Street  
Ermelo 2551  
Private Bag X9029  
Ermelo  
2350  
Tel: (017) 809 5000  
Fax: (017) 811 5808

### Nkangala District Office

Building 5  
Government Complex  
Private Bag X4021  
KwaMhlanga  
1022  
Tel: (013) 947 1500  
Fax: (013) 947 2096