



education

**Lefapha la Thuto la Bokone Bophirima
Noordwes Departement van Onderwys
North West Department of Education
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

2019

NORTH WEST RESULTS



**ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MEC
OF EDUCATION**

MMAPHEFO LUCY MATSEMELA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RELEASE OF THE 2019 RESULTS ON

08 JANUARY 2020

AT ARLENE HOLDING HALL, FIELDS COLLEGE, RUSTENBURG



ADDRESS BY MEC FOR EDUCATION
HON. MMAPHEFO LUCY MATSEMELA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE RELEASE OF THE 2019 MATRIC RESULTS
AT ARLENE HOLDING HALL, FIELDS COLLEGE, RUSTENBURG,
08 JANUARY 2020

Programme Directors

Premier of North West Honourable Professor Tebogo Job Mokgoro,

Colleagues from EXCO,

Members of the Provincial Legislature,

Executive Mayor of Bojanala Platinum District, Cllr Fentsang Molosiwa

Hosting Mayor of Rustenburg Local Municipality Mr Mpho Khonou

All Councillors from different municipalities

Leaders in various structure levels of my political home, the African National Congress

Leaders of political parties

Traditional Leaders

Leadership of sector unions

Leadership of different faith-based organisations

Vice Chancellor of North West University Prof Dan Kgwadi and Deputy Vice Chancellor: Mahikeng

Campus - Professor BMP Setlalentoa

Association of School Governing Bodies and all members of SGBs

Administrator Mr Mohlala, his team and his counterparts from other departments.

The Superintendent-General for the Department of Education, Me Semaswe, her guests and her counterparts from other Departments

Delegation from Umalusi

DDGs, Chief Directors, Directors, Sub- District Managers, Circuit Managers, Curriculum Coordinators and Subject Advisors , School Principals, SMT members and Teachers

SAPS and Security Cluster members

Members of the Media

Departmental Choir and all entertainers

My most valued guests of the day, candidates and their parents

Comrades and Friends

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning and compliments of the new year to you all Fellow South Africans!

PREAMBLE

On behalf of the North West Department of Education, it gives me great pleasure to welcome our Class of 2019 and all of you - our esteemed guests - to this occasion of the release of the 2019 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations results.

“This is the day the Lord has made; we shall rejoice and be glad in it”.

These results are the first in the sixth democratic administration; and it is such a pleasant coincidence that we host this auspicious ceremony on the 108th birthday of the African National Congress, the ruling party of the Republic of South Africa.

Founded in 1912 in Bloemfontein, the ANC is the oldest liberation movement in Africa and it is still going strong.

It was one of its finest Presidents, Oliver Reginald Tambo who taught us that the **Responsibility for the proper conduct of children cannot be confined to their parents only. When they misbehave, they misbehave against the community. And a senior member of the community is expected to do something about it.**

These profound words of wisdom go hand in hand with the African Proverb of *Ngwana Sejo o a tlhakanelwa* - It takes a village to raise a child – *Die gemeenskap is verantwoordelik om 'n kind op te voed*, which is deeply linked to the principle of Ubuntu.

To demonstrate our seriousness in taking the teachings of our forebears into cognisance, we have, as the Department, adopted and successfully launched *Ngwana Sejo Campaign* in September 2019. In short, this far-sighted campaign embodies a firm belief that big and significant achievements, are usually not made by individuals on their own but are made by people working together. [SETSWANA]

It is for this reason that we are determined to employ the *Ngwana Sejo Campaign* as a vehicle to drive the implementation of the 10 Point Sector Priorities and Programmes (2019-2024) – which aims to change the direction of the education sector to develop relevant skills to match the needs of the economy.

We have learnt from the teachings, the iconic former President of the Republic Dr Nelson Mandela that *“The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can contribute to nation-building and reconciliation.”*

Consistent with the above view, when addressing the two-day dialogue of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) at Emperor's Palace, in Kempton Park, on 29 July 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa stated that *“Successful countries are those that ensure that the skills they produce are the skills that are appropriate for industrial use.”*

During his State of the Nation Address on 20 June 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced Education as one of the seven bold priorities of the sixth democratic administration that will fast track South Africa's path to prosperity.

In one of his assertions of Education as an apex priority, the President told the delegates attending the ninth National Congress of the South African Teachers' Union (SADTU) at Nasrec on 25 September 2019 that quality education is key to the growth of the country's economy. In this regard, he emphasised that teachers have a critical role to play when he told them: *“You are a key economic player because you are there to ensure that this young person's mind is stimulated, their mind is opened up so that they become a capable participant in the economy of our country.”*

As mentioned above, the Department has adopted the Ten-Point Sector Priorities and Programmes (2019-2023) – with a view to changing the direction of the education sector to develop relevant skills to match the needs of our economy. These ten points are: Reading, Early Childhood Development, Three-Stream Model of Basic Education, Incentivise and promote the teaching profession, The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Operation Phakisa, Competencies and skills for the changing world, Infrastructure beyond sanitation, Pro-Poor Programmes and Learners with Special Education Needs, Quality and efficiency, and Decolonisation of the Basic Education Sector.

Honourable Premier, we take heed of your injunction as captured in the State of the Province Address in June 2019 that *“the party is over”* - time for idle talk was now over - *“it is time for the tyre to hit the tar”* - everything should come down to implementation if the province is to realise Vision 2030 of the National Development Plan.

Ladies and gentlemen, I can confidently declare that the North West Department of Education is on course with regard to the implementation of the Ten-Point Sector Priorities and Programmes (2019-2023) for Basic Education.

INTRODUCTION

Programme Directors, the occasion of the release of the NSC Examination results is an annual ritual performed by the Department of Basic Education followed by all the nine Provincial Education Departments across the Republic of South Africa.

2019 was momentous for the Department. It had its highs and lows.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am thankful to inform you that despite concerted efforts to disrupt our 2019 year-end examinations in Bloemhof in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District and several areas in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, these examinations proceeded without any interruption in the entire province.

We are extremely proud of the high level of commitment of Team Education who, amidst the turmoil, demonstrated extraordinary professionalism, dedication and resolve.

As a result of which we salvaged the situation by establishing the following incubation camps to provide a safe learning and examination environment for the affected candidates: Itireleleng Learning Centre (in Vaal Reefs) hosted 1454 candidates from 11 secondary schools, Milner Secondary School - 271 learners from 4 secondary schools, Camelot Lodge (in Stilfontein) hosted 557 candidates from 4 secondary schools and Pinnacle had 79 candidates from 2 secondary schools.

We further accommodated 271 learners from three secondary schools from Bloemhof in Schweizer-Reneke and Louwna for the same purpose.

PROFILE OF THE 2019 GRADE 12 COHORT

The Class of 2019 is the twelfth cohort of learners to sit for the NSC Examination and the sixth group to write the CAPS-aligned NSC Examinations. They enrolled for Grade 1 in 2008, the same year that the NSC Examination was written for the first time in Grade 12.

They constituted a total of 33 057 (Thirty Three Thousand and fifty seven) full time registered learners - accommodated in 435 public and independent schools – who sat for the 2019 NSC Examination. Of the above number, 8 549 (Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Nine) learners were progressed out of whom 26 819 candidates wrote all seven subjects as required.

It is worthy to note that the Class of 2019 was impacted by the following key policy changes:

- Policy on Progression
- Policy on Multiple Examination Opportunity (MEO)
- Introduction of Sign Language Home Language in 2018
- Introduction of Specialisation in the Technology Subjects in 2018
- Abolishment of the designated list of subjects in 2018.

VALIDITY AND CREDIBILITY OF THE 2019 NSC EXAMINATION RESULTS

Before I delve into the analysis of the 2019 NSC Examination results, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to put it on record that the results I am about to announce were approved by Umalusi on 03 January 2020.

OVERALL PROVINCIAL PERFORMANCE

A brief look at our performance track record in the NSC Examination results over the past five years depicts that - in 2014, we obtained 84.6% (Position 2), in 2015 we scored 81.5% (Position 4), 2016 we obtained 82.5% (Position 4), 2017 - we dropped to 79.4% but maintained our position 4, and in 2018 we improved to 81.1% but still held position 4 on the national matric results rankings.

Bagaetsho, ladies and gentlemen, *dames en here*, it gives me enormous pleasure and privilege to be standing here today to announce that the North West Class of 2019 obtained a pass rate of 86.8% with progressed learners included (which is an improvement by 5.7% from 81.1% of 2018) and 87.8% pass rate excluding progressed learners (an increase of 4% from 83.8% achieved in 2018).

In order to eliminate any possible confusion, the official pass rate for our province is 86.8%.

It is most worthy to note that it is for the first time, at least in the past five years, that our province achieved this percentage in the results of the NSC Examination.

It must be borne in mind that our target for the 2019 matric pass rate in the Annual Performance Plan was 85%. So, the meritorious 86.8% pass rate achievement means that we have outdone ourselves.

I am also excited to announce that out of 428 schools that presented Grade 12 in 2019, 385 (that is 90.0% of the schools) performed at 70% and beyond, which is 60 more schools than we had in 2018.

These achievements confirm that indeed it is the beginning of the new dawn as pronounced by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his SONA in June 2019.

A brief comparison of the North West 2019 NSC Examination Pass rate with the rest of South Africa is as follows:

| Provinces | North West | Western Cape | Gauteng | Northern Cape | Limpopo | Mpumalanga | KwaZulu Natal | Eastern Cape | Free State | National |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------|---------------|---------|------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| 2018 with Progressed | 81.1 | 81.5 | 87.9 | 73.3 | 69.4 | 79.0 | 76.2 | 70.6 | 87.5 | 78.2 |
| 2018 without Progressed | 83.8 | 83.2 | 89.0 | 75.2 | 70.6 | 80.4 | 76.8 | 71.4 | 91.1 | 79.4 |
| 2019 with Progressed | 86.8 | 82.3 | 87.2 | 76.5 | 73.2 | 80.3 | 81.3 | 76.5 | 88.4 | 81.3 |
| 2019 without Progressed | 87.8 | 84.1 | 88.5 | 77.6 | 73.6 | 81.2 | 81.8 | 77.3 | 91.1 | 82.3 |

It is important to note that out of 8549 progressed learners who sat for the 2019 NSC Examination, 2685 wrote all six subjects and 5864 opted for Multiple Examination Opportunity (MEO), that is, they wrote a certain number of subjects in October/November 2019 and they are expected to write the rest in May/June 2020.

We should bear in mind that this will be the last group to enrol for Multiple Examination Opportunity. From 2020 onward, all progressed learners will write all subjects in the final examinations.

Ladies and gentlemen, analysis of the results of progressed learners paints an extremely interesting picture.

Of the 2685 progressed learners who wrote all subjects in the 2019 NSC Examination, 2081 (77.5%) passed, which is 20.6% more than the 2018 achievement.

Of the 2081 progressed learners who passed, 276 qualify for admission to Bachelor (Degree) studies, 932 achieved Diploma and 873 obtained Higher Certificate passes.

Ladies and gentlemen, the significance of the achievements of these 2081 progressed learners are far-reaching in that – the would be high school rejects and dropouts had they not been salvaged by the progression policy, now have a chance of a lifetime to either enter gain employment, access universities or TVET Colleges and build their future.

All thanks to the National Development Plan of the ANC-led government and the pro-poor policy on learner progression which was introduced in 2015 and further streamlined in 2017.

We also wish to thank the SG Mrs Semaswe, DDGs Dr Mvula, Mr Masilo and the Curriculum Management Teams for the unrelenting support and interventions they gave to the progressed learners. If it was not for your big hearts and visionary leadership qualities, some of our learners could have fallen through the cracks of the system.

In total, the number of candidates who achieved Bachelor passes is 9 964; which is 37.2% of the Class of 2019. The number of passes with a Diploma is 8 677, which is (32.4%). Passes with Higher Certificates is 4 628 (17.3%); and three candidates in Special Needs Schools passed with an endorsed NSC. A total of 7 298 distinctions were achieved in various subjects including in Life Orientation.

Top Performing Candidate

Ladies and gentlemen, at this point, allow me to announce the best performing candidate for the North West Class of 2019. This candidate obtained seven distinctions. He scored a total of 1695 marks in all subjects excluding Life Orientation and obtained beyond 90% in all his subjects.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us give a warm round of applause to **Andries Lukas Schoeman** from Hartbeespoort High School in Bojanala District as he ascends the stage.

Special Meritorious Award

This special award will be presented to a candidate who performed well in spite of the formidable challenges he/she faced during his/her schooling career.

PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOLS FOR SPECIAL GROUPS: FARM SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS

Ladies and gentlemen, we strongly argue that the learners in Farm Schools and Special Needs Schools in North West must be given the same opportunities to succeed in life as their peers in ordinary schools. We, therefore, accept that it is our primary responsibility to help children from special groups in our communities to escape circumstances of their birth or parentage through quality education.

I am quite certain that our freedom fighters of yesteryear would equally be proud of the ANC-led government for not merely providing these previously marginalised groups of our society with social grants, but for being of genuine service to our communities and to the country at large.

Ladies and gentlemen, I will be failing in my duty if I neglect to acknowledge and appreciate the achievements of the following Farm Schools and Special Needs Schools:

Against all odds, Onkgopotse Tiro Comprehensive Farm School in Ngaka Modiri Molema District obtained 96.30% pass rate. 26 of their 27 candidates passed. .

Meerhof Special School in Bojanala District achieved 100% pass rate. All their nine candidates passed.

Christiana School for the Blind in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District, also with nine candidates, obtained 100% pass rate.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Department will continue with the effort to improve learning in Special Needs Schools by staffing them accordingly and fast tracking the implementation of the Three-Stream Model of curriculum.

It is hoped that the implementation of the Technical Occupational curriculum in the schools of skills, which is currently piloted in the following four Special Needs Schools in the province: Oom Paul, Coligny, Keurhof and De Wilge, will further address the sector priority on skills and competencies for the changing world.

PERFORMANCE OF THE DISTRICTS

Now let me announce the results achieved by the districts with the progressed learners included. The NDP recognises districts as a vital interface of the basic education sector in identifying best practices, sharing information, and providing support to schools.

In ascending order, the performance of the Class of 2019 compared to their 2018 predecessors' can be presented per district as follows:

| Position | District | 2019 | 2018 | Difference |
|----------|---------------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| 4 | Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti | 83.63% | 73.12% | +10.51% |
| 3 | Ngaka Modiri Molema | 84,38% | 80.26% | +4.12% |
| 2 | Dr Kenneth Kaunda | 85,79% | 81.40% | +4.39% |
| 1 | Bojanala | 89,59% | 84.11% | +5.48 |

All four districts attained a pass rate of 80% and above. This is testament that the regular quarterly learner performance analysis, related monitoring and accountability sessions, specific learner support and intervention programmes are beginning to bear good fruit.

Congratulations to all District Directors and their teams.

Sub-District Performance

The best performing sub-districts are Madibeng with a whopping 91.24%, followed by Moretele with 90.13% and Maquassie Hills with 90.66 %.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is exciting that the top sub-districts performed beyond the 90% glass ceiling. We must applaud them for achieving this remarkable feat!!!

Regrettably, two of our sub-districts performed below 80%, namely, Lekwa-Teemane (with 76.32%) and Ditsobotla (with 70.53%). We hope for a better performance from them next time around.

PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOLS

The performance of schools will be announced per category as follows:

Schools that achieved 100% pass rate

A total of 48 schools achieved a staggering 100% pass rate, an increase of 14 from 34 schools with the same achievement in 2018.

Schools that obtained 80 - 100% pass rate

In 2018, the number of schools which attained a pass rate of 80% and more was 252, and in 2019 it has gone up to 329, which is 76.9%. Programme Directors, although we strive to increase this number, for now this achievement deserves to be commended.

Top Performing Schools

We have three categories of top performing schools: Two based on quality, that is, highest number of subject distinctions and highest number of candidates who qualify for admission to Bachelor Studies and the third one is based on the quantity, that is, the highest pass rate.

To accommodate the small schools, the quality categories have been split into two sub-categories, one with percentages and one with actual numbers.

In the category of Top Performing Schools based on Highest number of subject distinctions, the following schools, in ascending order, achieved 100% pass rate. In Position 3 is **Potchefstroom Gimnasium** with 154 candidates, Position 2 - **Bergsig High School** with 170 candidates and Position 1 goes to President **Mangope Technical High School** with 239 candidates.

In the second category of top schools: Quality – Admission to Degree Studies, the top three schools with the highest percentage of candidates who achieved admission to Degree Studies are: In Position 3, **Westvalia High School (90.20%)**, Position 2 - **Potchefstroom Girls High (93.2%)** and Position 1 -**Al-Huda Muslim School (100.00%)**.

In the same category are the schools with the highest number of candidates who qualified for admission to Degree Studies. In Position 3 is Klerksdorp High School with 133 out of 167 candidates, Position 2 – here we have a tie of **Wesvalia High School** with 138 from 153 candidates and **Potchefstroom Gimnasium** with 138 from 154 candidates, and in Position 1 is **Rustenburg High** with a staggering 192 from 273 candidates.

The third category for top performing schools is schools that achieved the most subject distinctions (80-100%). The percentage distinctions achieved is calculated out of the total of possible subjects of the school. In Position 3 we have **Potchefstroom Gimnasium** with 17.66% is in Position 2 **Ferdinand Postma** with 19.45% distinctions and number 1 is **Al-Huda Muslim School** with 20.83% distinctions.

In the second part of this category, **Hartbeespoort High** and **Wesvalia High School** is in Position 3 with 142 subject distinctions, Position 2 is **Potchefstroom Gimnasium** with 166 subject distinctions and **Rustenburg High School** tops the group with 224 subject distinctions.

Underperforming Schools (Schools with a pass rate below 70%)

There are 43 schools which attained less than 70% pass rate. This is an improvement of 54 schools from the 97 underperforming school in the previous year.

Unsuccessful learners and those who opted for the Multiple Examination Opportunity (MEO), will be registered for the Second Chance Matric Programme that will assist them with additional revision materials per subject, lessons for challenging content in designated centres and camps to prepare for examinations.

GRADES 1-11 FINAL EXAMINATIONS RESULTS

Dames en here, as we report on the Grade 12 examination results, it is important to also briefly reflect on the performance of Grades 1-11 learners in their final examinations results.

Analysis of the 2019 Grades 1-11 final examinations results shows the Department as a system on the rise.

A sound and solid foundation of the internal grades is the source of our good grade 12 results. Our 2019 learners in the General Education and Training Band, that is, Grades 1-9, obtained 90% and above except Grade 4 which achieved 86.3%.

In the Further Education and Training Band (Grades 10-12), analysis of the Grades 10 and 11 2019 final examinations results indicates that the department is maturing, notwithstanding the below expectation 60.5% pass rate of the grade 10 class, which is a drop by 2.9% from 2018 results.

It is pleasing to announce that the improvement of 76.7% from 71.3% of 2018, which represents 3.6%, in the 2019 Grade 11 pass rate shows that the schooling system is stabilising and that our secondary schools across the province do not use unfair strategies of bottlenecking in order to achieve good Grade 12 results the following year.

This further indicates that the focus on good learner academic performance is not only in Grade 12 but across the grades. Nonetheless, we need to roll up our sleeves and get down to work even harder in grades 10 and 11 classes.

In spite of the satisfactory internal examination results, and the improved learner performance of Home Languages in grades 3,6 and 9, the learners pass rate of Mathematics in these lower exit grades and a consistent poor learner performance in phase transitional grades, in particular grades 8 and 10, call for focused support programmes and interventions .

We need to find effective teacher development strategies to strengthen the basic and applied skills of learners in reading with comprehension, solving routine and complex mathematics problems, and applying scientific concepts.

PROVINCIAL INTERVENTION STRATEGIES FOR 2020

Ladies and gentlemen, although we take the 86.8% pass rate of 2019 as proof that we can do it, we will never rest on our laurels in 2020 - acting as if we have arrived at our destination. It is *A luta Continua* for the Department of Education. The struggle continues. We aim beyond the sky!

Although a lot is happening already, in a nutshell, let me state that through our Ngwana Sejo Campaign, we are going back to basics with regard to our intervention strategies that aim to improve learner attainment in the province.

For starters, the Second Chance Matric Programme will be intensified to provide support to candidates who have been unable to meet the requirements of the NSC with a view to accomplishing the goals of the NDP by increasing learner retention and throughput rate.

In addition, the following will be adhered to in order to improve performance further:

Consistent with the Action Plan 2024, the system will not only focus on the number of learners achieving the Grades but also on the quality of passes. To this end, the province, through the implementation of LAIP, will place emphasis on:

- Improving subject performance by offering additional classes during camps for progressed learners, schools presenting first Grade 12, and underperforming schools
- Tracking learner performance quarterly and isolating for intervention learners and subjects that are not passing
- Support to all underperforming schools through mentoring programme
- Quarterly performance accountability sessions to identify gaps

Ngwana Sejo Campaign will be implemented in earnest to intensify our school revision programmes which will include:

- Extra classes
- School vacation camps
- Site camps and
- Examination camps

BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Research consistently points to weak learning foundations as one of the major root causes of poor learner performance and learner dropout towards the end of secondary school. Based on this finding, we recognise that the most important priority must be to improve the quality of learning and teaching in the early grades, so as to ensure that our learners are equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge and attitude to cope with the curriculum requirements of the senior grades, thereby providing sustainable quality learner performance.

Seen in this light, we will continue to increasingly prioritise intervention programmes that target on improved quality of learning and teaching from early grades. The generally improved results of Grades 1-12 of this year suggest that the department is beginning to reap the fruits of its partnership with different institutions which implement programmes that are designed to provide our learners with foundational skills of reading, writing and numeracy from early grades.

APPRECIATION

- First and foremost, let me dedicate my warmest appreciation to my political home, the African National Congress, for entrusting me with the responsibility as MEC for this huge and hectic department.
- A special appreciation goes to the Premier of North West, Honourable Professor Tebogo Job Mokgoro for the guidance and support you give me and the Department in general. I still yearn to learn more from your unmatched leadership qualities.
- My colleagues from EXCO for teamwork and the support.
- My colleagues in the Portfolio Committee for Education for their stewardship, leadership and continued support.
- My colleagues from Legislature. I thank you for your role in our department from the bottom of my heart.
- My warm appreciation goes to the leadership of sector unions, for ensuring the existence of labour peace in the entire Department.
- I must thank Team Education under the supervision of the Administrator Mr JNT Mohlala and the Superintendent-General Mrs SM Semaswe. A big Thank You!
- To NICSA, SGBs, QLTC structures and NGOs - thank you for your support.
- We also thank all teachers who worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that learners are prepared adequately for the final examinations.
- A word of gratitude also goes to those who work in the examination value chain for ensuring that the integrity of the NSC Examination was upheld.
- A special word of thanks to the South African Police Services for their annual support and co-operation when we conduct the final matric examinations.
- The business community and our sponsors for this occasion MTN Foundation, SAICA, PNA, PASA, CETA, ETDP-SETA - the prizes you have arranged for our top learners are highly appreciated. Thank you!
- We also extend a word of gratitude to all learners and teachers, departmental heads, deputy principals and principals. We applaud you for the great work you continue to do on a daily basis.
- A special word of appreciation goes to all who took part in making sure that this august event becomes a success.
- I also want to thank my family, without which I would not be able to manage such a complicated portfolio.
- Lastly, but certainly not the least, I wish to thank our host the Mayor of Rustenburg Local Municipality.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I wish to heartily congratulate all candidates and schools who performed well in the 2019 NCS Examinations. We are proud of your achievements. The whole North West celebrates with you!

I invite you to ask yourself two questions:

"When my story is written, what would I like people to say?"

"What will be my contribution to my family, to my community, to my province, to my country and to the world around me?"

We also need to take this opportunity to encourage candidates who did not succeed - in absentia - to try again. To them we say, we may not all succeed the first time around. Their second chance is in May/June 2020. They must make the best use of that chance. We encourage them to register at their schools but not enrol with fly-by-night and bogus centres. Through hard work, discipline and commitment they can make it.

Bagaetsho, let us appreciate and celebrate that we have raised the bar in almost all applicable performance indicators with regard to the NSC Examination results. In actual fact, this great achievement in our Grade 12 results is a manifestation of improvements occurring at all levels of our provincial education system.

In spite of all this, we must be the first to concede that a lot more needs to be done in the areas of efficiency and quality. The challenge still lies ahead to ensure that we succeed in our endeavour to implement the Ten-Point Sector Priorities and Programmes.

We also need to further adjust our plans accordingly so as to clear our path towards achieving Vision 2030 as outlined in the NDP.

Most importantly, we must make sure that every year we move a bit closer to our vision, recognising that great achievements are made by people working together – Together we can make a better North West Province.

This ideal can be realised if we join hands in our belief that *Ngwana Sejo o a tlhakanelwa*.

Thank you very much. May God bless you!