



education

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

2020

NORTH WEST RESULTS



**ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MEC
OF EDUCATION**

MMAPHEFO LUCY MATSEMELA

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE RELEASE OF THE 2020 NSC/SC COMBINED RESULTS
ON**

23 FEBRUARY 2021

AT FERDINAND POSTMA HIGH SCHOOL, J B MARKS



**BE SAFE
ACT RESPONSIBLY**

**WASH YOUR
HANDS OFTEN**

**WEAR A MASK WHEN
GOING OUTSIDE**

**MAINTAIN SOCIAL
DISTANCING**



**ADDRESS BY MEC FOR EDUCATION
HON. MMAPHEFO LUCY MATSEMELA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE RELEASE OF THE 2020 NSC/SC COMBINED MATRIC
RESULTS
AT FERDINAND POSTMA, TLOKWE,
23 FEBRUARY 2021**

Programme Directors

Premier of North West Honourable Professor Tebogo Job Mokgoro,

Colleagues from EXCO (who are listening),

Members of the Provincial Legislature,

District Mayor of Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, Cllr B Segotso

Hosting Executive Mayor of J.B Marks Local Municipality Cllr K Khumalo

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

Leaders of political parties

Leadership of sector unions

Leadership of different faith-based organisations

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

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

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 2020 and all of you - our esteemed guests - to this occasion of the release of the 2020 National Senior Certificate (NSC) who sat for the combined National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Senior Certificate Examinations.

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

Programme Director when we were in the middle of a deadly pandemic and the country was in Level 5, the prophets of doom last year prophesised that we needed to drop the 2020 academic year. They tried to mobilize parents to withdraw their children from schools and thank you to all parents who had their trust and confidence in the system of education. They left their children in our hands and fortunately, learners were taught by the very much dedicated teachers and candidates managed to write their final examination. Today we are going to celebrate the hard work attained by the same learners who were discouraged to continue with the academic year of 2020.

These results are released during the month of February, which is very significant to the history of our country. On 11 February 1990, Nelson Mandela who is regarded as the father of democracy in our country was released from jail by the apartheid government. He was very passionate about education; he once said, **“Education is the most powerful tool which you can use to change the world”**. Our learners are reaping the sacrifices that were sown by their great grand - fathers and mothers in the liberation of our country. The true benefits of liberation are achieved when the society is educated.

The year 2020 was a very difficult year throughout the world as Corona Virus affected all and sundry and that did not leave out the education sector. I wish to convey my heartfelt condolences to the families of the teachers, learners and the departmental officials who lost their lives due to this ruthless virus. I want to indicate that as the North West Department of Education our priority is to safe guard the health and safety of all employees and learners. We are going to continue implementing the Covid – 19 regulations at all times in our schools and all other workplaces.

In the State of the Nation Address, president of the Republic of South Africa, his Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa made an eloquent comparison of South Africa to Fynbos biome, a beautiful shrub that spreads across the moist mountains and lowlands throughout South Africa. In his comparison he says in 12 to 25 years the Fynbos has to be subjected to the fire for re-germination.

That means that germination of the seed is stimulated directly through heat or smoke. And like Fynbos, our country has been subjected to fire, in this instance of Covid-19. The year 2020 had the country caught up in the heat of Covid-19 and with ashes that remain, we rose again.

I also narrow the Fynbos comparison to the education sector, in particular, the North West Department of Education. We too were in the midst of fire of Covid-19 where we grappled to find our space in the digital divide, ensuring that our learners are receiving the education they deserve. Our gathering here today bears positive testimony to our resilience in educating our children, your children. The class of 2020 came out victorious in the midst of the fire.

The arrival of the vaccine in our country revives the spirit of hope to the education sector as it guarantees that we will conquer Covid – 19 one day. Learners and teachers had to stay home to avoid the spread of the pandemic but now we remain optimistic that, we will recover the lost time. When all education stakeholders have been vaccinated, we will know that even the worst enemy to mankind has been dominated.

I wish to say that through that fire there is germination. Through that fire there's hope. There is rebirth and as Maya Angelou says it in her poem, "Still I rise".

Team North West education, still, you rise!

INTRODUCTION

Programme Director, the occasion of the release of the NSC Examination results is an annual event performed by the Department of Basic Education, followed by all the nine Provincial Education Departments across the Republic of South Africa. The year 2020 was momentous for the Department, it had its highs and lows. The Minister for Basic Education in her announcement of the 2020 Matric results indicated that Nationally the results have gone down from the previous year

We are extremely proud of the high level of commitment of Team Education who, amidst the turmoil, demonstrated extraordinary professionalism and dedication during the time of the pandemic of COVID 19. The year 2020 has been a tough year for these learners who wrote the examinations, COVID pandemic made schools to close, the learners did not write the June examinations which is used to gauge the performance and decide on programme of intervention. Vacation Camps that are attended by many learners, could not take place due to social distance issue.

The 2020 class was a comparatively strong group when compared with the 2019 cohort- this was also evident in their 2020 term 1 performance where they completed the term in schools. The class performance in the preparatory examinations was 10.3% down compared to 2019 and 10.2% for the progressed group who were to sit the entire examination due to discontinuation of the Multiple Exam Opportunity (MEO)

The following are the challenges experienced by the class of 2020

Due to the national response on COVID 19:

1. Interventions started late
2. There was no direct intervention for progressed learners, which normally takes place during the autumn recess
3. Learners did not sit for the June examinations which provides an indication of the gaps and determines the nature of intervention
4. Only few learners could be taken into camps as a result of social distancing
5. The cohort was a bigger class in numbers, with progressed learners writing all subjects
6. Service delivery protests affected learners in the Tlaskgameng cluster in Kagisano Molopo for the entire academic Quarter 1 and Marikana Secondary in Quarter 3

PROFILE OF THE 2020 GRADE 12 COHORT

The Class of 2020 is the seventh cohort of learners to write the CAPS-aligned NSC Examinations. They enrolled for Grade 1 in 2009, the same year that the NSC Examination was written for the second time in Grade 12.

They were 38 292 (Thirty Eight Thousand, two hundred and ninety two) full time registered learners who were accommodated in 433 public and independent schools. They sat for the Combined 2020 NSC/SC Examination. Of the above number, 4 549 (Four Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Nine) learners were progressed. and due to the abolishment of multiple examination opportunity in 2020 these candidates had to write all subjects.

It is worthy to note that the Class of 2020 was also impacted by the following key policy changes:

- Policy on Progression (Seventh cohort)
- Policy on Multiple Examination Opportunity (MEO) which was abandoned
- 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

On the 15 of February 2020 UMALUSI as the quality assurance body approved the results of Combined NSC/SC examinations.

OVERALL PROVINCIAL PERFORMANCE

A brief look at our performance track record in the NSC Examination results over the past five years depicts the following:

In 2015, we scored 81.5% and were in position 4 nationally then 2016, we obtained 82.5% and remained in position 4. The year 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, in 2019, obtained a pass rate of 86.8% and moved to position three.

Bagaetsho, ladies and gentlemen, *dames en here*, the class of 2020 despite challenges they encountered which includes among others: less teaching time due to lockdown after the first term, more self-study and less contact, group discussions, emotional stress due to fear of being infected, or infecting family members due to the COVID 19 pandemic. I am standing here today to announce that the North West Class of 2020 obtained a pass rate of 76.2%, (which is a drop by 10.6% from 86.8% of 2019). The percentage drop is consistent with their performance in the preparatory examinations.

It must be borne in mind that our target for the 2020 matric pass rate in the Annual Performance Plan was 80%. This is less than what we planned for due to the challenges mentioned.

I am also excited to announce that out of 433 schools that presented Grade 12 in 2020, 288 schools performed at 70% and beyond this shows quality results.

A brief comparison of the North West 2020 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
2020 with Progressed	76.19									

Ladies and gentlemen, analysis of the results of provides us with the following picture:

In 2020 there was quality performance as we see that the number of candidates who achieved Bachelor passes is 11 820 which is more than the previous 2019 class of year 9 964 the Class of 2019. The number of passes with a Diploma of 9 983 is higher than 8 677 achieved in 2019 Higher Certificates is 6 279 candidates passing which is an improvement from 4 628 achieved last year.

A total of 7 626 distinctions, which is higher than last year of 7 298 distinctions were achieved in various subjects including in Life Orientation. The above numbers shows that there is more quality performance than the previous year.

Top Performing Candidate

Ladies and gentlemen, at this point, allow me to announce the best performing candidate for the North West Class of 2020. This candidate obtained seven distinctions. She scored a total of 1722 marks in all subjects excluding Life Orientation and obtained beyond 90% in all her subjects.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us give a warm round of applause to **Ms Jana Geyser** from Rustenburg High School in Bojanala District as she ascends the stage.

Special School 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, SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS AND AGRIC FOCUS 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.

Against all odds, Machadam Farm School in Bojanala District obtained 100.00% pass rate.

I will be failing in my duty if I neglect to acknowledge and appreciate the achievements of the following Special Schools: Meerhof Special School in Bojanala District achieved 100% pass rate. All their fifteen candidates passed. Christiana School for the Blind in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District, also with thirteen candidates, obtained 92.3% pass rate.

Matthews Mangope and Huhudi high schools as Agric focus schools attained 100.00%

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 2020 compared to their 2019 predecessors' can be presented per district as follows:

Position	District	2018	2019	2020	Difference
4	Ngaka Modiri Molema	80.26%	84,38%	69,11%	-15,27%
3	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti	73.12%	83.63%	71,21%	-12,42%
2	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	81.40%	85,79%	79,61%	-6,18%
1	Bojanala	84.11%	89,59%	81,17%	-8,42%

It is pleasing to announce that Bojanala district retained its position with 81,17%, Dr Kenneth Kaunda with 79,61%, Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti with 71.21% and Ngaka Modiri Molema with 69,11 %, a lot of work still to be done in the districts to improve the results above 80% mark. Congratulations to all District Directors and their teams.

Sub-District Performance

The best performing sub-districts are Rustenburg with a whopping 83.68%, followed by J.B Marks with 82.15% and Madibeng with 81.24 %.

Regrettably, one of our sub-districts performed below 60%, namely, Ratlou (58,62%) 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

30 schools achieved 100% pass rate; this is a decrease of 18 schools with the same achievement in 2019.

Schools that obtained 80 - 100% pass rate

In 2019, the number of schools which attained a pass rate of 80% and more was 329, and in 2020 is lower than the previous year at 202. 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 learners who passed the examination, the following schools, in ascending order, achieved 100% pass rate. In Position 3 is **Brits High School** with 123 candidates, Position 2 – **Potchefstroom Gimnasium High School** with 140 candidates and Position 1 goes to **Westvalia High School** with 142 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 (91.55%), Position 2 – Ventersdorp High (100.00%) 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 **B.A Seobi High** with 138 out of 201 candidates, Position 2 – **H.F Tlou High** with 150 from 209 candidates, and in Position 1 is **Rustenburg High with** 226 from 279 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 **Al-Huda Muslim School with 23,08%** in Position 2 **Ferdinand Postma** with 23,42% and number 1 is **Potchefstroom High School for Girls with 24,35%**

In the second part of this category, **Potchefstroom Gymnasium** is in Position 3 with 156 subject distinctions, Position 2, **Westvalia High School** is with 162 subject distinctions and **Rustenburg High School** tops the group with 257 subject distinctions.

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

There are 69 schools which attained less than 70% pass rate. This is an increase of 26 schools to last year of 43 schools.

Unsuccessful learners 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.

PROVINCIAL INTERVENTION STRATEGIES FOR 2021

Although we take the 76.2% pass rate of 2020 as proof that we can do it, we managed to produce quality results despite Covid 19 Pandemic; the results could have been worse if we did not intervene and assist learners. The struggle continues. We aim beyond the sky!

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 accomplish 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:

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 learners and subjects for intervention
- 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
- Further use of dial the tutor

BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Our Research unit is already busy working with our curriculum examination and assessment units to find a lasting solution to the major root causes of poor learner performance and learner dropout towards the end of secondary school. There is a need to recognise that the most important priority must be to improve the quality of learning and teaching in the early grades, 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 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 and assessment 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, PASA, 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.
- How could I forget the staff in my office, thank you for always ensuring that we become Winners in all my assignments.
- Lastly, but certainly not the least, I wish to thank our host the Mayor of J.B Marks Local Municipality.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I wish to heartily congratulate all candidates and schools who performed well in the 2020 NCS Examinations. We are proud of your achievements. The whole North West celebrates with you!

We also need to take this opportunity to encourage candidates who did not succeed to try again. To them we say, we may not all succeed the first time around. Their second chance is in May/June 2021. 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.

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.

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!