



education

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

2021

NORTH WEST RESULTS



ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MEC

OF EDUCATION

MMAPHEFO LUCY MATSEMELA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RELEASE OF THE 2021 NSC RESULTS ON

21 JANUARY 2022

AT MM SEBITLOANE SPECIAL SCHOOL, GREATER TAUNG



**BE SAFE
ACT RESPONSIBLY**

**WASH YOUR
HANDS OFTEN**

**WEAR A MASK WHEN
GOING OUTSIDE**

**MAINTAIN SOCIAL
DISTANCING**



Programme Director

Premier of North West Honourable Bushy Maape,

Colleagues from EXCO (who are listening),

Members of the Provincial Legislature,

District Mayor of Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, Cllr

Hosting Executive Mayor of Greater Taung Local Municipality Cllr

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

Acting Administrator Mr M Mathews, 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 bagaetsho!

PREAMBLE

Programme Directors, since the day our 2021 class finished writing their examinations, we have been waiting with bated breath for this day. Finally here we are. We are gathered here to release the National Senior Certificate (NSC) results of the North West Class of 2021.

The Class of 2021 faced the stark realities of living side-by-side with the Coronavirus pandemic. For two consecutive years, they had to adapt and cope with the dictates of a pandemic that dramatically changed their conventional ways of doing things at home and at school.

Needless to say, the outbreak of Covid-19 with its numerous variants and ensuing lockdown restrictions had devastating impact on schooling, particularly on the delivery of curriculum. Predominantly, learners experienced unprecedented learning losses which will take ages to recover.

In spite of its inherent limitations, the implementation of rotational timetabling model in most schools benefitted the department in two main ways: It helped to stem the spread of the pandemic in schools and gave learners an opportunity to return to the classroom, where our strength, as a department, lies.

Programme Directors, allow me to hasten to thank the dedication of the teachers, School Management Teams, School Governing Bodies, the unwavering support of the parents, teacher unions and other education stakeholders in making sure that the 2021 school year went by smoothly.

It is our fundamental wish to return to a traditional timetabling model. To that end, we need to make sure that our schools implement curriculum in a safe environment – free from potential Covid-19 infections.

Apart from providing schools with Covid-19 essentials, cleaners and screeners, we have joined hands with the Department of Health on a drive to vaccinate office-based staff, school-based staff and learners against Covid-19.

Honourable Premier, details of our success rate on the Covid-19 vaccination will be outlined later on a different platform.

INTRODUCTION

Honourable Premier, ladies and gentlemen, the North West Department of Education is a system on the rise. When we said we will bounce back after taking a knock in the 2020 matric result, many thought it was just a rhetoric.

Our commitment to rise again was inspired by the wisdom drawn from the words of our former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Maya Angelou's poem 'Still I Rise'

When he teaches about perseverance, Nelson Mandela once wrote: ***"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."***

Consistent with the words of our former President Mandela, in one of her most famous and popular poems 'Still I Rise' Maya Angelou gives a beacon hope, conveys a message of victory over adversity, and assurance of prevailing over hardships.

If one counts the poem's title, the words "I rise" and I'll rise are repeated many times intentionally to emphasise that no one can ever keep a good person down.

Yes, we tripped and fell in the 2020 matric results. Unfailingly, we picked ourselves up and soldiered on. Today we have reclaimed our position and we are counted amongst the stars.

The North West Department of Education flies with eagles because it is not afraid of soaring above the clouds.

We are extremely proud of the Class of 2021.

PROFILE OF THE 2021 GRADE 12 COHORT

The Class of 2021 is the eighth cohort of learners to write the CAPS-aligned NSC Examinations. They enrolled for Grade 1 in 2010, the same year that the NSC Examination was written for the second time in Grade 12.

They constituted 42 152 (Forty two Thousand and one hundred and fifty two) full time registered learners who were accommodated in **439** public and independent schools. 41081 (forty one thousand and eighty one) candidates sat for the 2021 NSC Examination. Of the above number, 2 025 (Two Thousand and twenty five) learners were progressed and due to multiple examination opportunity abolished in 2021 these candidates had to write all seven subjects as required.

VALIDITY AND CREDIBILITY OF THE 2021 NSC EXAMINATION RESULTS

On the 18 of January 2022, UMALUSI Council as the quality assurance body has declared and approved the NSC Grade 12 results.

OVERALL PROVINCIAL PERFORMANCE

A brief reflection on our performance in the NSC Examination results over the past five years depicts the following:

In 2016 we obtained 82.5% (Position 4), 2017 - we dropped to 79.4% but maintained our position 4, 2018 we improved to 81.1% (position 4), 2019, obtained a pass rate of 86.8% (position 4) then in 2020 we dropped to 76.2% then relegated to position 5 on the national ranking.

Today I am proud to announce that the North West Class of 2021 obtained a pass rate of 78.2%, (which is an increase of 2% from 76.2% of 2020).

I am also excited to announce that out of 439 schools that presented Grade 12 in 2021, 325 (that is 74,2% of the schools) performed at 70% and beyond.

In total, the number of candidates who achieved Bachelor passes is **13 875 (33.8%)** which is more than the previous year's 11 820 of the Class of 2020. The number of passes with a Diploma is **10 794 (26, 3 %)** higher than 9 983 of 2020. Passes with Higher Certificates is **7 470 (18, 2%)** which is an improvement from last year's is 6 279 (17.3%); and four candidates in our Special Schools doing the National Curriculum Statement passed with endorsed NSC. **32 143** candidates have passed. 6 478 distinctions were achieved in various subjects excluding in Life Orientation.

Top Performing Candidate

At this point, allow me to announce the best performing candidate for the North West Class of 2021. This candidate obtained seven distinctions. She scored 1709 marks in all subjects excluding Life Orientation and obtained beyond 90% in all her subjects.

Let us give a warm round of applause to Eloise Elizabeth Shelley from **Hartbeespoort High School** in Bojanala District, as he ascends the stage.

It is for the second year in succession, that the school produces the top candidate for the province.

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, the North West Department of Education maintains that learners in Farm Schools and Special Schools in this province must be given the same opportunities to succeed in life as their counterparts in ordinary schools. Therefore, it is our inalienable responsibility to help children from special groups in our communities to escape circumstances of their birth or parentage through access to free quality education.

In light of the above, let me acknowledge and appreciate the achievements of the following Farm Schools and Special Schools:

- Onkgopotse Tiro Comprehensive Farm School in Ngaka Modiri Molema District obtained 97.50% pass rate. 38 out of its 39 candidates passed.
- Meerhof Special School in Bojanala District achieved 100% pass rate. All their nine candidates passed.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Department will continue in its endeavour to improve the quality of learning and teaching in schools of the special and designated groups of our society.

PERFORMANCE OF THE DISTRICTS

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

In ascending order, the performance of the Class of 2021 compared to their 2020 predecessors can be presented per district as follows:

| Position | District | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Difference |
|----------|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|------------|
| 4 | Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti | 73,12 | 83,63 | 71,21 | 72,9 | 1,69 |
| 3 | Ngaka Modiri Molema | 80,26 | 84,38 | 69,11 | 75,2 | 6,09 |
| 2 | Dr Kenneth Kaunda | 81,4 | 85,79 | 79,61 | 79,3 | -0,31 |
| 1 | Bojanala | 84,11 | 89,59 | 81,17 | 81,6 | 0,43 |

Bojanala is the only one district maintained a pass rate of 80% and above. Congratulations are in order Mrs MJ Paledi and your District Team.

Sub-District Performance

The best performing sub-districts are Rustenburg with 83,6%, followed by J.B Marks with 82.1% and Madibeng with 81.8 %.

It is exciting that above four sub-districts performed beyond the 80%. Only two of our sub-districts performed below 70%, namely, Mamusa (with 69,7%) and Ratlou (with 68.6%). 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:

For 2021, 28 schools that achieved 100% pass rate. Schools that attained a pass rate of 80% and more, is 216, which is 49,31%., which is a decline from 2020.

Programme Directors, although we strive to increase this number, for now this achievement deserves to be commended considering our endless efforts to clawback normality of teaching and learning in schools from the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

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 (Excluding Life Orientation), in ascending order. In Position 3 is **Potchefstroom Girls High** with 186 subject distinctions, Position 2 – **Wesvalia High School** with 207 subject distinctions and Position 1 goes to **Gimnasium High School** with 214 subject distinctions.

The second category for top performing schools comprises of schools that achieved the most subject distinctions (in percentage) (Excluding Life Orientation). The percentage of distinctions achieved is calculated out of the total

of possible subjects of the school. In Position 3 **Potchefstroom Girls High** we have with 30,67% is in Position 2 **Ferdinand Postma** with 31,05% distinctions and number 1 is **Al-Huda Muslim School** with 34,92% distinctions.

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, **Lighthouse Christian College (93.3%)**, Position 2 - **Potchefstroom Girls High (95.0%)** and Position 1 - **Al-Huda Muslim School (95.2%)**.

In the same category, there are schools with the highest number of candidates who qualified for admission to Degree Studies. In Position 3 is **B.A Seobi** with 153 out of 183 candidates, Position 2 – **HTS Klerksdorp** with 162 from 238 candidates, and in Position 1 is **Rustenburg High** with a staggering 190 from 246 candidates.

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

There are 114 schools which attained less than 70% pass rate. The most improved school from the previous year is Bray Intermediate School with 66.3%

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.

GRADES 1-11 FINAL EXAMINATIONS RESULTS

It is important to also briefly reflect on the performance of Grades 1-11 learners in their 2021 final examinations results. Analysis of the 2021 Grades 1-11 final examinations results restores confidence in the recovery of department as a formidable system to be reckoned with.

A sound and solid foundation of the internal grades is the source of our good grade 12 results. Our 2021 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 2021 final examinations results indicates that the department is maturing, notwithstanding the below expectation 60.5% pass rate of the grade 10 class.

In spite of COVID 19 pandemic, internal classes has registered an improvement in performance.

PROVINCIAL INTERVENTION STRATEGIES FOR THE 2022 MATRIC CLASS

In his book entitled **Henry IV Part 2**, William Shakespeare states “uneasy lies the head that wears a crown”. This statement teaches us that a person who has great responsibilities, such as a king, is constantly worried and therefore doesn't sleep soundly.

Honourable Premier, we will never rest until we rise to the top.

Although we take pride in the current achievement of 78.2% matric pass rate, we will not drop the torch and rest on our laurels in 2022 and beyond.

A lot is happening on the ground already. Under the auspices of our Ngwana Sejo o a Tlhakanelwa Campaign, we are intensifying the implementation of our Learner Attainment Improvement Programme (LAIP) in the province.

The interventions for the Class of 2022 are premised on the condition that they passed Grade 10 and 11 on, inter alia:

- Trimmed Annual Teaching Plans
- Adjustment in the ratio between SBA and Exam marks.
- Different assessment instruments from school to school
- Change in the form of assessment from exam to test

The following strategies will be implemented to mitigate the impact of the above factors and prepare the Class of 2022 for the NSC examinations:

Direct learner contact support programmes

The following interventions will be implemented:

- Compulsory weekend lessons to work on the learning losses and close the Grade 11 content gap over five weeks from February to March.
- Extended the scope of vacation class beneficiaries as all learners are deemed to be vulnerable.
- Weekend lessons for revision during the writing of the preparatory examinations.
- Annual Ngwana sejo revision classes to be extended until the beginning of the final examinations to:
 - ✓ Drill and provide practice for learners on past question papers
 - ✓ Revise on the frequently asked questions
 - ✓ Point to areas where learners are able to collect easy marks and identification of all low order questions in all the high weighted content
 - ✓ Familiarise learners with the structure of the question papers and response to assessment instructions (where the structure has changed use exemplars)

Online and Digital Support

- Providing learners with tablets with relevant curriculum content and sim cards to access digital learning platforms.
- Broadly advocating, advertising and expanding the Dial-A-Tutor programme for individual learner consultations.
- Communicating all national and provincial online and digital support programmes to schools, including e-study guides.
- Evening revision classes on remote/virtual learning through Microsoft Teams using best practising teachers.
- Radio revision lessons for preparatory and NSC exams.

District and School Support

- MEC's consultations with underperforming schools, sharing best practises with performing schools
- SG's consultations with districts on quarterly performance to assess the extent of interventions
- Provide onsite support of a multi-disciplinary team to the lowest performing schools
- Curriculum orientation for all schools presenting first Grade 12 class
- Curriculum and Assessment Support for teachers

The Second Chance Matric Programme will be strengthened 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.

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 Kaobitsa Bushy Maape for the guidance and support.
- My colleagues in the Legislature and Portfolio Committee for Education for their stewardship, leadership and continued support. 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.
- We also thank all teachers, SMTs and principals who weathered the Covid-19 waves of infections, worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that learners are prepared adequately for the final examinations.
- I must thank Team Education under the supervision of the Acting Administrator Mr MC Mathews and the Superintendent-General Mrs SM Semaswe.

- To NICSA, SGBs, QLTC structures and NGOs - thank you for your support.
- 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, Fundi Education, SAICA Macmillan, Shooter and Shooter, Oxford University Press, and PNA Booksellers, the prizes you have arranged for our top learners are highly appreciated. Thank you!
- A word of gratitude also goes to those who work in the examinations value chain for ensuring that the integrity of the NSC Examination was upheld.
- A special word of appreciation also 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 demanding portfolio.
- Lastly, but certainly not the least, I wish to thank our hosts, the principal and SGB of MM Sebitloane Special School, the Mayor of Greater Taung Local Municipality and Kgosi.....

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I wish to heartily congratulate all candidates and schools who performed well in the 2021 NCS Examinations. We are proud of your achievements. The whole North West celebrates with you!

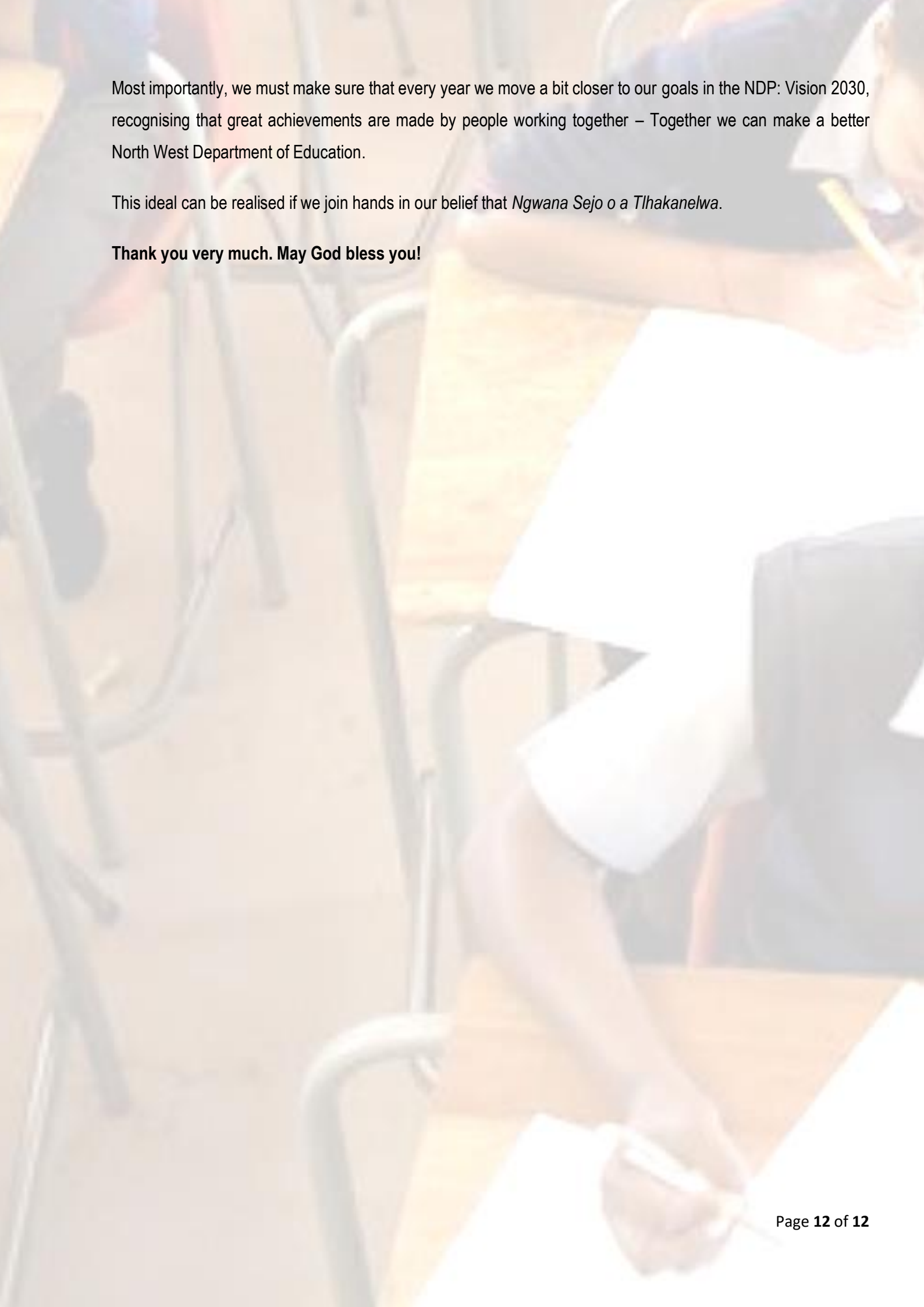
We also need to take this opportunity to encourage candidates who did not succeed to try again. To them we say, we may not all succeed the first time around. Their second chance is in May/June 2022. They must make the best use of that chance. We encourage them to register at their schools but not enrol with fly-by-night and bogus centres. Through hard work, discipline and commitment they can make it.

Programme Directors, I do not mean to idolise President Mandela, popularly known as Madiba. Without necessarily bragging, Madiba was and will remain the finest son of the African soil. He was a loyal member and leader of the African National Congress. He dedicated his life to the struggle for the liberation of his people and the people of the world.

He once wrote:

“I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.

To team education and our stakeholders, the bigger hurdles for us to jump still lie ahead. Amongst others, we must ensure that we improve the current achievement in respect of the 78,2% matric pass rate and succeed in our endeavour to implement the Ten-Point Sector Priorities and Programmes (2019-2024).



Most importantly, we must make sure that every year we move a bit closer to our goals in the NDP: Vision 2030, recognising that great achievements are made by people working together – Together we can make a better North West Department of Education.

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!