



THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S VISIT TO MARKING CENTRES



The Department of Basic Education is responsible for the administration and conduct of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination for all Grade 12 learners in the education system. Public examinations in South Africa are legislated by the Policy and Regulations for the Conduct, Administration and Management of Assessment for the National Senior Certificate.

Since its implementation in 2008, significant progress has been made to standardise examination systems and processes across all Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) to ensure a credible exit examination for all candidates at public and registered independent schools. The Regulations are intended to ensure that the principles of assessment, viz.: validity, reliability and fairness for all candidates are upheld in all processes in the examination cycle.

One such key process is the organisation and marking of candidates' scripts after the writing of the examination. Marking reliability is essential to ensure that markers' application of the nationally agreed marking guidelines is accurate, consistent and fair to all candidates in a high stakes public examination such as the NSC.

The outcomes of this examination are used by candidates to gain entry to higher learning or to access other training or employment opportunities. The NSC outcomes are also used as indicators of teachers' and schools' performance at provincial and national levels, as well as to monitor examination standards over time.

Given the high importance of marking the learners' scripts, the Director-General, Mr HM Mweli began his monitoring of marking centres throughout the country. The main purpose of the visits is to affirm the hard work of the officials and teachers at marking centres and to learn from his engagement so that future marking processes may be strengthened. In this week's Thuto, the Director-General's visit to the **Eastern Cape** is featured.



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S VISIT TO MARKING CENTRES IN EASTERN CAPE

The Eastern Cape province has allocated 19 marking centres for the marking of the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination scripts. A team of senior markers and newly appointed markers drawn from various schools in the province have dedicated their efforts and energy to ensure that quality marking processes are being implemented this year.

On 01 December 2017, the Director-General for the Department of Basic Education, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli visited six marking centres in the Eastern Cape namely, Collegiate Girls High and Khanyisa High School in Port Elizabeth, Kirkwood Hoerskool, Daniel Piennar Hoerskool and Sterelitzia High School in Uitenhage, and Paul Sauer High School in Humansdorp. In most centres, markers commenced with their duties after having been engaged in memo discussions, training workshops and group marking in preparation for the actual marking of learners' scripts.

Mr Mweli has embarked on this programme to monitor the quality and efficiency carried out in marking centres to ensure uniformity across the education sector.

During his meeting with Centre Managers, Chief Markers and Internal Moderators, Mr Mweli said: "As you are all aware that each year the DBE, Provincial Education Departments and Umalusi meet for a robust discussion at the Standardisation meeting. We are here to engage you on the 2017 NSC Examination in order to share best practice and work towards improving quality and efficiency in areas that still need more improvement."

The Director-General who addressed staff in various centres, further said "We value the work that you carry out here; please continue to work hard to give the class of 2017 credible results. The NSC Examination is a National asset; we are

therefore relying on you as experts in the field of marking processes".

Ms Eunice Mathayi, a centre manager in Collegiate Girls High stated: "I am happy that the province is giving us full support to perform our tasks diligently. All resources are in place to strengthen our work. I also would like to thank the Director-General for coming to our centre; his visit has inspired us," said Ms Mathayi.

The Chief Education Specialist responsible for marking processes, noted : "What I have noticed is that the security is tight in these centres, which gives me confidence that markers will work diligently with steady pace without compromising the standard of the NSC Examination."



PHOTOGRAPHIC
RECORD OF THE
DG'S VISIT TO
MARKING CENTRES
IN EASTERN CAPE



The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of a test paper. It features a grid of circles containing letters (A, B, C, D, E) and numbers (47, 48, 49, 50). A yellow pencil is positioned diagonally on the left side, and a red pen is on the right side, with a red line drawn from the pen towards the center. The text is overlaid on this background.

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