



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THUTO**



## NEWSLETTER

# President Zuma congratulates Class of 2017 for their outstanding performance



President Jacob Zuma has congratulated all the matriculants who sat for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations during 2017. Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, released the results during a live broadcast at the SABC in Auckland Park on 04 January 2018.

The President commended the improvement in the pass rate, which rose from 72.5% in 2016 to 75.1% in 2017. “We welcome the fact that the pass rate has consistently improved since the democratic dispensation, especially since the reconfiguration of education into two separate departments, namely Basic Education on one hand and Higher Education and Training on the other hand. This reaffirms government’s focus on education as an apex priority and the greatest enabler of the society as well as a key aspect of our programme of Radical Socio-Economic Transformation,” said President Zuma.

President Zuma further encouraged those who did not achieve a university pass and those who failed, to never lose hope, adding that there was a wide choice of other opportunities. “We encourage those who did not pass that there are still plenty of opportunities to be explored to fulfil their dreams. We wish to remind our matriculants of the many opportunities provided by Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETs) Colleges and other vocational training centres across the country.

“The learners still have an extra opportunity to better their results in their second attempt during Supplementary Examinations to take place at many matric re-write centres. They should use this setback as an opportunity to reflect and improve,” said the President, who also called on parents, teachers, friends and relatives to provide the necessary support to all the Class of 2017 matriculants.

## Basic Education and SABC Foundation salute Class of 2017 top achievers





The Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the SABC Foundation organised a special breakfast to acknowledge the excellent results achieved by the 2017 NSC top achievers. More than 21 learners from various quintiles were invited to the Raddison Blu Hotel in Sandton on 04 January 2018, to join Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, and Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli and various education stakeholders as they celebrated the achievements of the shining stars of the Class of 2017. This initiative is an annual event held by the DBE to uplift the morale of learners, especially those in Grade 11 to inspire them to strive for excellence in their academic journey.

The SABC Group Acting Chief Executive Officer, Ms Nomsa Philiso, congratulated the top achievers for having made South Africa proud through their outstanding performance. “We hope that out of this group, there will be innovative thinkers who will assist Government to transform the lives of many South African citizens for the better,” remarked Ms Philiso.

In her address, Minister Motshekga, described the top achievers as the “bright sparks” of the Class of 2017, and remarked: “You can reach for the stars and actually get there. Just look at South African born Elon Musk who is leading the way in space exploration. This could be one of you sitting in front of me. I am told some of you want to be mechanical engineers, perhaps you will develop our next generation of space exploration. Some of you are planning on studying chemical engineering, perhaps you will solve some of our planets environmental, health or food security challenges,” Minister Motshekga said.

The Minister also thanked the various education stakeholders who played a crucial role in ensuring that the Class of 2017 was fully supported during the NSC Examinations. “Parental involvement in a child’s education is one of the most crucial indicators of success. We thank you for the contribution you have made and for the time and effort you have invested in your children to ensure that they have the time and space to achieve what they have,” concluded the Minister.

Tumelo Mashigo from the Muriel Brand School, in the Guateng Province, indicated that it took sacrifices and hard work to succeed academically. Mashigo thanked the Department for organising the breakfast, saying: “I leave here empowered with courage to deal with any adversity that might come my way in the future”.





# Class of 2017 scores 75.1% as the overall pass rate

## #MatricResults2017

# 75.1%



The 2017 NSC overall pass rate stands at 75.1%

The 2017 NSC overall pass rate, with the progressed learners excluded, stands at 76.5%, a 0.3% improvement from the 76.2% achieved in 2016. However, with the progressed learners included, the overall pass rate, stands at 75.1%, a 2.6% improvement from the 72.5% achieved in 2016.

The Free State Province remains the top achieving province with 86%, followed by Gauteng Province with 85.1%. Western Cape Province is in third position with 82.7%

The Class of the 2017 is the tenth cohort of learners to sit for the NSC and the forth cohort to write Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS)-aligned NSC Examinations. The Class of 2017 has recorded the third highest enrolment of Grade 12 learners in the history of the basic education system in South Africa.

The total number of candidates, who registered for the November 2017 NSC Examinations was 802,431; comprising 629,155 full-time candidates, and 173 276 part-time candidates. Of these candidates, 534,484 full-time candidates, and 117,223 part-time candidates, wrote the 2017 NSC Examinations.

The NSC Examination results, are one of the most important barometers to evaluate progress made by Government in improving access, redress, equity, efficiency and quality.

In her address, Minister Motshekga highlighted: “We should always remember that if we have to further improve the outcomes of the schooling system, we will have to continue to improve the fundamental quality of teaching and learning well before Grade 12.”

Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, indicated that it will be possible to achieve quality and efficiency in the education system through the support of the private sector as it takes collective effort to achieve quality education. Mr Surty extended his gratitude to all the sponsors for having made a valuable contribution to education by contributing during the release of the 2017 NSC Examination results: the SABC Foundation, Entsika Consulting Services, Epoch and Optima Trusts, Massmart Holdings Ltd, the MTN Foundation, the Vodacom Foundation, AVBOB, the Road Accident Fund and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).

Click on the below link for Minister Motshekga’s speech:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/Speeches/tabid/950/ctl/Details/mid/7006/ItemID/5526/Default.aspx>

## Top achievers

The top achievers of the Class of 2017 are:

- Top Mathematics learner is Takalani Bambela from Tshivhase Secondary School, Limpopo Province
- Top Physical Science learner is Timera Naidoo from Port Shepstone Secondary School, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- Top Learners with Special Educational Needs (LSEN) learner is Joshua Kelley Chetty from Nuwe Hoopskool, Gauteng Province
- Top achiever in Quintile 1 is Reamohetse Mofitiso from Lehana Senior Secondary School, Eastern Cape Province
- Top achiever in Quintile 2 is Siyanda Pikwa from Raymond Mhlaba Secondary School, Gauteng Province
- Top achiever in Quintile 3 is Mandisa Xaba from Sakhelwe High School, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- Top achiever in Quintile 4 is Anza Tshipetane from Mbilwi Secondary School, Limpopo Province
- Top achiever in Quintile 5 is Janke Van Dyk from Bellville High School, Western Cape Province

Congratulations and well done, you are the *crème de la crème* of the South African education system and we are proud of you!





## Support centre for matriculants opened

The Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, has opened the Department's Gender Based Violence Command Centre (GBVCC) to matriculants who may be anxious about their examination results. Since the Class of 2017 received their NSC results on 05 January 2018, reports of depression and suicide might be rife. Minister Dlamini has urged matriculants, parents and care-givers to make use of the Command Centre to receive counselling and support from Social Workers. The Minister also appealed to parents to look out for any signs of depression expressed by their children for interventions to be sought early to help them deal with the outcome of their examinations.

The Command Centre can be reached toll free on 0800 428 428. Callers can also request a Social Worker from the Command Centre to contact them by dialling \*120\*7867# (free) from any cellphone. Deaf matriculants can also interact with the Command Centre using Skype and simply adding HelpmeGBV. Visit [www.gbv.org.za](http://www.gbv.org.za) for more information on the above.

Since 2015, the Department of Social Development has worked very closely with the Departments of Basic Education and Higher Education and Training, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), as well as the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) to determine and track performance of social grant beneficiary matriculants and also to ensure that they are prioritised in receiving financial support to further their studies beyond matric.

## Provincial Round-up



## Performance of the various provinces

Minister Motshekga explained that the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) had agreed that the reporting on the NSC examination results should first exclude the performance of progressed learners (learners who had failed Grade 11 more than once), and second include their performance.

This is how provinces performed, with progressed learners excluded:

- Eastern Cape attained 65.8%, an increase of 2.5% from 2016;
- Limpopo attained 67.4%, a decline of 0.8% from 2016;
- KwaZulu-Natal attained 73.6%, an increase of 4.1% from 2016;
- Mpumalanga attained 76.6%, a decline of 4.7% from 2016;
- Northern Cape attained 77.6%, a decline of 4.6% from 2016;
- North West attained 82.1%, a decline of 4.1% from 2016;
- Western Cape attained 84.4%, a decline of 3.3% from 2016;
- Gauteng attained 86%, a decline of 1% from 2016; and
- Free State attained 89.8%, a decline of 3.4% from 2016.

## Western Cape



The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) reports that while there is a tendency to focus solely on the provincial pass rate as an important indicator, other important factors and indicators of success must also be considered to determine if the system is improving. Traditionally, the WCED has put particular emphasis on the number of candidates writing and passing the NSC examinations, achieving access to a Bachelor's Degree pass and passing Mathematics and Science, as well as the performance of underperforming schools and the retention of learners in the system. Last year, in response to a Parliamentary question, Minister Motshekga confirmed that the DBE is looking at a different way of reporting NSC results through the "Inclusive Basket of Criteria", and takes into account important indicators such as the percentage of Physical Science and Mathematics passes, the throughput rate, distinctions and bachelor passes. The throughput rate is also of particular concern to the WCED, as the number of learners writing the full NSC, as opposed to dropping out or writing a few subjects through the Multiple Opportunities route, can drastically affect the overall pass rate. Schools and candidates in the Western Cape can collect their results on Friday, 05 January 2018 from district offices whilst the individual candidate results will be available on the Western Cape Government website from 13:00 onwards.

## Gauteng



The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) released its results today, 05 January 2018. The event took place at the Nokuthula LSEN School in Johannesburg and was attended by Minister Angie Motshekga. Gauteng Education MEC, Panyaza Lesufi, awarded learners with high levels of academic excellence in various categories. These categories include subject performance, top performing township school learners, top learner in the secondary school improvement programme, as well as most improved schools and top performing schools. The MEC gave a breakdown of the results, factors affecting performance and the magnitude of examinations in total.

## Upcoming Events

- 17 January 2018: Start of the 2018 Academic School Year
- 19 January 2018: The closing date for applications for the Supplementary Examinations
- 22 – 24 January 2018: A Basic Education Sector Lekgotla is scheduled to take place in the Gauteng Province
- 31 January 2018: Closing date for the registration of the 2018 Senior Certificate (amended) Examinations
- 01 February 2018: World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) will be hosted at Mofolo Park, Soweto in the Gauteng Province
- 17 February 2018: The national ceremony of the 18th Annual National Teaching Awards (NTAs) will be taking place in the Gauteng Province
- 01 – 31 March 2018: School Governing Body (SGB) Elections



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