



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**THUTO**



**NEWSLETTER**



## DG's New Year Message

LET  
2018  
BEGIN

2017 is over! Its joys and sorrows are gone! Whatever has been your experience, remember it is behind. Let's forget the past and look forward to a new beginning.

As we look forward to the New Year, let me share a story of two trees that caught my attention recently: A crooked tree and a straight tree grew side by side. The crooked tree was subjected to criticisms from the straight tree that always compared itself with the crooked tree and boasted about how straight and tall it was growing. One day a lumberjack came by and asked his men to cut down all the straight trees. Until today the crooked tree still stands and is growing strong.

A simple story, you may say, and you may ask: what does it have to do with an education department? Well, two profound thoughts crossed my mind: (a) Like the two trees, we are all different in stature and form but each has a significant contribution to make; (b) despite our stature and form (tall, straight, short, crooked), we all have imperfections. In spite of our imperfections we need to grow in strength and wisdom.

Let me leave you with hope for 2018! A new year is here! This is your fresh start, your time to begin anew and with renewed vigour. It's a time to make resolutions, visualise goals, and move forward toward success, growth, and change. Commit to make this year your best year yet, a

year that will bring you closer to achieving your personal and professional goals. Now is the time, Ke Nako!

The Department of Basic Education salutes you for your hard work and all that you are and that you contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department. We have just celebrated the improved performance of the Class of 2017 in the National Senior Certificate examination. I urge you to embrace the challenges that you will encounter in 2018 as we, together work at continued improvement in performance in national, regional and international assessments. Let us focus on the vision of an upward trajectory as a "system on the rise."

2018 has been declared the year to celebrate the centenary of the first State President of our democratic government, Dr Nelson Mandela. I conclude my New Year message in President Mandela's words:

**"IT IS IN OUR HANDS TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL WHO LIVE IN IT."**

Mr HM Mveli  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL



**A second chance at success**

# SECOND CHANCE

## MATRIC SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Provides Support for: NSC Supplementary Exams | NSC Progressed Learners  
Amended Senior Certificate | Part-Time NSC Candidates

Many young people have just received wonderful news regarding their National Senior Certificate (NSC) results. Unfortunately, some of them were disappointed with their results.

It's the beginning of a fresh new year with new and exciting opportunities. We all know a friend, relative or colleague who is in need of a "second chance".

The overarching objective of the Second Chance Matric Programme is to offer young people, who have failed to meet the requirements of the NSC, the Senior Certificate, as well as those who wish to upgrade or to improve their NSC results, a second chance to obtain an improved qualification, thereby improving their quality of life.

Become an ambassador for the Second Chance Matric Programme and empower yourself or someone you know with another opportunity at success, and encourage them to register to write the Supplementary Examinations (closing date - 19 January 2018); the June examinations if you wrote prior to 2008 (closing date - 31 January 2018); and the November examinations (closing date - 15 March 2018).

Applicants may register at their nearest District Office, or online for the June 2018 examinations.

Please join our Facebook page: **Second Chance Programme**

Visit our webpage:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Programmes/SecondChanceProgramme.aspx>

**Learners are invited to enter the 2018 SADC  
Secondary School Essay Competition**





*A N G O L A*



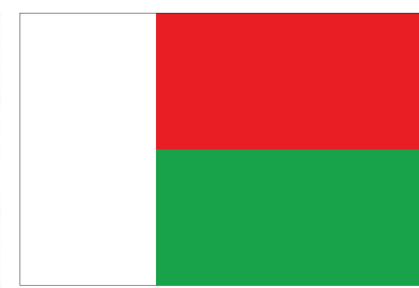
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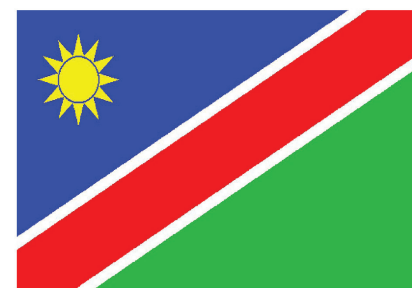
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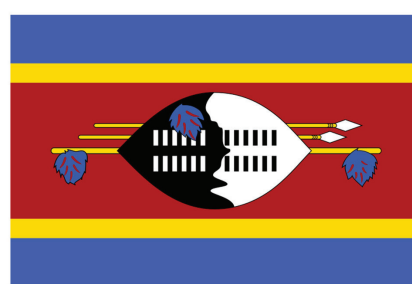
*N A M I B I A*



*S Y C H E L L E S*



*S O U T H A F R I C A*



*S W A Z I L A N D*



*T A N Z A N I A*



*Z A M B I A*



*Z I M B A B W E*

The topic for the 2018 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secondary School Essay Competition is, “The role of private sector in developing industries and regional value chains”. This topic is derived from the 37th Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government which is, “Partnering with the private sector in developing industry and regional value chains”. Learners should therefore discuss how partnerships with the private sector can promote industrial growth and foster development of value chains in key priority sectors among SADC member states.

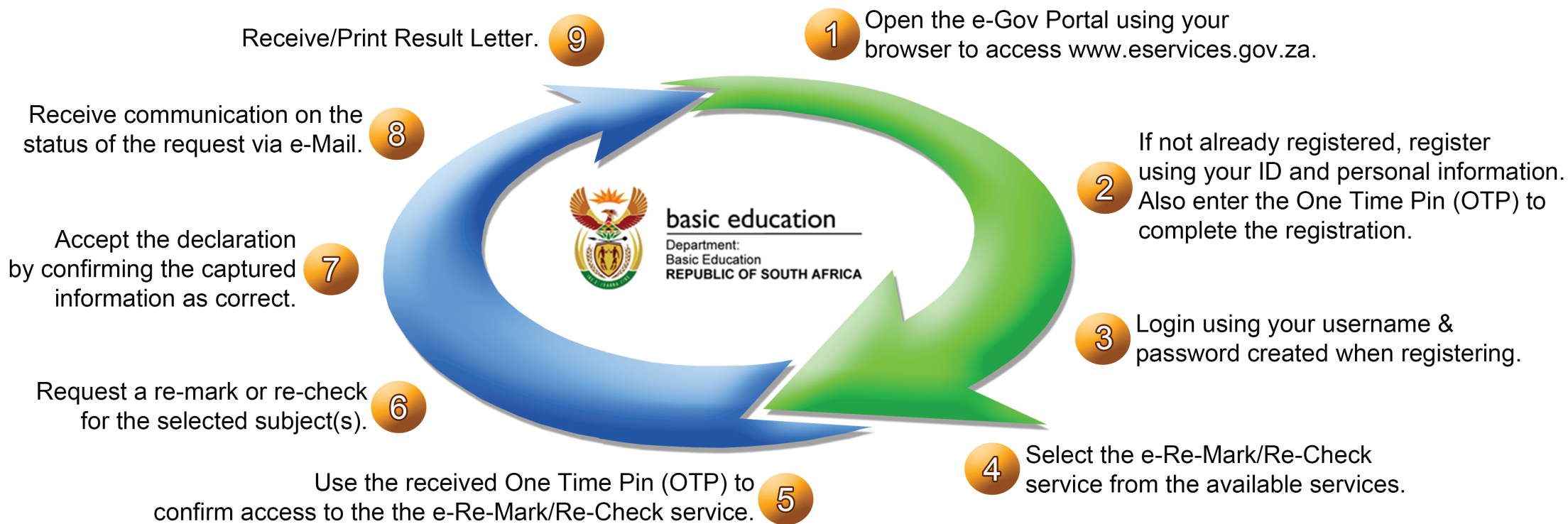
The three selected essays from each province will be forwarded to the DBE by 06 April 2018, where after the three national winning essays will be submitted to the SADC Secretariat for consideration in the regional competition. The SADC Secretariat has allocated a sum of US \$1000 as prize money for the national winners of the Competition in each Member State.

The SADC Council of Ministers approved the establishment of the SADC Secondary School Essay Competition during 1995 to recognise the best work in the region. Since 1996, the SADC Secretariat has been co-ordinating the Secondary School Essay Competitions to encourage learners to support the process of regional co-operation and integration. The vision of the SADC is to create a common future within a regional community that will ensure the economic well-being, as well as the standard of living, equality, social justice, peace and security for people living in Southern Africa.

Click on the below link for additional information on the marking guidelines, eligibility criteria and prizes:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Informationfor/Learners/SADCEssayCompetition.aspx>

**National Senior Certificate online  
re-mark/re-check application**



The DBE has been providing an online service for the NSC candidates to request a re-mark or re-check of an examination script for a specific period after the results had been published on 05 January 2018. However, the online service will only be available in the Eastern Cape, the Northern Cape, the Free State, the Mpumalanga, the KwaZulu-Natal and the Gauteng Provinces where the service will be piloted. This new online service will support the current manual process in order to enhance DBE service delivery to candidates.

In order to request for a re-mark or re-check service, candidates must first register on the e-Gov portal at [www.eservices.gov.za](http://www.eservices.gov.za) to create a personal account. This account will allow the candidate to login using their password and usernames to access the service. Candidates who have already made use of the online e-Registration do not have to create a new personal account, but they should use the same account to access the e-Gov portal.

Information also appears on the reverse side of their Statement of Results. The open period for registration is from 05 to 19 January 2018.

Click on the below link for additional information:

<https://www.education.gov.za/NSCeRemark.aspx>

**Register for 2018 Senior Certificate (Amended)  
Examinations until 31 January 2018**



The last Senior Certificate examination based on the policy document, *A Resume of instructional programmes in schools (Report 550)*, which allowed learners with incomplete Senior Certificate credits, as well as adult learners of 21 years and older, was conducted in June 2014.

Based on the need for a qualification for adults that is equivalent to the current NSC, the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, has approved the revision of the current Senior Certificate qualification such that it can be offered by learners who will have no alternative route to follow post June 2014. The amended Senior Certificate, retains its qualification structure, but will utilise the NCS subjects to support the qualification. This implies that the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) subjects will be offered as part of the amended Senior Certificate. The first examination based on the amended Senior Certificate was written in June/July 2015. All Senior Certificate subjects that were passed prior to June 2015, at Higher Grade and Standard Grade levels, excluding Lower Grade conversions, will be recognised.

As the Senior Certificate (amended) currently does not allow candidates to obtain university endorsement, candidates that write the Senior Certificate (amended) examinations can obtain an age exemption through Universities South Africa (USAf: <http://mb.usaf.ac.za/exemption-requirements/>), as an interim measure until the university admission requirements are approved by the Department of Higher Education and Training.

Candidates who qualify to write the amended Senior Certificate examination will write the examination in June/July 2018. Candidates writing the amended Senior Certificate will be exempt from School Based Assessment. This implies that the examination in the subject will constitute 100% of the final mark. Examinations will be administered at designated examination centres determined by the Provincial Education Departments. The examination may also be offered by independent assessment bodies that are accredited by Umalusi.

Click on the below link for additional information:

[https://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/SeniorCertificate\(amended\).aspx](https://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/SeniorCertificate(amended).aspx)

## Conditions for writing the Supplementary Examination



The closing date for applications for the Supplementary Examinations is 19 January 2018.

If a candidate has not met the minimum promotion and certification requirements in the final external examination, but requires a maximum of two subjects to obtain the NSC, he or she may register for a maximum of two subjects for the supplementary examination in the year following the final external examination. These two subjects must be subjects that the candidate sat for in the previous end-of-year examination.

If a candidate is medically unfit and, as a result, was absent from one or more external examination, he or she may register for the supplementary examination. If there is a death in the immediate family of a candidate, or other special reasons for the candidate's absence, he or she may register for the supplementary examination.

A candidate who provides documentary evidence that he or she qualifies for admission to a higher education institution or for an occupation, but does not satisfy the higher education faculty requirements, or the requirements for a specific occupation, as well as a candidate who is one requirement short in meeting the minimum admission requirements for Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's degree programmes, may be allowed to register for a maximum of two subjects.

In a case where an irregularity is being investigated, provisional enrolment for a supplementary examination may be granted to the candidate concerned, pending the outcome of the investigation.

A candidate who was unable to write or complete one or more of the NSC examination question papers for reasons other than illness or injury, may apply to write the supplementary examination, provided that a written report is submitted by the principal of the school to the head of the assessment body.

Documentary proof substantiating the reason for absenteeism, must be submitted at the centre of registration to ensure entry to the supplementary examination.

# Provincial Round-up

## Free State Province



## education

Department of  
Education  
**FREE STATE PROVINCE**

Teamwork by teachers, parents, unions and stakeholders assisted the Free State Province to become the top performing province for two years in a row. Teachers were passionate about teaching, assertive parents demanded quality education for their children and teacher unions sustained co-operation during the preparations for the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations. The Head of the Free State Provincial Education Department (PED), Mr Tsoarelo Malakoane, said that the Province is fortunate to have teachers who are willing to “burn the midnight oil” to help learners to excel, and parents who are “hell-bent” on wanting their children to have the future they never had. The Department’s strategy also included hosting meetings with School Governing Bodies (SGBs) and parents to discuss issues affecting teaching and learning. The PED prioritised the resourcing of its 1,250 schools to support pupils and teachers, and when faced with budgetary constraints, the appointment of teachers took priority over positions. “Smart schools” and partnerships were also encouraged. The Kagiso Shanduka Trust helped schools in the top performing Fezile Dabi and Motheo Districts, to focus on Mathematics, Physical Science, English and Home Languages. Malakoane reiterated that there was no secret to the PED’s performance, but concluded that all the parties involved took education seriously.

## Eastern Cape Province



Province of the  
**EASTERN CAPE**  
EDUCATION

Eastern Cape Education MEC, Mr Mandla Makupula is proud of the improved Eastern Cape National Senior Certificate (NSC) results by 5.7%, from 59.3% in 2016 to 65% in 2017, saying that this was the third year in succession that the results have been improving. These improvements must be seen in the context of a system wide Education System Transformation Plan (ESTP) that was adopted by the Executive Council, implemented in January 2016. The strategic thrust of the plan is to maximise opportunities of learners achieving good passes in the NSC Examinations, whilst improving performance in the whole system. The year 2018 will be the last year of implementing and consolidating the ESTP and plans are already in place for the mainstreaming of best practices. The Provincial Education Department (PED) has identified areas of special interest that deserve attention going forward. These are the rollout of the new three stream curriculum model to a larger number of schools in 2018, and the strengthening of primary reading, Mathematics and Science. A special focus will also be on the two Districts that performed below 60% in the examination.

## Upcoming Events

- 17 January 2018: Start of the 2018 Academic School Year
- 17 January 2018: Deputy Minister Enver Surty will be participating in an MTN Foundation event as part of the school readiness visits by visiting the MC Kharbai School for the Deaf in Lenasia in the Gauteng Province
- 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 at the Saint George Hotel and Conference Centre, Irene 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





# NDP 2030: one nation, **ONE PLAN**

OUR FUTURE, MAKE IT WORK!