

## 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. The Director- General's visit to **Free State** Province is featured.







## THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S VISIT TO MARKING CENTRES IN FREE STATE

Marking of examination scripts for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination has been running smoothly in the Free State Province. The markers reported for duty on 03 December 2017 and will continue until 14 December 2017. The Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, visited the province on 06 December 2017, to have interactive sessions with various education stakeholders comprising chief markers, internal moderators and centre managers and other key role players who continue to make a valuable contribution towards maintaining quality marking processes.

The centres that were visited included Brebner High School in Bloemfontein, HTS Louis Botha in Bloemfontein, Welkom Gymnasium High School, Brentpark High School, Sarel Celliers Combined School, Parys Hoerskool, Bultfontein Hoerskool, and Eunice Girls High.

This year, the province has organised approximately 16 venues to speed up marking processes. During the commencement of marking, the marking team held a training session on 02 and 03 December 2017. Training of markers is an annual activity intended to strengthen the standard of marking and the National Senior Certificate in this country.

The Director-General conducts this programme in various provinces to give internal moderators and chief markers the opportunity to share in-depth experiences and observations emanating from the marking centres. The centre managers, deputy centre managers. chief markers, internal moderators and senior markers have an enormous responsibility of ensuring that the marking is accurate and credible before the results are captured for standardisation. These experts have to assist provinces in consolidation of information based on the outcomes of the National Senior Certificate Examinations by way of reflecting learner performance in various subjects and advise government on specific areas that still needs more improvement.

In several centres, markers expressed their excitement, saying that joining a team of marking experts presents them with an opportunity to improve their teaching pedagogy, particular-

ly in their specialised subjects.

During his interactive session with various provincial officials, Mr Mweli remarked that: "The future of this country is in your hands. We plead with you to do your work with pride and integrity because you are our national assets. We are here today to extend our appreciation and gratitude for the work that you are doing. Thank you for having availed yourself when we needed you most. Our schooling system depends on you to produce accountable and responsible future generations. We therefore call upon you to uphold the standard of the National Senior Certificate by making sure that each script is marked diligently."





PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE DG'S VISIT TO MARKING CENTRES IN FREE STATE



