



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. This week the Director-General's visit to **Mpumalanga** Province is featured.



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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"The implementation of effective selection criteria of best markers has over the years enabled Mpumalanga province to achieve quality marking processes," said Mr Manyabeane Chukudu.

The provincial senior officials such as district directors, education specialists, subject advisors, internal moderators, and chief markers have been hard at work to ensure that markers were empowered and well supported to perform their task better. On 09 December 2017, Basic Education Director-General, spent the entire day in the province engaging marking personnel in several centres. Markers as part of National Senior Certificate examination (NSC) team play an integral role in ensuring that proper processes and procedures have been followed to keep the NSC standard at a high level. On 01 December 2017, markers attended a training workshop through which they were guided on the right procedures, norms and standards to be implemented during marking. In most centres, marking processes commenced on 01 December 2017 and carried on until 14 December 2017. In some instances, marking activities were done concurrently with marksheets capturing.

On 22 December 2017, the Director-General will lead a team of officials from the DBE and Provincial Education Department (PEDs) to meet Umalusi for the NSC standardisation meeting at the DBE office, 222 Struben Street in Pretoria. Part of the Director-General's visit to provinces is to exchange views with all key role players on the outcome of the marking activities so that provinces are collectively represented during the standardisation meeting.

The Examination Senior Manager, Mr Manyabeane Chukudu, stated that huge progress has been registered in several marking centres across the province. "So far approximately 80% of the work has been done. We are planning to complete marking on 15 December 2017. Let me sincerely thank Examination Assistants (EASs) for their commitment and dedication for having offered their selfless service in our marking centres; EAs are appointed to assist in the quality assurance of the learners' scripts by way of checking if marks allocated to each script are accurate or not."

"The Director-General's visit to our province is always inspirational to us. The support that we continue to receive from the DBE is overwhelming; I really would like to thank Mr Mweli for having come to our province. These visits create a platform of engagement amongst officials at provincial and national level to discuss issues affecting learning outcomes in schools," highlighted Mr Chukudu.

During his address, Mr Mweli called upon markers to strive for quality marking processes so that every learner receives the marks that they deserve. "Markers are the national assets; therefore you are required to apply content knowledge and follow the right marking guidelines to maintain consistency and accuracy. I salute each one of you for the wonderful work you do in these centres; please keep up the good work," added the Director-General.



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



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 from the top left, and a red pen is positioned diagonally from the top right. A large, faint red 'X' is drawn across the lower half of the page, over the words 'REScore' and 'ROSTER NUMBER'.

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