



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 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 with the relevant officials and teachers who are involved in the marking process to strengthen future marking processes. In this week's Thuto, the Director-General's visit to Limpopo is featured.



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S VISIT TO MARKING CENTRES IN LIMPOPO

As an integral part of monitoring the processes involved in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations, visits to Marking Centres are being prioritised at this time of the year. On 21 November 2017, the Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, accompanied by the Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Management and Delivery Limpopo Department of Education, Dr Komane Mphahlele at the Limpopo Department of Education undertook a visit to the marking centres in Vhembe and Capricorn Districts. The main purpose of the visit is to monitor and support the personnel in preparation for the NSC Examination Standardisation process scheduled for 22 December 2017.

In the Makhado Centre in Vhembe District and the Mastec Marking Centre in Capricorn District in Seshego, more than 247 and 148 marking personnel were involved in marking respectively. In preparation for the marking of scripts, chief markers and internal moderators in their respective subjects were expected to attend a Memo Discussion for each examination paper at Provincial and National Level before the marking commenced.

Following the Memo Discussion, the Chief Markers and Internal Moderators were then mandated to train senior markers and newly appointed markers based on the approved memos from the DBE. The training sessions are conducted to equip markers to carry out the marking mandate with integrity, said Ms Ngokoana Dikgari, an Internal Moderator for the Makhado centre. Ms Dikgari further commented: "We have already received more than 141 boxes containing English First Additional Language (EFAL). At present we are busy marking approximately 102 075 English First Additional Language Scripts.

"At this Centre, we have been assigned to handle the marking of EFAL and Business Studies. So far everything is running smoothly and we are assured that markers will complete their consignments of scripts at the expected deadline," added Ms Dikgari.

Ms Joyce Mokgawa, an Internal Moderator in Mastec centre said that 38 boxes of scripts were delivered to her centre. "More than 32 738 scripts for the Economics paper 1 will be marked at this centre. We intend to finish marking processes on 26 November 2017. Hopefully, our mandate will be fulfilled as planned," remarked Ms Mokgawa.

On behalf of the Limpopo Provincial Education Department, Dr Mphahlele expressed his gratitude to the Director-General, saying that the visits will empower markers to value the work that they do at the centres where they are stationed. "We really appreciate

Mr Mweli for visiting our province during this period. We believe that through our collective efforts, marking processes will be much better this year," said Dr Mphahlele.

The Director-General wrapped up his visit at the Tivumbeni CPD in Tzaneen on 22 November 2017. The Centre has been assigned to administer marking of the Geography Paper 1. More than 66 881 scripts for the Geography Paper will be marked at this centre.

Through these visits, Mr Mweli was afforded an opportunity to engage with centre managers, deputy centre managers, chief markers and internal moderators who play a crucial role in ensuring that marking processes run smoothly. "Your collective efforts to this exercise will undoubtedly make an enormous contribution to the education sector. Our visit to these centres was to acknowledge the good work that you are doing as far as marking processes are concerned; please keep up the good work," said Mr Mweli, addressing teams of marking personnel in various centres.

The Director-General thanked Provincial officials for having tightened security measures in all centres, adding that the manner in which all centres are managed will strengthen the standard of the NSC Examinations even further.



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



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. In the lower half, there are large, faint blue words: 'SCORE', 'RESCORE', 'ROSTER', 'NUMBER', and 'ANSWER'. A large red 'X' is drawn over the 'RESCORE' and 'ROSTER' words.

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