

NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 319.

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**319. . Ms M Dlamini (Mpumalanga: EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:
to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

Delay in matric results

- (1) What is the cause of the 5-month delay in receiving matric results for the Tlhavekisa and Bilton Secondary Schools in Bushbuckridge;
- (2) whether there have been any engagements between her department, the affected learners and the schools in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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Response

1. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) released results of all learners who wrote the 2022 NSC examinations on 20 Jan 2023 except for those who were involved in irregularities. In the case of Thlavekisa it was found that 163 candidates in Thlavekisa were involved in group copying. In terms of the records of the DBE, there is no school by the name of Bilton Secondary school, registered on the examination system of the DBE.

2. The DBE and the province conducted intensive investigations on all group copying cases including Thlavekisa. It was found, during the intensive investigations, that these learners either colluded with each other or were supported by their teachers in obtaining answers to certain questions in the question paper while the examination was in progress.

Based on the findings from the investigation, every implicated learner was given an opportunity to present their version of events to an independent presiding officer, in the presence of their parents/guardian or any representative of their choice. The decision of the independent presiding officer was presented to the Provincial Examinations Irregularities Committee (PEIC), a committee appointed by the Head of Department to ensure that due process is followed in the management of all the irregularities. The recommendations from the PEIC were then reviewed by the National Examinations Irregularities Committee (NEIC), a committee established by the Minister of Education to ensure fairness and uniformity in the handling of these irregularities across all the PEDs.

It needs to be reiterated that all learners that wrote the 2022 October/November examination were issued with their results in subjects where there were no irregularities and in cases where there was evidence of irregular practice, they have been informed of the final sanction. All learners who were cleared during the investigations, were issued with their results. Learners that have been found guilty will not be allowed to write the NSC examinations until November 2024.

As an added measure of justice and fairness, learners that are unhappy with the outcome of the investigation are entitled to appeal the decision with the MEC in the province.