



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Opening remarks by the Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Dr
Reginah Mhaule, MP, during the occasion of the NSC
Examinations Results Announcement, held at Mosaiek Church,
Johannesburg.**

18 January 2024

Programme Director,

Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga

Deputy Ministers

MECs for Education

Heads of Provincial Education Departments

District Directors

Organised Labour

Learner Representatives

Teachers, Learners and Parents

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening

Our finest hour is upon us!

It is an honour and privilege to welcome you all at this august gathering in our national calendar, the announcement of the 2023 NSC Examinations Results. Present in our midst today are learners who are the pride of our nation, the parents and caregivers, educators, principals, education mandarins, academics and education professional, and political leadership fraternity.

Our nation and our government is proud of the Class of 2023 and their achievements. Especially as these are learners who have endured many challenges along the way to get this far.

Indeed, this was yet another tough year, where we discharged our leadership responsibilities under the able guidance of the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Cyril Matemela Ramaphosa, which we truly appreciate. In the same breath, we also send our gratitude to cabinet colleagues, Honourable Members of Parliament including the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces.

Our education system is the cornerstone of our society, shaping the leaders of tomorrow and providing them with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to thrive in an ever-changing world. At the heart of this system are our learners, who are the very essence of our

educational endeavors. They possess a remarkable capacity for growth, innovation, and transformation, and it is our duty to nurture and empower them to become active participants and leaders within their schools. Their active participation and leadership are essential for the holistic development of our educational institutions and society at large.

As I welcome you today, we have triumphed against the doom and gloom that engulfed our sector during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond. In the words of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in the midst of a war, he said: “We shall prove ourselves once again able to defend our Island home, to ride out the storm of war, and to outlive the menace of tyranny, if necessary for years, if necessary alone.”

Indeed, we triumphed, and the victory belongs to every learner, parent, caregiver, teacher and all education officials who believed in their hearts that our finest hour was thrust upon us.

Research shows that a tertiary qualification will significantly increase a person’s chance of employment and earning potential contributing to better living standards.

Programme Director, as I conclude, the matric certificate is the only nationally recognised qualification awarded to learners who have met

requirements set out by the Department of Basic Education and Umalusi after twelve years of learning.

A matric certificate enables learners to access various post-school opportunities depending on their performance in Grade 12.

The opportunities include entry-level employment, learnerships and internships, and admission to colleges, universities and other higher education institutions.

For those who have passed, opportunities for funding higher education abounds.

Potential students who intend to enroll at a public higher education institution can still apply to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) for funding. NSFAS provides loans and bursaries to needy and deserving students.

For those who didn't make it in this round of assessments, they should not despair if they have not achieved the results they had hoped for.

We have a vibrant Second Chance Matric Programme to help you to achieve your academic goals, to get more information on this programme, visit your district office.

It is never too late to succeed. You are never too old to achieve your goals.

As I declare the programme officially opened, I would like to hand you over to the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs AM Motshekga who has over the years steered this huge ship to better and safer waters.

I wish you all a splendid evening and all the best to the Class of 2023.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us all welcome the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga to the podium.

I thank you.