

# **Speech delivered by the MEC for Education, Ms. Cathy Dlamini at the occasion of the Announcement of the 2024 National Senior Certificate Examination Results on 14 January 2025 at the Banquet Hall in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality**

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Programme Director and Head: Education, **Mrs. Lucy Moyane**

Hon. Premier, **Mr. Mandla Ndlovu**

All members of the legislature at all level, led by the Honourable Speaker, **Ms. Lindi Masina**

Honourable Deputy Minister of Education, **Dr. Reginah Mhaule**

Honourable Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, **Mr David Mahlobo**

Honourable Members of the Portfolio of Education led by the Honourable Chairperson, **Ms. Thulisile Khoza**

All Traditional Leaders led by the Chairperson, **Kgosi Mokoena**

Leaders of the Alliance Partners led by the Provincial Secretary of the Ruling Party, **Cde. Muzi Chirwa**

Leadership of all other Political Parties

All Councillors led by Executive Mayors

Leadership of Faith Based organisations

Leadership of Higher Education Institutions

Representative of all Government Institutions at both National and Provincial levels

Representatives of our sponsors

Leadership of Learner Formations

Leadership of Progressive Youth Alliance

Leadership of Education Sector Unions and Associations of School Governing Bodies,

Parents

Teachers

Learners

Representatives from the Media

All Members of the Community, and those who are streaming live on various Media Platforms, Ladies and Gentlemen

## **Sanibonani**

We truly appreciate you taking the time to be with us to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the Class of 2024 as they conclude their education journey of plus 12 years.

2024 holds special significance for us, for our country, as it marked three decades of democracy and freedom.

It represents major milestones that not only reflect our collective progress, but also serves as a reminder of the transformative power of education within a democratic society.

The learners we are celebrating today are the beneficiaries of the progressive policies born from our democratic dispensation.

Their journey in our schooling system began in 2013 when they first entered Grade 1 in our schools, and their success today is confirmation of the abundance of opportunities and possibilities that a free, inclusive education system can offer.

Their story, in essence reflects our nation's journey towards freedom and empowerment.

As we celebrate their accomplishments, we also celebrate the ongoing legacy of our democracy, one that continues to shape brighter futures for generations to come.

**Hon. Premier**, our goal is to ensure that education in the Mpumalanga Province thrives, both in access, quality and impact, thereby contributing to the nation's long-term quest for growth and development.

To achieve this, we are committed to implement the necessary plans to meet the specific targets, some of which are encapsulated in the National Development Plan (NDP).

These targets focus on improving learner performance and overall educational outcomes at various levels of the system.

They further aim for a significant increase in learner performance, particularly in literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3.

Furthermore, we intend to enhance performance in mathematics and science, Technology and accounting at the primary and secondary school levels.

**In this regard**, the Department will strengthen the OR Tambo Mathematics, Science, and Technology Academy Programmes by providing capacity-building programmes for teachers and support to the designated **101 secondary schools** offering Mathematics and Physical Science on a compulsory basis.

We will engage more extensively with stakeholders to mobilize communities and raise awareness about the value, significance and positive impact of these subjects.

Through partnerships with non-governmental organizations, we will work to make the teaching of mathematics and science more attractive, ultimately increasing the intake and pass rates in these subjects.

Another key target is to continue to raise the grade 12 pass rate to meet the NDP targets of 2030, with an emphasis on improving the quality of passes.

This means ensuring that learners achieve passes that allow them to pursue higher education or vocational training programmes.

To this end, the Department will immediately intensify the implementation of the **2025 Learner Performance Improvement Plan** and encourage schools.

The Department will further prioritize the filling of vacant posts of subject advisors to ensure that teachers receive the necessary support in content knowledge so as to enhance their respective classroom experiences.

We have already issued a gazette of school based promotional posts, which must be filled urgently to ensure that every school has a functional management structure.

We continue to invest in the professional development of teachers to ensure their competency and strengthen leadership in schools.

Furthermore, the Department will focus on providing programmes towards improving retention rates in schools and reducing dropout rates, particularly in secondary education.

The NDP also emphasizes the need to expand access to vocational training and technical skills development to ensure that learners are equipped with the skills required by the economy, thus creating better job opportunities for young people.

**In this regard**, the Department will strengthen the resourcing and capacity of schools of specialisation, ensuring that there is at least one functional and fully resourced technical high school in each of the 71 circuits in the Province.

We will also provide support to Agricultural High Schools, support to schools offering coding and robotics, and those piloting the full scale implementation of Ubuhlebuzile e-learning programme.

Next month, the Province will officially open and hand over the **Lucky Dube Secondary School for Performing Arts** in Ermelo, Msukaligwa Local Municipality.

We wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the family of the late Lucky Dube in our midst. ***Thank you for honoring us with your presence.***

The Lucky Dube School for Performing Arts will be one of the schools dedicated to unearthing, nature and leverage the talents of our learners in a more professional way in line with the emerging world trends in music and arts.

The Department will this year consolidate plans towards the construction of a mining school and commence with the construction of the school for deaf and blind learners.

**Hon. Premier** , The Department is committed to addressing educational disparities based on race, gender, and socioeconomic status, with a particular focus on improving outcomes for rural areas and disadvantaged communities.

To this end, the Department will continue to support No Fee-Paying Schools, improve the provision of the National School Nutrition Programme, Provisioning of Scholar Transport, enhance the functionality of boarding schools, and provide the necessary support to quintile 1 to 3 schools.

We are also committed to integrating technology into teaching and learning, preparing learners for a digital economy.

The Department has already distributed laptops for all circuit Managers and all principals within the province will receive their laptops before the end of this month.

**Equally**, the Department will review the delivery of Ubuhlebuzile e-learning tablets to schools, with a consideration to distribute them from either Grade 8 or Grade 10.

Our view is that this will make more positive impact and minimize the rate of damages, and increase learner performance in all grades which is our aim.

All these efforts and programmes are aimed at ensuring that no learner is left behind.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS**

**Programme Director**, I have a special honor and privilege to present to this august house and to the community of the Place of the Rising Sun the outcomes of the 2024 National Senior Certificate Examination.

The 2024 Class had registered **66 936** candidates and **64 201** wrote all the subjects on offer.

The provincial pass rate target for 2024 was set at 83% and it is encouraging that the 2024 Grade 12 Class in Mpumalanga Province exceeded the target by 1,99% and registered an overall pass rate of **84.99%**. This means that out of the **64 201** candidates who sat for the NSC, **54 567** passed.

This pass rate constitutes a **7.99 %** improvement from the **77%** pass rate obtained in 2023. This is encouraging and is a good story to tell.

**Congratulations are in order, to all those whom contributed to this outcome.**

What is exciting is that **27 885** of these learners qualify to register for bachelor programmes.

This is an improvement from the **21 819** who obtained bachelor passes in 2023 and a confirmation of the overall quality of the results that improved by **10,1%** from **33,3% to 43,4% and exceeding the target by 3,4%**.

These learners can be admitted to further their studies in any University in our country and abroad. *Surely, this is music to our ears.*

**17 775** of these learners qualify to enroll for Diploma programmes. This is an increase of **363** compared to the **17 412** who qualified in 2023.

**Programme Director and Hon. Premier**, the Provincial Districts' performance is as follows, in their alphabetical order:

- Bohlabela District recorded a **78.6%** pass rate as compared to the **69.1%** obtained in 2023. This is an improvement of **9.5%**. Well done, **Ms Lorraine Goba and your team!**
- Ehlanzeni District recorded an impressive **88.43%** pass rate which is an improvement to the **81.8%** obtained in 2023. This is an improvement of **6.6%**. Well done, **Dr Jabulani Ndlovu and your team!**
- Gert Sibande District registered an impressive **87.67%** pass rate compared to the **79.8%** pass rate obtained in 2023. This constitutes a **7.87%** improvement. Well done, **Mr. PP Magagula and Your Team**
- Nkangala District obtained an impressive **85.24%** which is **8.8%** improvement from the **76.45%** obtained in 2023. Well done, **Mr. DM Maja and Your team.**

I therefore wish to invite all the four District Directors on stage for us to give them a standing ovation for the job well done. **Congratulations are truly in order.**

We congratulate, the **Ehlanzeni District** being the overall best performing District in the Province in 2024. **Well done, Siyabonga Kakhulu.**

## PERFORMANCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

**Programme Director**, out of the **17 Municipalities** in the Province, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality obtained position one after passing **2 449** learners which constitute a **92,9 %** pass rate.

We wish to congratulate the **Executive Mayor, Cllr Mhlonishwa Masilela** and the Community of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality for this achievement. **Well done.**

## CIRCUIT PERFORMANCE

**Programme Director**, the Department has 71 Education Circuits and out of these Circuits, **Msukaligwa** is our overall best performing circuit in the Province after recording a **95.9% pass rate**. Well done to the Circuit Manger, **Dr Dumisa Mango (Ntombo)**

The best circuit in Bohlabela District is Mashishing Circuit with **94.8 pass rate**, an improvement of **12.4%** from the **82.4%** of 2023. Well done to the Circuit Manger, **Mr G Mokoena**

The best circuit at Ehlanzeni District is **Whitehazy1** Circuit obtaining **95.3%** and registering an improvement of **7%** to the **80.3%** of 2023 – Well done to the Circuit Manger, **Ms. Thandi Masango**.

and in Nkangala District, **Steve Tshwete 2** Circuit is the best performing Circuit after registering a **95%** pass rate. The circuit improved by **4%** from **91.1%** of 2023. Well done to the Circuit Manger, **Mr. MD Mabuse**

**Programme Director**, **Siyabuswa 2**, Circuit Underperformed at a pass rate of **61%** in 2023 and it has since improved its results by **26%**, making it the most improved circuit after it registered **86.9%** pass rate this time around. We congratulate **Mrs. Daphney Kekane** and her team for this achievement.

It is worth noting that **51** out of **71** circuits performed above **80%** pass rate this time around.

We congratulate all Circuit Managers and their teams for the outstanding performance.

## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

**Hon Premier**, out of the **575** schools which administered the 2024 National Senior Certificate Examination, **58** were able to pass all learners who wrote the examination, thus recording a **100% pass rate**.

This is an improvement from the **24** schools in 2023.

Congratulations to the principals and I request that they all stand up for this house to appreciate them.

**201** of these schools performed between the **80%** and **99%** pass rate bracket as compared to **117** of 2023 while **500** schools performed above **70%** as compared to **417** of 2023.

The overall best school for 2024 in the Province is Hoerskool Nespruit.

This school registered a combined total of **366** distinctions in various subjects and all the **269** learners who wrote the examination passed.

This makes the **Hoërskool Nelspruit** the overall best performing school in the province in 2024.

Congratulations are in order, **Mr Johan Hattingh and your team** for the job well done in the Province.

The most improved school is **Madoda Secondary School** in **Siyabuswa 2** Circuit at Nkangala District.

**Madoda Secondary School** registered an improvement of **62%** and obtained **90.9%** pass rate this time around.

Congratulations to the Principal, **Ms. DE Mahlangu** and her team.

## BOARDING SCHOOLS

The performance of our boarding schools this time around is as follows:

- eMakhazeni Boarding School recorded a pass rate of **77.1%** compared to **46.4%** of 2023.
- eZakheni Boarding School recorded a pass rate of **91.5%** compared to **74.5%** of 2023.



- Shongwe Boarding School registered a pass rate of **98.4%** compared to the **95.4%** obtained in 2023.
- Izimbali Boarding School which is also an MSTA Sub Hub registered a pass rate of **100%** against the 95.7% of 2023.
- Steve Tshwete Boarding School registered **87.8%** pass rate compared to the **92.6%** of 2023.
- Thaba Chweu Boarding School registered **97.6%** pass rate compared to the **63.6%** pass rate of 2023.

We also extend our appreciation to all who played a pivotal role towards this achievement.

We still repeat our clarion call that all our boarding schools should be able to attain a **100%** pass rate considering the kind of support they receive from the Provincial Government.

## PERFORMANCE OF NO-FEE SCHOOLS

**Programme Director**, there are **481** No-Fee Schools in the Province that sat for this National Senior Certificate Examination in 2024.

Out of this number, **31** obtained **100%**,

**332** schools obtained results that are above **80%** and

**412** schools performed above **70%**.

**Programme Director**, the overall best quintile 1 school in the province is **Mkolishi Secondary School at Manzana** in the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality. This school obtained **100 %** pass rate for two years in succession, passing all **103** learners who sat for the examination.

**Tomorrow morning**, we will be visiting this school to congratulate them for this achievement.

All teachers from this school will receive laptops, courtesy of the Provincial Government. Surely, we do acknowledge and reward excellence.

We are extending an invitation to all the business institutions which are here to accompany me to this school tomorrow morning.

**Programme Director**, our concern is that **69 schools** which constitute **14.3%** of the No-Fee Schools performed below **70%**.

## **SUPPORT TO LEARNERS**

**Hon. Premier**, our interventions on freeing the potential of a girl child, is yielding the expected results already.

In this regard, the numbers of girl children who passed this examination exceeds those of boy learners.

Out of the **54 564** of candidates who passed, **56.12 %** are girls. The girls have registered a **4.2%** improvement as compared to the 2023 - performance. **Well done, Mantombazane!**

This confirms the government's quest to fully empower the girl child and to redress the legacy of the past, but this will not be done on the expense of a boy child.

**Programme Director**, in our midst we have the top ten learners in the Province as well as the top learners in different subjects.

There are **two learners** who obtained 100% in Mathematics and seven learners in **Business Studies** obtained **300 out of 300**.

Equally, there is **one** who the obtained **300 out of 300** in Physical Sciences.

This is an affirmation of the strides made by the province to increasing quality passes in Mathematics and Physical Science.

For 2024, the provincial target for the mathematics pass rate was set at 60%.

The Class of 2024 has not only met this target but exceeded it by an impressive 6.37%.

This class achieved a **66.37%** pass rate in Mathematics and an outstanding 73.69% pass rate in Physical Sciences. This means that **17 348** candidates passed Mathematics and **17 450** passed Physical Sciences.

For the first time since 1994, the province passed over **60%** of learners in Mathematics.

This historic milestone underscores the dedication and hard work of our teachers, learners, and all stakeholders.

We are certain that the late OR Tambo would have been very proud of this achievement.

***Our learners can count.***

The 2024, the provincial target for distinctions was set at **5%**, and the Class of 2024 came remarkably close, achieving **4.9%**.

This translates to an impressive **23 310** distinctions, a significant increase from the **16 162** distinctions recorded in 2023.

**Programme Director**, allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate all our learners who have successfully passed the **National Senior Certificate Examination**.

Their achievement is a confirmation of hard work, determination, and resilience.

I will further invoke Section 7, Sub-section N of the **Provincial Ephraim Mogale Bursary Scheme provision** to award bursaries to these outstanding learners, as well as the top three learners from each of our No-Fee Boarding Schools.

In essence, every top learner who will ascend this stage, will decent the stage with a full bursary from the Provincial Government which covers full tuition, accommodation, meals, learning materials and a monthly stipend.

These bursaries will support them throughout their tertiary education in any public university within our country.

In addition, the same bursary will be extended to any learner with disabilities and those with albinism within our province.

This reflects our resolute commitment to inclusivity and equal opportunities for all.

**Programme Director**, each learner will return home with an array of gifts, and one exceptional learner will be driving home with the keys of a brand-new sponsored car.

Indeed, these rewards are a clear demonstration that hard work and dedication.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors, as well as the teachers, school management teams, school governing bodies, education sector unions, the business community, and every individual who supported the Class of 2024 in their journey to success.

Your contributions are deeply appreciated and never taken for granted.  
**Siyabonga Kakhulu! Thank you very much**

**Programme Director**, these impressive results give us hope for a brighter future for all our children and for our province.

Today, we celebrate not only the achievements of the Class of 2024 but also the collective effort that made this success possible.

We owe special thanks to our teachers for their outstanding dedication and commitment.

They have nurtured these learners from their early years of schooling to where they stand today. Without their willingness to go the extra mile, we would not be celebrating as we do now.

We also extend our gratitude to the support staff in schools, leadership of education sector labour unions, associations of school governing bodies, and the business community for their continued support throughout the year.

Moving forward, we must work together to ensure that our learners are equipped to solve problems, think critically, collaborate creatively, and compete with their peers globally.

Yesterday, we welcomed all our teachers ( 32 490) in the province back to school.

I visited **Othandweni Primary School** in Victor Khanyi Local Municipality to welcome them officially, there I had a privilege of meeting the leadership of teacher unions, association of school governing bodies and professional associations.

We collectively agreed that our pre-occupation must be **sustainability and moving forward**.

We agreed to work together through thick and thin to make our province a shining example of excellence.

In this regard, the new threshold for our province will be **80%**.

This means that from these results any District, Circuit and school which performed below **80%** pass rate is deemed to have underperformed.

This also means, HOD, that our support to all our institutions must take this into account and provide the requisite resources. We are confident that Mpumalanga is turning the corner.

**As we conclude**, we extend our appreciation to everyone who played a meaningful role in this outstanding performance for our province.

I wish to single out all the former MECs for Education and thank them for laying a solid foundation which led to the outcome we are all celebrating today.

We extend our appreciation to **the Hon Premier, Mr. Mandla Ndlovu** for guiding and supporting us all the way. *We truly hope that you are not disappointed.*

The support we received from the members of the Executive Council, Portfolio Committee on Education and from the entire provincial legislature. Thank you Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, **Ms. Thulisile Khoza** for your support.

We are grateful to Amakhosi Endabuko led by the **Provincial Chairperson of the House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, Kgoši Mokoena** for all the counselling and support.

We also thank our Pastors and the leadership of the **Moral Regeneration Movement** for the support.

Let us continue to work together to make **the Place of the Rising Sun** a true beacon of hope, prosperity and progress.

We wish to congratulate the Class of 2024 once again.

Your accomplishments are an inspiration to us all.

We hope that the **Class of 2025** will emulate this best practice.

No one must be left behind.

**#BabizeBonke.**

**#Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign,**

**Ngiyabonga**