



PRESS BRIEFING BY MEC FOR EDUCATION, MR FUNDILE GADE

EASTERN CAPE READINESS FOR 2023 NSC EXAMINATIONS

DATE: 20 /10/2023

The Head of Department

Members of Senior management

Social Partners

Media houses invited.

Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

I have convened this press briefing session to update you on the state of readiness of the Eastern Cape Department of Education to manage and conduct a successful national Senior Certificate examination for the 2023 academic year, as well as steps being taken to support these learners as they write the NSC Examinations.

PLEDGE SIGNING CEREMONY

Today marks the beginning of the examination through the Pledge signing ceremony which is a pledge of commitment by all Grade 12 learners. The Council of Education Ministers has approved that all learner candidates registered to write the 2023 NSC examinations sign a Pledge committing to comply with the Examinations Code of Conduct applicable to all candidates.

The rationale for the Pledge Signing Ceremony is to assist with the curbing and control of examination irregularities and is an attempt to adopt a more proactive rather than a reactive approach to the reduction of examination irregularities. All Districts are requested to ensure that the Pledge Signing Ceremony takes place as scheduled, as adopting a uniform date and time for the signing of the Pledge, across the country will also assist in the rational tone for the writing of the examination in all Grades.

In addition to the Pledge Signing, learners and parents are required to sign the Commitment Agreement, which provides a detailed list of the key rules and regulations relating to the NSC examination. All learners and their parents /guardians must sign the Commitment Agreement, prior to the commencement of the examinations.

All schools will therefore be participating in the Pledge Signing Ceremony today to conscientize learners against committing irregularities.

READINESS FOR 2023 NSC EXAMINATIONS

Public examinations are primarily defined in terms of their purposes: to certify and select students on the basis of an assessment of their achievements in curriculum area (World Bank: 2020). However, lately public examinations have become a dominant form of external high-stakes educational assessment in many countries of the world.

These examinations are used both to certify that students have reached a prescribed level of learning, and to select learners for the next level of the education system or for employment. Contents of these examinations exert a great influence on what teachers actually teach and what learners learn. The 2023 National Senior Certificate/Senior Certificate Examinations will run from the 30th October 2023 to the 6th December 2023. Key milestones include the following:

- Candidates receiving their Individual Timetables/ Admission Letters as from the 17th of October 2023.
- Marking of the written examination scripts processes will start from 4th December 2023 to 21st December 2023.
- Capturing of SBA marks starts from the 23rd of October to the 17th November 2023
- Capturing of written marks starts from the 9th December to 23rd December 2023
- Standardization of marks starts from the 3rd to the 5th January 2024
- National Minister releases the 2023 NSC results on 18 January 2024
- I shall release the NSC results for the Grade 12 class of 2023 on 19 January 2024.

KEY READINESS INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Registration of all 2023 NSC Examinations full time and part time candidates has been completed, with just final clearance being done.
- Two sets of preliminary registration data sets were printed and distributed to all full-time centres to verify the accuracy of the registration.
- Preliminary schedules were printed for part - time candidates as well for verification of the accuracy of registration.

SCOPE AND SIZE OF THE EXAMINATIONS

The number of learner entries has slightly improved compared to 2022. In 2023 they have increased from 98756 to 98 822 candidates in 953 exam centres. District enrolments differ from one District to another, but the highest enrolments are:

- OR Tambo Coastal at 13 663
- OR Tambo inland at 12 943
- Nelson Mandela at 12 450



SUBJECTS ENROLMENT

Subject enrolments for 2023 are relatively stable with minor increases and decreases in some subjects. The biggest decline is evident in Economics which has declined by 1 264 compared to 2022. The majority of small enrolment subject with less than 5 000 participants have generally declined. However, Tourism has grown exponentially over the last three years. This is highly appreciated in a province that has a potential to be a tourist paradise.

PRINTING OF QUESTION PAPERS

165 question papers that will be written in 2023. 1 404 319 copies of question papers to be printed in total for all question papers. Printing has already started as of 04 Oct 2023, with Printing Plan having been submitted to DBE for approval. Packing logistics were concluded in time and storage and nodal points are ready. The distribution plan is ready as well.

SECURITY AND STORAGE OF QUESTION PAPERS

Examination material is printed, stored, and distributed in highly secured environment. The ECDoE Team is working closely with all State Security Agencies for guidance on safety and security of the examination's material in the whole value chain. All the recommendations pertaining to the central printing, packing and storage facility have been implemented.

All national norms pertaining to the collection and storage of national question papers are strictly adhered to. Departmental officials are deployed on a full-time basis in the printing, packing, storage, and distribution facility. The purpose is to ensure adherence to all the prescribed procedures for all the steps in the value chain, from storage of the master copies to the collection of the question papers by the transportation service provider.

Printing and packing facilities were just re- assessed by Security Agencies and duly certified. Staff deployed in question paper management are being vetted for this 2023 examination cycle. A comprehensive risk adjusted plan is available and gets invoked when load shedding schedule and other risk factors demand that.

RECRUITMENT OF INVIGILATORS

The recruitment of the Invigilators has been completed and the submission for the appointment of invigilators has been approved. Training of Chief Invigilators was done from 11 to 19 October 2023. To improve the quality of reporting of Examination Irregularities, a common template will be issued to all districts for the attention of the Chairperson of the DAIC for SBA related irregularities. It will be accompanied by MGM for legitimate registration of related irregularities so that they are investigated and resolved before the writing of examination.

RECRUITMENT OF MARKERS

Assessment instruction was issued in April 2023 inviting all qualifying educators to apply on-line as markers. Verification was done at all levels i.e., school, district, and province. This process is to ensure that educators are meeting the PAM requirements.

The Selection process has been concluded, and 6580 markers, supported by 1835 Examination Assistants, have been appointed for marking Grade 12 in 2023. The selection for



small and medium enrolment subjects was concluded the 2nd to 4th August 2023. Medium enrolment subjects' selection was concluded from the 15th to 18th August 2023. Big enrolment subject selection was concluded from the 22nd to 25th August 2023.

MONITORING OF THE WRITING OF EXAMINATIONS

The Department has refined its comprehensive monitoring plan, including intensified monitoring of districts with high-risk centres. The Department will achieve over 70% monitoring coverage required by DBE.

MARKING OF EXAMINATIONS

25 Marking centres will be utilized for marking in 2023, with MARKING CENTRES opening on the 4th of December 2023. The actual marking will be from 07th to the 21st of December 2023. Each subject will have a Chief marker and a Moderator, as well as a Centre Manager, Irregularity Officer, Script Control Officer, Claims Officer, 2 Admin Officer and 10 drivers' services various centres.

Allocation of marking centre management teams was finalized by the 13th of October 2023 and Marking centre contracts were finalised by the 15th of October 2023 and thereafter finalize the submission of transfer of funds. The signing of marking centre service level agreements will take place in the last week of October 2023

CAPTURING OF LEARNER MARKS

- SBA capturing will take place from 30/10/2023 to 17/11/2023.
- 09-23 December 2023 is the capturing of written marks.
- 29-31 December 2023 is the Mop-up, of the resulting data to be done and completed.

MANAGEMENT OF IRREGULARITIES

Irregularities Behavioral Offences and Acts of Dishonesty (BOAD) have drastically decreased in the province. Irregularities identified during writing are reported by districts to the province and hearings are held. All irregularities identified at the marking centre are resolved by the irregularities officers appointed in each marking center, especially the Administrative Errors and Omissions (AEO) cases which should not take a long time to follow up and resolve. The Department conducts hearings for all BAOD cases identified during writing, and at the marking centres. A presentation is made to the PEIC and NEIC for all resolved and unresolved cases with recommendations/sanctions for approval.

The Department has already held training sessions on script control and marksheets management on the 5 and 6 October 2023. This is to ensure a reduction of the Administrative Errors and Omissions (AEOs) cases. However, Behavioural Offences and Acts of Dishonesty (BOAD) cases will be reported immediately to Policy Unit, and investigations and hearings will be done by Head Office Policy. The provincial report on all reported and identified BOAD cases shall be tabled to the Provincial Examinations Irregularities Committee (PEIC) that



represents the Head of Department for discussion and adopt the report and recommend it to be approved by the HOD before it is submitted to the NEIC.

The department is committed to eliminate all the Behavioural Offences and Acts of Dishonesty during the conduct, management, and administration of the NSC public examinations. There is zero tolerance for any examination irregularities. # Examination Irregularities Must Fall is the mantra of the Eastern Cape NSC Grade 12 Class of 2023.

ADVOCACY ON ETHICS OF PARTICIPATION IN AN EXAMINATION

Advocacy plans are in place to communicate to candidates the importance of adhering to examination ethics. Radio Slots have been arranged in consultation with Communications Directorate as from 11 October 2023.

Flyers and Posters are being printed for distribution to all schools and candidates before the commencement of examinations. Shall engage churches, Traditional Leaders, and Youth Formations to assist in disseminating the message of ethical behaviour during the writing of the national public examinations.

The Provincial Pledge Signing Ceremony for 2023 will be hosted by Buffalo City Metropolitan (BCM) on 20 October 2023 in line with DBE National Pledge Signing Ceremonies.

KEY DATES TO NOTE:

- 09-11 January 2024 will be the checking of Preliminary results by District officials.
- 18 January 2024 National Minister – release the National NSC Results for the Grade 12 class of 2023.
- 19 January 2024 – Provincial MEC for Education shall release the provincial NSC results and host the “Well Done” Ceremony for the Top Candidates.
- 19 January 2024 as from 8:00 the Statement of Results will be available in all schools.

TARGETED SUPPORT TO THE 2023 GRADE 12 CLASS

INCUBATING LEARNERS AT RISK

The Department has identified 19281 learners that can be categorised as learners at risk who will need support until the last day of examinations. A program of support for 22 days of intensive learner incubation has been conceptualised already. The program will run from the 27th October to 19th November 2023.

Districts will be responsible for the identification and choice of learners at risk per subject in each District. These learners will be supported by 598 tutors drawn from the best teachers in the Province. The rundown per high enrolment subject is as follows:



CATEGORY	SUBJECT	LEARNER NUMBERS	TUTOR NUMBERS
LANGUAGES	Afrikaans HL	1160	23
	IsiXhosa HL	1695	34
	English FAL	5192	104
NATURAL SCIENCES	MATH	11994	240
	MATH LIT	14418	288
	MATH TECH	455	09
	PHYSICS	8197	168
	LIFE SCIENCES	7673	154
	AGRICULTURE	6048	123
MANAGEMENT	ACCOUNTING	5560	111
	BUSINBESS STUDIES	7758	155
	ECONOMICS	6451	129
	TOURISM	2808	56
SOCIAL	HISTORY	2997	60
	GEOGRAPHY	4852	97

A CALL CENTRE SERVICE TO BACK UP LEARNER SUPPORT

The incubation program will be backed up by a Call Centre Service based in Zwelitsha, the headquarters of the Department. The Citizen Care lines of the Call centre have been expanded to include:

- WhatsApp and SMS Service @ 0786601314
- A Facebook Page.
- Email at customercarecentre@ecdoe.gov.za
- Toll-free number is 080 1212 570



The Call Centre caters for 4 official languages, English, Xhosa, Afrikaans and Sesotho. The Call Centre will be serviced by Subject Advisors who will provide a service in the big enrolment subjects of:

- Home languages
- Mathematics
- Mathematical Literacy
- Physics
- Economics
- Business Economics
- Life Sciences
- Agriculture
- Accounting

Operating hours will be between 8h00 – 17h00

AVAILING DIGITAL LEARNING PLATFORMS

The Department will avail a number of digital platforms as part of learner support structure and systems.

DIGITAL MATERIAL AVAILABLE ONLINE AND OFFLINE

- Links and QR codes for past Virtual Lessons have been created– for Grade 12 Subjects for Trial Exams preparation – focus on Revision- see in the table.
- Final examinations revision lessons will commence as from 25 October 2023 – 04 December 2023- broadcasted during afternoons from 14:00-17:00
- Final schedule will be availed through digital platforms and ETL Instruction: Subjects: Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Economics, Business Studies, Home Languages – key subjects – then other subjects will get lesser slots

BROADCASTING PLATFORMS

- Teams Live Events and VLC links for lesson broadcasts to be
- Focus of Lessons - revision, structure of the paper, challenging topics and exam preparation.
- WhatsApp- platform - used to share remote lessons.
- Radio lessons will take place in community Radio stations as per available slots - @ Izwi Lethemba, Kumkani FM, Tru FM, Mdantsane FM, Lukhanji etc.

UMHOBO WENENE BROADCAST SUPPORT PROGRAM

These are dedicated time slots for Umhlobo Wenene that will follow a specific timetable from the 30/10/2023

- Week 1: 29/10/2023 – 02/11/2013
- Week 2: 05/11/2023 – 09/11/2023
- Week 3: 12/11/2023 - 16/11/2023



USEFUL PLATFORMS

There is a number of useful platforms sponsored by both government and private sector. These will be communicated to learners.

Website	Link	YouTube Link
ECDoE website	www.eccurriculum.co.za	
DBE Cloud	www.ecexam.co.za	
DBE Cloud	www.dbebhelela.com	
Telematics revision lessons	Open your browser- Google / google Chrome/ Internet Explorer etc. select site https://schools.sun.ac.za/	Telematics Face book page
2023 - Telematics revision schedule	C:\Users\user\Downloads\2023 Telematic Schools Project Schedule .pdf	
Vodacom digital classroom Vodacom e-school	http://www.digitalclassroom.co.za	
MTN Online School	www.mtnonlineschool.co.za	
2ENABLE App and CAP devices	www.2enable.org	
Woza Matric lesson broadcasts 2023 and Catch- up lessons, DBE TV Channel 122 and 319	https://www.wozamatrics.co.za/	https://youtu.be/fXJ4fFDQI50



<p>Virtual Lessons: Grade 12 start 14:00 to 16:00 every day from Monday to Friday</p> <p>(Past lessons)</p>	<p>https://tinyurl.com/4h6yb3xa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadcasted August 2023 virt lessons.zip • Technical Maths 20230830 151011-Meeting Recording.mp4 • Virtual lesson August 2023(Afrikaans HL P3) (3).mp4 • Virtual lesson August 2023(Afrikaans HL P3) mp4.mp4 	<p>https://tinyurl.com/4h6yb3xa</p>
<p>Math's and Science Infinity (MSI)</p> <p>Mathematics and Physical Science lessons</p>		<p>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPFG-V2WlwRg2LsLIWzr0vg</p>
<p>DorkK.online video lessons - (Accounting, Afrikaans FAL, Business Studies, Physical Sciences, English, Geography, Life Sciences, Mathematical Literacy, Mathematics,</p>	<p>https://dorkK.online</p>	