

Press Statement: 10 June 2013

Intervention Programmes to Improve Grade 12 results

I take this time to thank you for attending this Press Conference.

We have called this press conference to inform our stakeholders and publics about the intervention programmes the department has put in place to improve Grade 12 results for the 2013 school year.

One of the strategic goals of this department is to improve learner performance and the outcome of Grade 12 results. This is in keeping with the departmental Schooling Transformation and Reform Strategy (STARS).

To this effect the department has developed a plan to further improve the 2013 Grade 12 Results by 10% from the current 70% pass rate recorded following the 2012 examinations.

This plan includes amongst others the:

- Hosting of Winter and Spring Schools
- Radio lessons
- Dial a Tutor Programme and
- Weekend Classes

Winter Schools

The Department will convene mandatory winter schools from 24 June to 05 July 2013 for all Secondary Schools which obtained results below 50% following the 2012 Grade 12 results.

These winter schools will take place in **46** centres, 16 in Bohlabela District, 11 in Ehlanzeni District, 12 in Gert Sibande District and 07 in Nkangala District.

552 teachers have already been identified to participate in these winter schools and most of them are teachers who have a proven track record of producing good results in the various subjects.

These teachers will be remunerated in accordance with the agreed tariff.

The targeted subjects are Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy, Physical Science, Life Sciences, Economics, Accounting, Business Studies, History, Geography, Agricultural Science and English First Additional Language.

School Nutrition will be provided at these centres to all deserving learners.

Spring Classes will take place during September School Holidays from 23 to 27 September 2013.

The Department has allocated **R 4.07 million** towards the successful hosting of winter and spring classes.

Radio Lessons

The Department in collaboration with SABC; Ikwekwezi and Ligwalagwala FM conduct radio lessons on Mondays to Wednesdays from 14H30 to 15H00.

Officials with advanced subject knowledge participate in these lessons and I want to take this time and encourage parents and teachers to encourage learners to listen to these programmes.

The Dial A Tutor

The Department will resuscitate the Dial- A- Tutor Programme on 15 July 2013 to coincide with the re-opening of schools to assist learners who will experience challenges while studying.

Learners will be required to dial the Departmental Toll Free line to be linked to the relevant subject Specialist who in turn will provide proper guidance to address the challenge experienced by the learner.

This will take place every Monday to Thursday from 18H00 to 20H00.

The Departmental toll free number is 0800 203 116.

Weekend Classes

We also encourage schools including Primary Schools to conduct study sessions and weekend classes. These will ensure that pace setters are adhered to and will accord adequate time for schools to do remedial and examination preparatory work.

The School Governing Bodies need to come to the party and create an enabling environment for this to happen.

Development in Bushbuckridge Municipality

I have noticed with great concern the unfortunate developments in schools at Bohlabela District, namely DG Mashego Primary School, Mathiphe Secondary School and Lesedi Primary School. It is our intention and desire that there be speedy actions to resolve these issues so that we could implement the intervention programmes without any hindrances.

From tomorrow until Friday (11-14 June 2013), the Executive Council will be in the Bushbuckridge Municipality and we will also utilise that space to come closer to these matters.

I will be having a meeting with principals, representatives of school governing bodies and learner formations to discuss matters aimed at enhancing teaching and learning in the Bushbuckridge Municipality.

We will on Wednesday present to the Executive Council a customised plan to improve the situation in Bohlabela.

Conclusion

Our quest is to improve the results in all Grades like we had mentioned in the 2013/14 Policy and Budget Speech, we intend to ensure that all schools improve their results by 10%.

We also commit ourselves to work side by side with all our stakeholders to improve the delivery of education in the province.

Next week, on 20 June 2013 at Pienaarsdam, the Department will convene an Indaba with Representatives of School Governing Bodies in an effort to take this process forward.

As I conclude, let me join the people of South Africa and the World and wish our former president Nelson Mandela a speedy recovery.

We love you Tata.

Ngiyabonga.