

**Speech to be Delivered by the MEC for Education, Mrs
Reginah Mhaule at a Meeting with the Public Examination
Staff on 03 October 2014 at Loskop Dam**

**Programme Director and DDG: Curriculum, Mrs Lucy
Moyane**

Head of Department, Mrs Mahlasedi Mhlabane

**Director for Public Examinations, Mr. Chukudu
Manyabeane**

Members of Senior Management

Rev. Happy Kalunda

Pastor Zodwa Mkhonza

Pastor Regina Maja

Pastor Allie Mokoena

Departmental Officials

Sanibonani,

First and foremost, let me thank you dearly for honouring the invitation to attend this meeting so that we can chat a way forward for administrating and managing the grade 12 examinations which are just around the corner.

This assertion does not in any way minimise the importance of the other grade examinations but affirms that the grade 12 are a yardstick and point of reference for the success of our education system as an exit point.

Allow me to highlight the successes of the last five years where the Province has managed incident free and credible

examination processes. Let me say that this success story has embolden us and gives us a sense of pride as a department and a province. It is thus proper that I should thank you for the great job you have done in that regard.

I believe that our intentions are to improve our management processes to a level where it become our second to reach perfection at an administrative and management as well as performance levels.

The 2014 Examinations process thus gives us another opportunity to improve from last year and I want to urge you to do just that. Please let us not be complacent and rest on our laurels basking on past glory as that would be self destructive and counter- productive.

State of Readiness

We are here in our numbers to confirm our commitment to another incident free and well managed examination process. The Mpumalanga Department of Education is ready to manage the 2014 examinations of **Fifty Four Thousand and Two (54 002)** Grade 12 full time and part time learners which is going to start on 27 October until 02 December.

The Department intends to improve the results from **77.6%** obtained in 2013 by **10%** to **87.6%** in 2014 and to ensure that the number of schools which obtained results below 60% are radically reduced.

Any school that will perform below **60%** will be regarded dysfunction and will be expected to provide full account for such a performance when schools re-open in 2015.

At the same time, the Department is aiming at increasing the number of learners who obtains university entrance and the pass rate in Mathematics and Physical Science.

Areas of Concern

All systems are already in place and the Department takes pride in that it enters half a decade of an incident free and credible grade 12 examination process. This is attributed to a collaborative effort between the departmental officials and other institutions within the security cluster.

There are however, issues of concern that are standing out for our attention. In this case we have to take into consideration the threats to the examinations process.

We have to look at the possibility of community protests and their disruptive potential and thus urge our communities to be supportive of this exercise and respect the right of learners to an education.

The second area of concern relates to the heavy rains that may take place during the writing of the examinations. The Plan has already been developed by the security cluster to work closer

with the SANDF should the need arise for them to assist with the logistic capabilities of running the exams if disaster strikes.

Wishes for the Class of 2014

Let me take this opportunity to express my heartfelt wishes to all learners who are going to write the grade 12 final examination this year and I will appreciate it if they can use the time at their disposal to stay focused in their studies, take advantage of the programmes such as Radio lessons, the Dial a Tutor, read the resource material that were distributed to their schools and refrain from any activity that may divert their attention from their studies.

All Grade 12 Learners will be expected to sign a pledge on **17 October 2014** as their commitment to conduct themselves in keeping to the Code of conduct of the examination.

The Grade 12 results for Mpumalanga Province will be announced on **06 January 2015** at **Emjindini Town Hall** at **Umjindi Local Municipality** in **Barberton** at **09H00**.

Conclusion

We know that as we journey towards the realisation of a perfect and qualitative examinations process with high levels of learner performance we will meet obstacles along the way.

Let us remain determined that what ever challenge we meet we will soldier through side by side until we achieve the ultimate goal.

It' s now the right time to pledge your loyalty to the country and the nation. Your responsibilities in running the examinations are in fact a call to national duty which requires courage, determination and patriotism.

Let's all pull together and make the nation proud.

Ngiyabonga.