

SPEECH BY LIMPOPO MEC FOR EDUCATION MR MAARIA ISHMAEL
KGETJEPE DURING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2018 MATRIC
EXAMINATION RESULTS, 04 JANUARY 2019, THE RANCH, LIMPOPO

Thank you programme director
Premier
Khosikhulu Vho-Mphephu Ramabulana
Kgoshikgolo Thulare III
His Grace Dr. Barnabas Lekganyane
Fellow MECs
Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Legislature
The Chairperson of the Education Portfolio and fellow MPLs
Executive Mayors
Mayors and Councilors
Our Traditional and Religious Leaders
Leadership of our teacher unions and organized labour, SGBs, Civic Association
and Youth, Learner and Student Bodies
Director General
Heads of Departments
Executive Management of the Department
District Directors
Circuit Managers
Principals, Educators, Parents
Our sponsors and social partners
Our Top achievers
Distinguished guests
Ladies and gentlemen
Comrades and Friends

Programme director, I greet you all and please receive from our Department compliments of the new season. It gives me great pleasure to present to the province the last National Senior Certificate in this 5th Administration of the ANC led government, ahead of the people of South Africa giving us a further mandate to accelerate the improvement of their lives during the next five years and beyond. Indeed it has been an amazing journey of progress and transformation, one to be described as challenging given the legacies that we have to address. We must indicate that 2018 was not a year that was characterized by major disruptions given the history of massive disruptions that we experienced in the recent past. We are encouraged that our people are starting to understand that we cannot bargain with the education of our children. The relatively stable 2018 academic year, with less disruptions of teaching and learning are as a consequence of the cooperation and understanding we always receive from our stakeholders who understand the importance of putting first the interest of the children that the Province has entrusted to us and for that we are grateful.

It is in this context that we must coexist and view education not as a departmental issue but a societal issue, one that must be protected at all given times and one that must occupy the attention and energy of all our people. We are accordingly reminded by His Holiness the Dalai Lama that “All things originate in the mind. Actions and events depend heavily on motivation. Appreciation of humanity, compassion and love are key points. If we develop a good heart, whether our field is science, agriculture or politics, since motivation is so crucial they will all improve” All of us are tasked to motivate for the protection of education and contribute towards sharpening the minds of these future professionals. We must equally understand the challenges and opportunities with a view of being part of solution providers in improving the education situation in the Province. It is education that has a crucial role to play in realizing the noble objectives of our democracy on matters contained in our Constitution, the National Development Plan Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal Four, which is all about ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all.

We have once again delivered an incident free 2018 examination with no systematic irregularities that undermine the integrity and credibility of the examination process, from writing to the marking of the each and an every script in the hands of our capable and experienced markers. We have to keep strengthening our plans so that our level of compliance with policies, directives and guidelines remain as high as possible and as expected. Credibility and integrity are critical aspects of examinations and assessment. Having achieved all these aspects as confirmed by Umalusi, the Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training, makes today a very special occasion. We recognize that the National Senior Certificate results are an important indicator of the quality of our provincial education system.

Premier, you have been very consistent in your message of support in the past three years that we must as a Department invest a lot of resources in professional teacher development, more especially on subject content and methodology. Indeed we have been investing a lot of resources in this regard and this was seen in the improvement of the quality of teaching and learning in the past three years. This is more than necessary to ensure that our educators have the proficiency expected in subjects they offer. As we appoint new teachers, they are inducted to ensure that they are acquainted with the intricacies of Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS). This is done through short and long term teacher development courses and workshops, as well as mentoring, coaching, monitoring and support by School Management Teams and curriculum advisors to empower teachers in content and methodologies.

We have been emphasizing that the seven-hour working day for teaching and learning cannot be substituted by anything. There has to be effective and quality

contact time between teachers and learners to deliver good learner performance. Whatever we do outside the normal seven hours is to enrich and further provide support to effective learning. The implementation of the Limpopo Learner Attainment Strategy has accordingly seen the Department rolling out interventions such as winter enrichment classes, spring classes, Saturday classes, camps and the radio lessons.

Regular monitoring and support of curriculum implementation in schools is essential to ensure quality teaching and learning. To this end, the role and responsibilities of subject advisors cannot be overemphasized. Our educators have to receive adequate support while doing their classroom work. Circuits should on a regular basis conduct on site visits to verify the availability and usage of resources to support curriculum delivery.

Equally important is our continuous collaboration with parents. It is essential that parents become an integral part of their children's education. By so doing parents become knowledgeable of their children strengths and weaknesses and ultimately are able to advise learners on the choice of subjects and possible future careers. With parents' involvement, there is better attendance, home works are done, less problems in terms of social ills and there is a better relationship between the school and parents, leading to highly motivated learners. These aspects are key to the delivery of quality outcomes for the Province and indeed to the country as a whole.

Today's announcement confirms yet again our commitment to advance the values of education. It says to us it is not enough simply to have access to education but the provision must be excellent too. We need to ensure that it is not just access to education we offer, but access to quality education; and such access must not be determined or defined by race, gender and place of abode. There can be no doubt that excellent leadership is also crucial because it boosts performance and functionality of schools. Competent managers at schools, circuits and districts are key to drive up standards of performance of the system. These are the people who must know what happens in the classroom, whether a teacher is at school on time, in class on time and, teaching the whole content as required by CAPS.

Premier, Mahatma Ghandi once said that "Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will". These results must tell us how much strength of an academic kind and how much will of an indomitable kind, has the class of 2018 demonstrated in their learning and in their hard work. The class of 2018 was the eleventh Grade 12 cohort to write the NSC Exam and only the fifth cohort to write final exam under the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements. While this cohort has benefited from the maturity of NSC system over the past eleven years, the CAPS aligned system introduced in 2014 is beginning to

strengthen after only five years. Indeed, we are an education system on the rise. When delivering the Budget Vote for the Department last year, we announced that the 2018 NSC results are going to be announced according to the ten education districts model which was pronounced in 2016/17 budget vote. True to our word, we have reorganized our districts to ten education districts to enhance their capacities, to bring resources closer to schools and to fast track the delivery of quality education across the Province. For purposes of these results, we have provisionally named the ten districts as follows: Vhembe is divided into Vhembe East and Vhembe West, Mopani into Mopani 2 and Tzaneen, Waterberg is Waterberg 2 and Mogalakwena, Capricorn into Lebowakgomo and Capricorn 2 and Sekhukhune into Riba Cross and Sekhukhune 2. This reorganization of education districts resulted in an increase in the number of Circuits from 134 to 141.

Programme Director, the Province presented 76 730 candidates who sat for the National Senior Certificate in 2018. Of this number 53 254 passed. We have increased our bachelor percentage passes from 18.4% in 2016, 21.4% in 2017 to 23.5% in 2018 with 17 999 candidates achieving bachelor passes, 18 892 candidates achieved diplomas and 16 350 higher certificates, 11 achieved the National Senior Certificate qualification and 02 Endorsed National Senior Certificate. This performance translates to a 69.4% provincial pass rate and depicts a 3.8% improvement on the 2017 Grade 12 pass rate.

We are encouraged that none of our ten districts have performed below 60% and only three have fallen short of the 65% national norm. This Provincial performance has reduced by almost half, the 705 underperforming schools we had in 2017 to 364 in 2018. There is no reason why assistance and support cannot be provided with regard to the remaining schools that still perform below the national norm. A team of officials has been assembled and will be strengthened to pay special attention to underperforming schools across the Province as per the Academic Performance Improvement Plan. We expect all schools to perform above the national norm of 65% as well as 30% combination of bachelor and diploma passes.

We have been saying that small schools are not viable and not sustainable educationally. Efforts of the Department to rationalize these schools are often met with resistance and reasons which do not advance education and the interest of learners who are at these schools. As we announce these results we have three such schools which enrolled Grade 12 learners for the NSC. Senwane and Letshega-Malokwane secondary enrolled 12 candidates respectively and Ramoroke secondary enrolled only 2 candidates. None of these candidates at these schools passed and it's a concern.

Our candidates have given a good account of themselves in gateway subjects

which the Province had registered a decline in 2017 and such subjects include Accounting which has improved by 5.7%, Mathematics by 4.8% and Physical Sciences remarkably by 8.6% from 63.2% to 71.8% with 941 distinctions. Eleven (11) Technology and Technical subjects, which were written for the first time in the 2018 NSC have seen our candidates performing above 87% except Technical Mathematics which performed at 45.6%. Certainly, Technical Mathematics will require the Department to put a close eye on it moving forward in terms of support, teachers' competence in content and methodology. Premier, the picture we have painted today, must be remembered that in 2018, the Province improved its pass rate by 3.8%, reduced the number of underperforming schools by 50%, arrested the declines in Accounting, Mathematics and Physical Sciences and increased bachelor passes. Out of 134 circuits in 2017, 71 underperformed, translating into 53.0%. In 2018, 51 of 141 Circuits in 2018 underperformed, which is 36.2%. This is by no means a small achievement.

We move to present the National Senior Certificate (NSC) awards for the 2018 academic year.

Categories to be awarded

1. Top 3 Districts

This category recognizes the three best performing districts in terms of the overall percentage pass. The district must be performing at 65% and above, and achieve 30% and above of a combination of Diploma and Bachelor passes: The recipients are:

Position	%Pass	District
3	73.2	Waterberg 2
2	79.4	Vhembe West
1	80.1	Vhembe East

2. Top 10 Circuits in the Province

This category recognizes the 10 best performing circuits in terms of the overall percentage pass. 500 or more candidates must have written, and the circuit must be performing at 65% and above, and achieved 30% and above of a combination of Diploma and Bachelor passes.

Position	%Pass	Circuit	District
10	83.3	Dzindi	Vhembe East
9	83.4	Potgietersrus	Mogalakwena
8	83.5	Sibasa	Vhembe East

- 7 86.5 Soutpansberg West Vhembe West
- 6 86.7 Pietersburg Lebowakgomo
- 5 87.2 Groblersdal Sekhukhune 2
- 4 88.0 Nzhelele East Vhembe West
- 3 88.3 Tshilamba Vhembe East
- 2 90.0 Tzaneen Tzaneen
- 1 90.5 Tshinane Vhembe East

3. Ten (10) Best Performing PUBLIC Schools in terms of number of Bachelor Passes

This category recognizes the 10 best performing PUBLIC schools in terms of the total number of BACHELOR passes. In order to receive the prize, 50 or more candidates must have written and the school must be performing at 65% and above, as well as 30% and above of a combination of Diploma and Bachelor passes.

- | Position | Bachelor | School Name | Circuit | District |
|----------|----------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 10 | 122 | Jim Chavani High | Malamulele | North East Vhembe East |
| 9 | 127 | Dendron Secondary | Bochum East | Capricorn 2 |
| 8 | 129 | Hoërskool Noorderland | Pietersburg | Lebowakgomo |
| 7 | 130 | Hoërskool Frikkie Meyer | Thabazimbi | Waterberg 2 |
| 6 | 142 | Merensky High School | Tzaneen | Tzaneen |
| 5 | 143 | E.P.P. Mhinga Secondary | Malamulele | Central Vhembe East |
| 4 | 155 | Tshivhase Secondary | Tshinane | Vhembe East |
| 3 | 196 | Thengwe Secondary | Tshilamba | Vhembe East |
| 2 | 223 | Hoërskool Pietersburg | Pietersburg | Lebowakgomo |
| 1 | 234 | Mbilwi Secondary | Sibasa | Vhembe East |

4. PUBLIC Schools that obtained 100% overall pass

This category recognises public schools that obtained 100% pass rate as well as a 30% combination of Diploma and Bachelor passes. In no particular order, they are:

- | School Name | Circuit | District |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Hoërskool Frikkie Meyer | Thabazimbi | Waterberg 2 |
| Waterberg High | Potgietersrus | Mogalakwena |
| Edison Nesengani Secondary | Vhuronga 1 | Vhembe East |
| Vhafamadi Secondary | Vhuronga 2 | Vhembe West |
| Hoërskool Eric Louw High School | Soutpansberg | North Vhembe West |
| John Mutheiwana Secondary School | Vhuronga 1 | Vhembe East |

Frans Rasimphi Secondary Tshinane Vhembe East

5. Top Three (3) Most improved PUBLIC schools in the Province

This category recognises schools with the most improved results over the past three years, that is, 2016 to 2018. To be awarded the prize, the school must have 50 or more candidates who wrote, and the highest difference in performance from 2016 to 2018 and has improved continuously from 2016 to 2018. The school must have a pass rate of 65% or more in 2018 and a combined diploma and bachelor pass rate of 30% or more.

Position	2016 –2018 % Improvement	School Name	District	Circuit
3	48.2%	Nakgwadi Secondary	Riba Cross	Leolo
2	49.7%	Makgongoana High	Lebowakgomo	Mankweng
1	54.4%	Kweledi Secondary	Riba Cross	Tubatse

6. Best performing teacher in PUBLIC schools in the 11 selected subjects

This category recognises teachers who have produced the highest total of levels 6 and 7 candidates in the gateway subjects. To receive this award, the teacher must have passed 50 or more candidates at levels 6 and 7. The subject must have achieved 65% or more. The best performing teachers for the gateway subjects that met the criteria are:

Subject	L6 + L7	Name of Teacher	School Name	Circuit
English First Additional Language	119	1. Ms. Z. Howard		
		2. Ms. H. Nel		
		3. Ms. L. van der Merwe	Hoërskool Pietersburg	Pietersburg
Geography	92	1. Mr. Makhuvha N.S.		
		2. Mr. Masutha M Mbilwi	Secondary Sibasa	
Life Sciences	80	1. Mr. Mulovhedzi E.K.		
		2. Ms. Nedawaila T.J.		
		3. Mr. Lidzhade N.C.	Mbilwi Secondary	Sibasa
Mathematics	61	1. Mr. Sikhitha N.R.		
		2. Mr. Ndou N.V.	Mbilwi Secondary	Sibasa
Mathematical Literacy	70	1. Ms. R. Hageman		
		2. Mr. S. Koedyk	Hoërskool Pietersburg	Pietersburg
Physical Sciences	92	1. Ms. Sankaran B.		
		2. Mr. Ramhungwe K.L.	Mbilwi Secondary	Sibasa

7. Top Performing candidates in subjects

This category recognises top learners from public schools per subject achieved

only at level 7. This award excludes cases where the candidates obtained total marks, that is 300/300 in the gateway subjects

7.1 Top Performing Candidates in Gateway Subjects

Subject	Mark	Surname	Names	Gender	School Name
Agricultural Sciences	273	Ntsoane	Mpho Betty	Female	Kgagatlou Secondary
Business Studies	298	Tshivhase	Ngelekanyo Innocent	Female	Thohoyandou Secondary
Economics	284	Gemeli	Mulamuleli	Female	Dzata Secondary
Geography	295	Phalanndwa	Mulweli	Male	Tshivhase Second
Geography	295	MosimaThabo	Martin	Male	Bokamoso Secondary
History	290	Mashamba	Avhaathu Lisborn	Male	Tshiitwa Secondar
Life Sciences	293	Mavhina	Khuthadzo Anthel	Female	Mbilwi Secondar
Mathematical Literacy	290	Nkhumane	Malose Robert	Male	Tetema Secondar

7.2 Top Performing Candidates in Technology and Technical Subjects

Subject description	Mark	Surname	Names	Gender	School Name
Computer Applications Technology	288	Gadda	Marnique	Female	Hoerskool Ellisras
Civil Technology (Construction)	280	Ramaila	Thakgatso	Male	Mmutlane Secondary
Civil Technology (Woodworking)	278	Dreyer	Willem Jacobus	Male	Hoërskool Frikkie Meyer
Electrical Technology (Power S	259	Mapingure	Washington	Male	Thekganang High
Engineering Graphics And Design	290	Mogoboya	Temoso Janius	Male	Capricorn High
Information Technology	289	Moolman	Petrone	Female	Hoërskool Ben Viljoen
Mechanical Technology (Automotive)	257	Mtshweni	Njabulo Godfrey	Male	St Josefs Secondary School
Mechanical Technology (Fitting)	250	Marebane	Caven	Male	Mogale Wa Bagale
Mechanical Technology (Welding)	246	Botha	Frederik Jacobus	Male	Hoerskool BEN VILJOEN
Technical Mathematics	292	Banyini	Thabang Sean	Male	Hudson Ntsanwisi Secondary
Technical Sciences	269	Banyini	Thabang Sean	Male	Hudson Ntsanwisi Secondary

7.3 Top Performing Candidates in Home and English First Additional Languages

Afrikaans Home Language	270	Robbertse	Sune	Female	Hoërskool Frikkie Meyer
English First Additional Language	278	Moolman	Petrone	Female	Hoërskool Ben Viljoen
English Home Language	247	Mulla	Mohammad Rahman	Male	Louis Trichardt

Secondary

Sepedi Home Language 276 Ramoraswi Tshegofatso Confidence Female

Dendron Secondary

Tshivenda Home Language 284 Nekhunguni Makhadzi Female Thengwe Secondary

Tshivenda Home Language 284 Mudau Tshedza Female Gole Secondary

Tshivenda Home Language 284 Ramalivhana Ndisedzo Female Thengwe Secondary

Xitsonga Home Language 280 Hlungwani Singita Trust Male Ximunwana

7.4 Candidates Performing at 300/300 Gateway Subjects

7.4.1 300/300 in one subject

300/300 in Mathematics

Name of Candidate Gender School Name Circuit District

Gadiwala Mohamed Hussein Male Risinga Repeat Part-Time Man'ombe Mopani 2

300/300 in Physical Sciences

Name of Candidate Gender School Name Circuit District

Moeti Thato Thamage Male Segopotje Secondary Mphahlele Lebowakgomo

Maela Koena Eon Male Mahoai High Mogoshi Capricorn 2

Mohale Quetzner Boitumelo Female Sefoloko Secondary Sekgosesa Central Capricorn 2

Musuphi Mpho Female Nngweni Secondary Nzhelele West Vhembe West

Mashula Innocent Hlompho Male Mulenga Secondary Nzhelele West Vhembe West

Mulovhedzi Vhudivhusi Freedom Male Lishavhana Secondary Hlanganani North Vhembe West

Masia N'waitelo Female P P Hlungwani High Malamulele South Vhembe East

Shibambu Mokone Thorsten Male Jim Chavani High Malamulele North East Vhembe East

Mudzielwana Kharendwe Female Thengwe High Tshilamba Vhembe East

Tshikhudo Londonani Tshikhudo Male Dimani Agricultural High Dzindi Vhembe East

Mahasa Masindi Tsiko Male Mbilwi Secondary Sibasa Vhembe East

Masithi Mikano Ndodzo Female Mbilwi Secondary Sibasa Vhembe East

Mavhina Khuthadzo Anthel Female Mbilwi Secondary Sibasa Vhembe East

Baloyi Moshe Male Nghonyama Secondary Groot Letaba Mopani 2

Masete Katlego Clinton Male All Saints College Lulekani Mopani 2

Makwala Rebotile Hope Female Modubatse Secondary Rakwadu 2 Tzaneen

Homu Gill Female D Z J Mtebule Secondary Nkowankowa Tzaneen

Seopela Phogole Male Ngwanamatlang Secondary Mmashadi Riba Cross

Nkadimeng Kagisho Male Jane Furse Comprehensive Mmashadi Riba Cross

Matebane Mokgoshi Gabriel Male Moreko Secondary Phokoane Sekhukhune 2
Mmotong Mpelegeng Tina Female Moreko Secondary Phokoane Sekhukhune 2
Ramontja Tuufela Junior Male Moreko Secondary Phokoane Sekhukhune 2

7.4.2 300/300 in two subjects

300/300 in Mathematics and Accounting

Name of Candidate Gender School Name Circuit District

Makondo Felicia Female E P P Mhinga High Malamulele Central Vhembe East

300/300 in Mathematics and Physical Sciences

Name of Candidate Gender School Name Circuit District

Vhuhwavho Rodney Male Thengwe High Tshilamba Vhembe East

Nthengwe Wamashudu Mavu Female Thengwe High Tshilamba Vhembe East

Tshishonga Mulondoti Prudence Female Thengwe High Tshilamba Vhembe East

8. Top 3 Club 100 –Mathematics in PUBLIC schools

A school qualifies to be in this prestigious club if 100 or more candidates pass Mathematics at 50% or more. The overall pass percentage in the subject must be 65% or more. The three schools in this club with the highest number of candidates passing Mathematics at 50% or more will be awarded. The recipients are:

Position No. achieved 50% and above Centre Name Circuit District

3 100 Dendron Secondary Bochum East Capricorn 2

2 126 Thengwe Secondary Tshilamba Vhembe East

1 180 Mbilwi Secondary Sibasa Vhembe East

9. Top 3 Club 100 –Mathematics and Physical Sciences in Public Schools

A school qualifies to be in this prestigious club if 100 or more candidates pass Mathematics at 50% or more, and 100 or more candidates pass Physical Sciences at 50% or more. The pass percentage in each subject (Mathematics and Physical Sciences) must be 65% or more, separately. The schools are ranked according to the highest total of candidates passing Mathematics and Physical Sciences at 50% or more. Only two schools have qualified to be awarded in this category:

Position Mathematics Physical Sciences Total Candidates School Name Circuit District

2 126 150 276 Thengwe Secondary Tshilamba Vhembe East

1 180 194 374 Mbilwi Secondary Sibasa Vhembe East

10. Best performing Public Special School

This category recognises the best performing Public Special School in terms of overall pass percentage. The school must have passed 65% or more candidates, and 30% or more of the total of Bachelor and Diploma passes.

%Pass School Name Circuit District

90.0 Rivoni School For The Blind Elim Vhembe West

11. Top Learner in Public Special School

In order to be recognised in this category, candidate must present the highest total of 6 best subjects excluding Life Orientation and a minimum aggregate of 900 marks.

Total 6 Best Name of Candidate Gender Centre Name Circuit District

1,290 Chauke Siphon Male Rivoni School For The Blind Elim Vhembe West

12. Top independent school in the Province

This category recognises top independent school in the Province. To receive the award, the independent school must have 50 or more candidates written, and achieve a pass rate 65% or more and combination of bachelor and diploma of 30%. The school with the highest number of the bachelor passes receives the award.

Bachelor %Pass School Name Circuit District

216 94.6 Northern Academy Secondary Pietersburg Lebowakgomo

13. Top candidate in Independent Schools

To qualify for this category, a candidate must have achieved the highest total of the 6 best subjects excluding Life Orientation, and a minimum of 60% in each of the subjects, making it an aggregate of 1080 marks:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 699

District : Lebowakgomo

Circuit : Pietersburg

School : Northern Academy Secondary

Gender : Female

Candidate : Rikhotso Present

14. Five (5) Best performing candidates from PUBLIC schools

This category recognises the five best performing candidates in public schools in the Province. To participate, the candidate must obtain a minimum of 60% on six subjects, which is a total aggregate of 1080 marks, excluding Life Orientation.

The candidates are:

Position 5:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 676

District : Vhembe East

Circuit : Malamulele Central

School : E P P Mhinga Secondary

Gender : Female

Candidate : Makondo Felicia

Position 4:

Total Marks Obtained : 1,677

District : Sekhukhune 2

Circuit : Groblersdal

School : Hoërskool Ben Viljoen

Gender : Female

Candidate : Moolman Petrone

Position 3:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 682

District : Vhembe East

Circuit : Tshilamba

School : Thengwe Secondary

Gender : Female

Candidate : Mudzielwana Kharendwe

Position 1: (is a tie)

Total Marks Obtained 1,693 1,693

District Vhembe East Vhembe East

Circuit Sibasa Sibasa

School Mbilwi Secondary Mbilwi Secondary

Gender Female Female

Candidate Mavhina Khuthadzo Anthel Masithi Mikano Ndodzo

15. MEC Special Award

In this special category, this year I have decided to recognize two recipients. I will start by recognizing a school that performed higher than other schools in quintiles 1 and 2 and it is not recognized in any of the categories that were awarded today.

The school presented 149 candidates who wrote the 2018 NSC Examinations. Of these, 147 candidates passed which translates to 98.7%. 88 candidates achieved bachelor passes, which translates to 59.1%. The combination of the bachelor and diploma passes is 92.6%. The school is in Sekhukhune 2 District, Phokoane circuit. This school is none other than Moreko Secondary School. The second award recognizes a candidate who has worked hard to perform excellently in the 2018 NSC examination. This candidate obtained the second highest marks in Xitsonga Home Language. This is a candidate from Vhembe West District, Elim Circuit, who matched in all respects, the candidates from public ordinary schools. The candidate is from Rivoni School for the Blind and is none other than Siphon Chauke.

Ladies and gentlemen, we congratulate all the recipients of awards and let others emulate you as we begin 2019. We also congratulate our learners who were invited by the Minister of Basic Education at the last night's announcement of the results. We thank you for your hard work that saw Felicia Makondo of EPP Mhinga taking position 3 in the category Top Performing Learner in Quintile 3 and Kharendwe Mudzielwana from Thengwe Secondary taking position 1 as being the Top Performing Learner in Quintile 3 in the country. We are encouraged that no single year goes by without our learners representing the province at the Minister's awards. We are proud of you!

Premier, allow me to say a few words to our candidates who may not have achieved their goals this time as desired. We know it is disappointing, but we encourage you to try again as we do not always succeed the first time around. We also encourage such candidates to find out from their respective schools exactly what their results are and what they mean. We urge school principals to be accommodative of the candidates who may opt to repeat full time. Candidates must note that effective this year, there will be no February/March NSC supplementary examinations. All candidates who wrote the 2018 Oct/Nov examinations and would like to improve or to finish off the remaining subjects are eligible to write examinations in May/June 2019. These candidates can only write the subjects they wrote or registered in 2018. There are also options available which include the Second Chance Matric Programme to support learners who have not been able to meet the NSC requirements. All qualifying candidates must go and register at their respective circuit offices from 14 January 2019, after which formal lessons at selected centres will commence in February 2019 in all the 10 education districts.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I conclude, we are grateful first and foremost to Premier Mathabatha, who is with us today to congratulate our achievers and encourage all those that fell short. Your words of encouragement today will serve as a source of inspiration.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Portfolio Committee on Education and the Provincial Legislature for their continued oversight and support.

I also want to thank the Superintendent General, Ms. Beauty Mutheiwana together with your Senior Management, the examination team and all staff members for your determination and dedication.

We also express our gratitude to teachers and principals for your hard work. To the School Governing Bodies, Teacher Unions and social partners in education, we thank you for your support and cooperation that propel our schools into functional institutions.

We are equally grateful to our sponsors and even more to all of you who from time to time volunteer your time, skills and dedication to the education of children of this Province.

Premier, the Academic Year 2019 is upon us and we look forward to working with all our stakeholders in turning our schools into centres of excellence. We wish everyone who is here with us a prosperous and a successful new year and as a Department we are looking forward to a 2019 which must be hallmarked by academic excellence with no disruptions to teaching and learning across the Province.

Together we move South Africa forward!
Thank you very much.