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MEC for Education

## MEC's Exam message

On the 30th of October the Matric Class of 2023 will start writing the final National Senior Certificate examinations. This is a very important time in the journey of learners who started formal education at Grade R, with many hopes and dreams for the future.

As the Eastern Cape Department of Education we have had the enormous task of ensuring that all learners in the province receive quality education, under challenging circumstances, in many parts of this vastly rural province. We have put in place several interventions to support schools in severely under privileged communities, built support systems where schools can pool and share resources, for the benefit of the learners and the communities they come from. I have had the pleasure of witnessing some of the gains made by the department, particularly over the past three years, as the National Senior Certificate outcomes showed a gradual improvement year on year. In 2020 the Eastern Cape received 68.1% and in 2021 73%, followed by 77.3% in 2022. We have set ourselves a target of 80% for the 2023 and we strongly believe that this target can be met by the Class of 2023. The number of Bachelor passes also increased by 2.5% from 34.3% in 2021 to 36.8% in 2022. We have confidence in seeing further improvement in the outcomes of 2023.

Throughout the year the department has put in place several interventions to improve learning, foster greater safety in schools, have better infrastructure and the recognition for the great work done by educators and principals, in ensuring that our learners benefit from learning environments that will shape their future as leaders of this great country.

We have also focused on ensuring the integrity of the outcomes of our National Senior Certificate examinations in the province. Measures include accurate registration of exam centres and learners, high quality questions papers, secure movement of questions papers; proper monitoring of examinations and marking of scripts, as well as accuracy in resulting. We believe our efforts in these areas will ensure not only the integrity of the outcomes, but also help to secure the future of our learners at tertiary institutions of their choice.

I would like to wish the Class of 2023 all the best for the National Senior Certificate exams. Nibhale kakuhle!