



NAPTOSA

National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa

NAPTOSA STATEMENT ON THE 2020 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION RESULTS

Triumph in the face of adversity

NAPTOSA is pleased that Umalusi gave approval for the release of the results of the 2020 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination, thus removing doubt, and anxiety about the certification.

That we managed to achieve a pass rate of 76,2% in the face of the adversity Grade 12 learners experienced in 2020, is beyond expectation. NAPTOSA congratulates each matriculant who was successful in the 2020 examination. Dedication, resilience, and hard work once again proved to be the elements of success.

Compliments are also extended to the DBE and Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) on the successful management and completion of the 2020 NSC examination. Circumstances in 2020 did not favour the Departments. To achieve the lowest rate of exam absenteeism in years in these circumstances is quite an achievement, especially considering that 74 165 candidates more wrote the 2020 NSC examination.

While it is fitting to congratulate the Education Departments, it is our teachers who deserve all the accolades. What matric teachers managed to achieve in the severely compromised teaching time of 2020 is something to behold.

Not only were they forced to give up well earned vacation time, but during vacations many presented vacation classes, ensuring that the academic year was saved for the Gr 12 learners and that they were prepared as well as was humanly possible. The achieved pass rate is a tribute to the dedication of this group of teachers.

But let us not forget all the teachers in the grades below Grade 12 who prepared the learners on their way to matric. Their role also needs to be acknowledged when NSC results are considered.

The DBE will do well to recognise the importance of teachers as an irreplaceable resource.

One area of the NSC results that is disconcerting is the drop of more than 15 000 candidates that enrolled for pure mathematics. NAPTOSA believes too many learners are allowed to stop taking pure mathematics in Gr 10 in favour of Mathematical Literacy. Is this about schools and PEDs chasing the 100% pass rate? What then about the life chances of these learners or even the

future needs of the country? It is important that learners be given the maximum assistance to continue taking pure mathematics till Gr 12.

NAPTOSA also acknowledges the less resilient learner who did not manage 2020 as well as his/her peers. This is the time for greater psycho-social intervention and curriculum support to ensure that these learners are not lost to the system.

Lessons learned in 2020, must serve to improve school in 2021 and beyond. It is imperative that more attention is paid to the health and safety of teachers and learners; the crumbling school infrastructure must be attended to; overcrowded classes can no longer be the order of the day; lessons learnt about online teaching and blended learning must be taken to all schools; our online platforms must be grown, and more practical implementation and less lip service of service delivery must become the order of the day.

Someone once said, "The greatest triumph is victory over all trials". The class of 2020 knows all about trials but has nevertheless triumphed in the face of adversity.

*****End of Statement issued on 22 February 2021*****

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