



education

Department:
Education
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Matric Release 2023

Address by the MEC for Education, Mrs Ntsetsao Viola Motsumi (MPL) on the occasion of the Release of the 2023 NSC Examination results on 19 January 2024 at Sun City Resort, Rustenburg



FACEBOOK PAGE: NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Programme Directors

Speaker of the Legislature, Hon. Susana Dantjie

Premier of the Province, Hon. Bushy Maape

Secretary of the North West Provincial Legislature, Adv. L.I. Netshitumbu

Provincial Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Kgosi O.T.S. Maotwe

Magosi otlhe arona aleng teng mo letsatsing la gompieno

All Members of Executive Council here present

Members of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation

Acting Executive Mayor of the Hosting District, Bojanala Platinum District, Cllr Victoria Makhaula

Mayor of the hosting Local Municipality, Moses Kotane, Cllr Nketu Nkotswe

Councillor of the hosting Ward 14, Cllr Mpho Raboroko

All councillors and Mayors from various districts and municipalities here present

Acting Superintendent General of the Department of Education, Dr SH Mvula and all departmental officials

Former Superintendent General of the North West Department of Education Mrs SM Semaswe

My beloved parents, Mr and Mrs Jabanyane, my husband Mr Kgotso Rainy Motsumi - I salute you!

Leaders in various structure levels of the governing party, the African National Congress

Leaders of political parties

Leaders of trade unions, SGB associations and other civil society organisations

Leaders of faith-based organisations

2023 National Teaching Awards Winners

All School Principals and School Governing Bodies

Parents of learners

Our special guests, the Class of 2023

All sponsors and representatives of the business houses

Members of the media,

Distinguished guests, friends, comrades and compatriots

Ladies and gentlemen

Bagaetsho Dumelang!

Ake tseye tshono eno, go lo amogela lotlhe mo letsatsing la gompieno la boitumelo.

PREAMBLE

Programme Directors, from the onset, let me appreciate the glitter that unfolds before me.

Honourable Premier, I must admit, this is one of the most elegant audience I have ever seen and addressed in the province. The venue is remarkably beautiful and everyone is well adorned and dressed to impress – all in honour of our special guests – the Class of 2023!

Ladies and gentlemen, give yourselves a round of applause - you look exceptionally awesome!

INTRODUCTION

Programme Directors, Honourable Premier, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to declare the official release of the North West 2023 National Senior Certificate Examination Results.

The timing of this event is impeccable as it is held just a few days after the ANC's 112th birthday celebrations, the rally for which was held on 13 January 2023 in Mbombela, Mpumalanga Province.

Without speaking highly of the African National Congress, which is documented as is the oldest liberation movement in Africa, it is the only party in the democratic South Africa which carries the hopes of “the poorest of the poor” with its unprecedented and unmatched pro-poor programmes, which are implemented in the education sector and across all government departments.

Taking that into account, it therefore becomes one of our immediate tasks to be vigilant and wary, at all times, of the emerging forces that are working hard to undermine the gains of our democracy made over the last three decades.

Ladies and gentlemen, Abdul Kalam reminds us that *“Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, caliber, and the future of an individual. If the people remember me as a good teacher, that will be the biggest honour for me.”*

As I stated repeatedly, since my assumption of duty in December 2022 as the MEC for Education, the North West Department of Education is a system destined to rise to greater heights.

Filled with vigour and determination, like a phoenix, it will continue rise from the ashes to reclaim its lost glory in the basic education sector.

We entered into the 2023 academic year as our own season of hope.

Our plans were deliberate and well cut out for nothing less, but the best in terms of both quality and quantity concerning improving the 2023 learner academic performance.

Ladies and gentlemen, I must confess that as a collective, besides a 1.6% increase we got in the matric pass rate of 2022, we were not proud of the position we obtained. For we understand that if we could unleash our potential we can do better.

We, therefore, had to come up with focused and result-driven turnaround strategies, which demanded men and women who are resolute, committed, disciplined and dedicated to implement them successfully.

Honourable Premier, education is a very complex system. It comprises of a series of interactions between different role players, who do not always agree on a common course of action or strategy to produce the desired learning outcomes.

Having taken note of that, we realised that with a shadow of doubt; if we keep doing what we have always been doing over the years, we are going to keep getting the same results.

We then purposefully drew wisdom from the words of Jimmy Dean who firmly declares that “*When you cannot change the direction of the wind - adjust the sails to always reach your destination.*”

As part of our deliberate effort to adjust the sails, we robustly overhauled the strategies to improve our learner academic performance. Top on the list of our learner attainment improvement plan was collectivism.

Our adoption of collectivism was inspired by the political philosophy of one of Africa’s finest leaders Julius “Mwalimu” Nyerere known as Ujamaa, which gave a group priority over each individual in it.

The buy-in, cooperation and the unwavering support we obtained from the stakeholders in education across the spectrum made it possible for the department to reap the rich dividends of its revamped learner attainment improvement plan in respect of the 2023 NSC examination results; and, for that we are eternally grateful.

PROFILE OF THE 2023 GRADE 12 COHORT

The Class of 2023 is the tenth cohort of learners to write the CAPS-aligned National Seniors Certificate (NSC) Examinations. For the record, they enrolled for Grade 1 in 2012 when the NSC was written for the fourth time at Grade 12.

Above all, it is the last matric class of the sixth administration, which took over the reins in May 2019.

VALIDITY AND CREDIBILITY OF THE 2023 NSC EXAMINATION RESULTS

On 12 January 2024, UMALUSI, a Council for quality assurance in General and Further Education and Training approved and declared the 2023 NSC Examinations results.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROVINCIAL PERFORMANCE

Ladies and Gentlemen, the NSC Examination results of the province over for the past five years were as follows:

In 2019, obtained 86.8% (position 4), 2020, we dropped to 76.0% (position 3), 2021, we rose to 78.6% (position 4), and in 2022, we achieved 79.8% (position 5).

Ladies and Gentlemen, are you ready to receive the results of the Class of 2023?

The Class of 2023 obtained position in the country, with a staggering 81,63%!

This represents an increase of 1.83% to 79.8% of 2022.

It is extremely exciting to announce that the Class of 2023 has broken new grounds by raising the bar in the quality of their final examination results.

The number of candidates who passed with Bachelors has increased to 15 059 (36,36%) compared to 14 733 (33.62) of the Class of 2022, Diploma passes has also improved by 11 646 (28,12%), which is higher than 10 794 (26,3%) of 2022, and to further demonstrate their sharp appetite for quality over quantity, the number of those who passed with Higher Certificate has dropped to 7 089 (17,11%) in relation to 7 470 (18, 2%) of 2022.

Seven candidates in Special Needs Schools passed with an Endorsed NSC.

While on this category of schools, I am thrilled to announce that North West Secondary School for the Deaf recorded a quantum leap from 0% pass of 2022 to 66% pass rate in 2023. They deserve a round of applause, ladies and gentlemen.

Ladies and gentlemen, the North West Class of 2023 did not end there with its amazing performance improvement.

They scored a total of 7067 distinctions in various subjects, excluding Life Orientation, compared to 6 478 of the previous year.

Although we are not yet where we are supposed to be, specifically in terms of the pass rate and position on the NSC league table, this milestone achievement represents our resolve and potential to keep on rising to greater heights.

Yes, we can do it! Holding each other's hand, we can grow the North West Department of Education Together.

TOP PERFORMING CANDIDATE

At this point, allow me to announce the best performing candidate for the North West Class of 2023.

This candidate obtained six distinctions. He scored 1699 marks in all subjects excluding Life Orientation.

Programme Directors, Honourable Premier, ladies and gentlemen, let us give a standing ovation to Wian Landman from Potchefstroom Gimnasium in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District as we invite him to ascend the stage.

PERFORMANCE OF THE DISTRICTS

Now let us turn to a brief breakdown of the 2023 NSC Examination results per district. In ascending order, the performance of the Class of 2023 per district compared to their predecessors can be presented as follows:

Position	District	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference
4	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti	73,12	83,63	71,21	72,9	76,79	77,16%	0,37
3	Ngaka Modiri Molema	80,26	84,38	69,11	75,2	78,37	78,97%	0,6
2	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	81,4	85,79	79,61	79,3	80,78	83,51%	2,73
1	Bojanala	84,11	89,59	81,17	81,6	81,4	84,24%	2,84

It is pleasing to announce that all districts have improved their pass rate compared to the previous year.

Congratulations to all District Directors and their teams for the job well done. Your tireless efforts have paid off!

LOCAL EDUCATION OFFICE PERFORMANCE

The best performing local education offices are JB marks at 87,10%, followed by Rustenburg with 86.05%, Kagisano Molopo at 85.99 %, Moses Kotane - 85,89%, Moretele - 83,56%, Madibeng at 83,52%, Maquassi Hills - 82,80%, Matlosana - 81,50% and Ramotshere Moiloa with 81,11%.

The following local education offices performed at 70% basis mark: Mahikeng at 79,70%, Tswaing (79,18%), Naledi (78,99%), Ditsobotla (77,82%), Greater Taung (75,30%), Ratlou (74.69%), Lekwa -Teemane (71,65%), and Mamusa with 70,02%.

Compared to three (3) of 2022, only one (1) local education office namely Kgetleng River with 64,88% pass rate performed below 70%. Kgetleng River has not remained in the below 70% pass rate it has regrettably also dropped by 1,9% from 66,79% of 2022.

We hope for a better performance from Kgetleng River next time around.

OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOLS

Ladies and gentlemen, a remarkable improvement has also been realised in the overall performance of schools.

In 2023, 32 schools achieved 100% pass rate compared to 26 of 2022; and 275 schools attained a pass rate between 80 to 99% compared to 234 in 2022.

TOP PERFORMING SCHOOLS

We have three categories of top performing schools:

- a) highest number of subject distinctions;
- b) highest number of candidates who qualify for admission to Bachelor studies;
- c) the highest pass rate.

To accommodate the small schools, the quality categories have been split into two sub-categories, one with percentages and one with actual numbers.

In the category of Top Performing Schools based on highest number of subject distinctions (excluding Life Orientation), in ascending order we have -

In Position 3, Wesvalia High School with 203 subject distinctions,
Position 2, Rustenburg High School with 308 subject distinctions, and
Position 1 goes to Potchefstroom Gimnasium with 301 subject distinctions.

The second category for top performing schools are schools that achieved the most subject distinctions (80-100%), excluding Life Orientation. The percentage distinctions achieved is calculated out of the total of possible subjects of the school.

Here we have –

In Position 3, Potchefstroom Gimnasium with 301 distinctions (22,84%)
Position 2, Ferdinand Postma with 97 distinctions (24,19%), and
Position 1 goes to Potchefstroom Girls High with 180 distinctions (27,95%).

In the third category of top performing schools, which focuses on quality – Admission to Bachelor Degree Studies, the top three schools with the highest percentage of candidates who achieved admission to Degree Studies are:

In Position 3, Wesvalia High School with 116 candidates (91,34%),
Position 2, Ferdinand Postma with 53 candidates (94,64%), and
Position 1 goes to Lighthouse Christian School with 27 candidates (96,43%).

In the same category are the schools with the highest number of candidates who qualified for admission to Degree Studies; and these are:

Position 3, Potchefstroom Gimnasium with 169 out of its 187 candidates passed with Bachelors,
In position 2, we have B.A Seobi Secondary School with 186 out of 246 candidates attaining Bachelors, and
Position 1 goes to Rustenburg High School where 220 of its 301 candidates passed with Bachelors.

In the best performing school, we have a tie of Schoonspruit High school in Matlosana and Fields College in Rustenburg with 134 candidates who wrote and all of them passed, followed by Wesvalia in Matlosana with 127 candidates, all passed.

UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOLS (SCHOOLS WITH A PASS RATE BELOW 70%)

Ladies and gentlemen, we are not bluffing when we say that in our quest to reach greater height, we are aiming beyond the sky so that in case we stumble and fall, we fall among the stars.

Another amazing improvement is demonstrated by the reduction in the number of schools that achieved below 70% pass rate.

From the 106 underperforming schools of 2022, we have only 73 schools whose overall pass rate is below 70% in the 2023 results.

We are determined to keep the shoulder to the wheel in order by giving these category of schools the necessary support with a view to gradually reducing the number of underperforming schools.

Programme Directors, allow me at this point to advise those candidates who were not successful in the 2023 NSC examinations not despair. There is still hope to succeed the second time around through the Second Chance Matric Programme, which is intended to provide them with the opportunity and support to enable them to meet the requirements of the National Senior Certificate.

APPRECIATION

Programme Directors,

At this point, allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to:

The African National Congress for entrusting me with the responsibility as the Executive Authority of such a big department. The massive support I get from the leadership in all its structures and its alliance partners to make sure that I succeed in carrying out this mammoth task is amazing.

A dedicated and hardworking team of men and women at all levels of the department led by the Acting Superintendent-General Dr SH Mvula for their dedication and hard work. Programme Directors, the pride of being part of this winning team is swelling in my heart.

All stakeholders including, but are not limited, business and mining houses, School Governing Bodies and their associations, South Africa Principals Association (SAPA), organised Labour Unions for their various forms of invaluable support.

Go bogosi jwa rona, boo bo rategang and ebile tlotlega, for your continued cooperation support, Baruti ba rona go re baya mo dithapelong.

Mokgatlho wa dingaka tsa setso wa Bokone-Bophirima – Thank you for the intercessions.

To my husband, Rre Kgotso Rainy Motsumi and my children, I am eternally thankful for your continuous support and sacrifices. In the same vein, I wish to appreciate my parents for their continued guidance. You remain my fountain of wisdom.

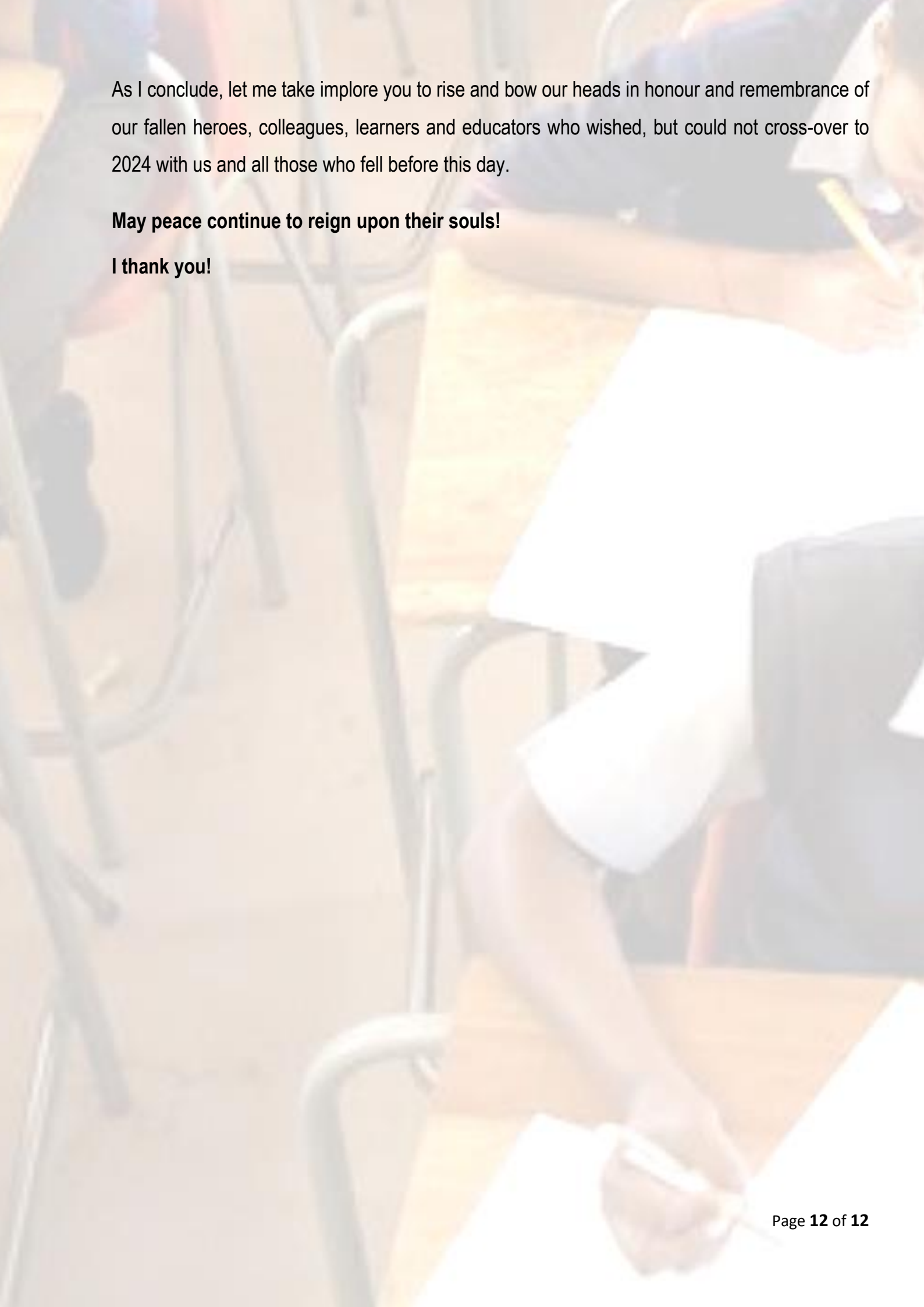
To the Class of 2023, teachers, principals, AAs, GAs and PYEI Assistants, the resilience you demonstrated against all odds make you remain a force to be reckoned with.

Honourable Premier, ladies and gentlemen, all was not smooth in our schools in 2023. Our communities are infested with service delivery protests, criminal elements and gangsterism, which unfortunately find manifestation in our schools and disrupt learning and teaching.

As the department, we cannot succeed in ensuring that schooling runs uninterrupted without the support and cooperation of our communities.

In this regard, last but not least, from the bottom of my heart, I wish to appreciate the communities of Jouberton and Kanana in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, in collaboration with the affected governing bodies, for their stalwart role in rescuing Are Fadimeheng and Nkang Mahlale and Mahlaleng Secondary Schools from the invasion of gangsters.

CONCLUSION



As I conclude, let me take implore you to rise and bow our heads in honour and remembrance of our fallen heroes, colleagues, learners and educators who wished, but could not cross-over to 2024 with us and all those who fell before this day.

May peace continue to reign upon their souls!

I thank you!