



LIMPOPO  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

The official Internal Newsletter  
of the Department of Education

**NEWS  
FLASH**

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## HONOURING ACHIEVEMENT: TWO-SESSION GRADUATION WITH LIMPOPO EDUCATION AND WATERBERG TVET

*By Hanedzani Mbedzi*

Limpopo Department of Education and Waterberg TVET College hosted a two-session graduation ceremony at The Ranch Hotel to honour 167 graduates who successfully completed courses developed to build a skilled, capable and empowered workforce for the future.

The ceremony served as a significant milestone and a public rite of passage, marking the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new one, often leading to new opportunities, better career and a greater sense of personal accomplishment.

The first session recognized 61 graduates in Early Childhood Development (ECD), while the second session celebrated 55 First Aid gradu-

ates, and 51 Basic Computer Skills graduates from all ten Education Districts across the province.

The ceremony was not only about academic achievement, it was also a testament to impact, transformation and resilience within communities. As part of Inclusive Education Month (Disability Month), several graduates living with disabilities walked away with multiple certificates, further demonstrating that disability is not a barrier to excellence.

Among the recipients was Tendani Esther Matumba from Nesengani Stimulation and Disability Centre, who proudly obtained three certificates. She expressed heartfelt appreciation to

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the Limpopo Department of Education and Waterberg TVET College for their collaboration and support. Matumba added that continued funding and bursaries would help many others like her to pursue further studies and have brighter opportunities.

“As an elderly woman living with a disability, I am overjoyed to graduate today among people much younger than me. I urge young people to prioritise education while they still can, because once you have it, no one can take it away. I am truly grateful to the Department for making this opportunity possible,” Matumba said.

Another inspiring graduate, Lebogang Derisee Msimango, encouraged people living with disabilities to rise above stigma and to believe in their abilities.

“Disability doesn’t determine your future. There are many opportunities out there, you can do anything that even a normal person can do. I am the only wheelchair bound graduating today. I earned myself certificates in ECD and Basic Computer Skills and I want to continue my studies toward a diploma.” said Msimango

Fridah Vosser, Acting Deputy Principal Academic at Waterberg TVET College, reaffirmed the college’s commitment to excellence and its role in

responding to national priorities. She noted that the Government of National Unity has outlined three key focus areas for the next five years, including reducing poverty and easing the cost of living. She also stated that Waterberg TVET College is contributing to the mission through competence-based programmes that equip students with practical and relevant skills.

Vosser emphasized that their Early Childhood Development programme prepares graduates not only academically but also emotionally and professionally, enabling them to play meaningful roles in early learning environments.

“Today’s ceremony stands as a testament to the college’s dedication to transforming lives and building a brighter future for South Africa. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Department for its support and bursaries.

To all Graduates, carry with you the passion, the skills and the confidence you have gained. The future begins with you,” concluded Vosser.

The graduation was more than a celebration of certificates, it was a celebration of courage, possibility and hope. The achievements of these graduates, especially those who overcame barriers of disability, is a reminder that education is a powerful weapon to conquer everything.







## MARKING PROCESS UNDERWAY TO ENSURE INTEGRITY AND QUALITY IN 2025 NSC

*By Katlego Mashula*

Limpopo Department of Education has once again demonstrated its commitment to upholding the integrity and quality of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations. A well-coordinated marking process is currently underway across the province to ensure that results are timeously announced.

To accommodate the large number of Grade 12 answer scripts, the province is utilizing former Model C schools, two universities, and three former colleges of education known as Centres for Professional Teacher Development (CPTD). In total, 23 marking centres have been established across the province to ensure that marking is conducted efficiently and under secure conditions.

According to examination regulations outlined in the Personnel Administrative Measures (PAM) document and Government Gazette No. 31137, dated 29 August 2008, only qualified teachers currently teaching the subject in the Further Education and Training (FET) band are eligible to mark Grade 12 scripts. Markers are classified according to rank, from entry-level markers to senior markers, deputy chief markers, chief markers, and internal moderators who are responsible for quality assurance throughout the process.

The province has adopted a staggered marking approach, which allows for marking to take place in two sessions due to the capacity of available marking centres. The first session commenced on 14 November 2025 and concluded on 26 November 2025, while the second session is scheduled to run from 28 November to 12 December 2025.

To maintain consistency and quality, national memorandum discussions are held before marking begins, with Limpopo's team of chief markers and internal moderators participating in these sessions. Upon their return, they conduct intensive training for all markers, who are required to practice on dummy scripts before handling actual examination papers. Only those who demonstrate full competence in applying marking standards continue with the process, while those who fall short are released from marking duties.

“Strict security measures have been put in place to safeguard the integrity of the process. Answer scripts are transported in secured, guarded vehicles to the designated marking centres, where they are stored in secure rooms monitored by armed security personnel around the clock. Each marking centre is under 24-hour surveillance, and access is strictly limited to authorized

personnel,” said Mphahlele Nhlashana Chief Director of Examination and Assessment.

Any irregularities detected during the marking process are immediately reported to the relevant structures and handled through established protocols, ensuring that transparency and accountability remain central to the process.

Through these comprehensive measures, the Limpopo Department of Education continues to prioritize fairness, reliability, and professionalism in the marking of the 2025 National Senior Certificate examinations, affirming its dedication to maintaining the credibility of the province’s education system.



**LETSEMA:**  
MEN, WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS  
WORKING TOGETHER TO END GBVF.

**16 DAYS**  
OF ACTIVISM FOR NO VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
25 NOVEMBER – 10 DECEMBER



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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DEPARTMENT OF  
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# DID YOU KNOW?

INTERESTING FACT

Inclusive Education (IE) is committed to transforming our education system to ensure that every learner, especially those facing barriers to learning and development can participate fully. Through this approach, the Department strives to build a truly inclusive system where all learners are supported to reach their potential.

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## THE DEPARTMENT MOURNS THE PASSING OF TWO STAFF MEMBERS

*By Conny Mabunda*

The Limpopo department of education mourns the passing of Ms Xihlamariso Baloyi and Mr Benedict Shandlale, whose passing have left a void within the sector, where both served with unwavering commitment.

To honour their legacy, a joint memorial service was held on 27 November 2025 at Nirvana Primary School in Polokwane. Colleagues, families and friends gathered in unity to celebrate two remarkable individuals whose compassion, professionalism and dedication touched countless lives.

The memorial service opened with a prayer led by Mr Awedzani Nemauckwe. Among the senior members who present were the HOD, CFO, the Acting Deputy Director General for Corporate and union representatives.

The CFO welcomed everyone and conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, while Mr Madubanya outlined the purpose of the gathering and paid tribute to the dedicated services of the departed.

Standing on behalf of the MEC, HOD Mr Maropene Seshibe thanked the large turnout for honouring the colleagues.

He encouraged attendees to find solace in knowing that the departed are with the Lord while he praised their commitment and impactful contributions to the department.

“We can already feel the gaps they have left, and the department is deeply saddened,” he concluded

As the Limpopo education community bows in remembrance, the reflection was on the immeasurable contributions both Ms Baloyi and Mr Shandlale leave behind.

They will be remembered not only for their work but also for the warmth, integrity and humility they brought to every space they served.

Ms Baloyi was laid to rest at Mphambho Village in Malamulele, while Mr Shandlale was laid to rest at Mohlava Headkraal in Tzaneen.



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# 2026 CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Public and School Holidays 2026	
01 January	New Year's Day
21 March	Human Rights Day
03 April	Good Friday
06 April	Family Day
27 April	Freedom Day
01 May	Workers' Day
15 June	Special School Holiday
16 June	Youth Day
09 August	National Women's Day
10 August	Public Holiday
24 September	Heritage Day
16 December	Day of Reconciliation
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Day of Goodwill

April 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				01	02	
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

	Weekends
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	School days
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	Special school holidays
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	Days for administration
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	Public holidays
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	School holidays
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Term	Duration	No. of weeks	No. of days	No. of public holidays	Actual no. of school days
1	(12) 14 January – 27 March	11	53 (55)	0	53 (55)
2	08 April – 26 June	12	58	3+1	54
3	21 July – 23 September	10	47	1	46
4	06 October – 09 (11) December	10	47 (49)	0	47(49)
<b>Total</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>205 (209)</b>	<b>4+1</b>	<b>200 (204)</b>