

Official Address by the Honourable MEC for Education, Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, on the Occasion of the 2025 National Senior Certificate Provincial Results Announcement

Programme Director, Mr. Shonisani Muleya (Ashifashaba)

The Honourable Premier, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba

Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Hon. Dr Makoma Makhurupetje.

Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela.

My colleagues in the EXCO, Honourable MECs

Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana,

The Chairperson of the Education Portfolio Committee, Hon. Nkakareng Rakgoale,

Chairpersons of other Portfolios,

Honourable Members of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature,

Director General, Mr. Nape Nchabeleng,

Executive Mayors and Mayors Present together with the PMT's,

Leaders of various political organisations,

The Provincial Secretary of the ANC, Musanda Reuben Madadzhe,

Acting Queen Manyaku Thulare and Queen Masalanabo Modjadji,

Our esteemed Royal Leadership, led by the Provincial Chairperson of the House, Hosi Peni Ngove,

SABC's Head of Public Service Broadcasting Stations - Siphelele Sixaso,

Religious Leaders –

The Right Rev Bishop Lekganyane ZCC,

Bishop Joseph Lekganyane – ZCC St Engenas,

Roman Catholic – Bishop Jeremiah Masela,

United African Apostolic Church – Bishop Mureri,

SACC – Bishop Naledzani Sikhwari and other Pastors present,

Sector Unions,

SGB and Civic Associations,

South African National Association for Special Education (SANASE),

Leadership of COSATU,

Congress of South African Students (COSAS),

South African Council of Educators (SACE),

Head of the Department, Mr. Maropeng Seshibe,

Heads of Limpopo Provincial Departments,

Parents and Guardians,

Our Sponsors and Education Partners,

Special Guests,

Members of the Media,

The most important guests, our shining stars, the Matric class of 2025,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Ndi Matsheloni,

Thobela,

Avuxeni,

Good morning,

Today, we gather not merely to announce results but to celebrate a decisive step forward in the history of our beloved province. ***Mutshaeli wa Donngi ha fheli Mbilu, Muchayeri wa timbhongholo a nga heli mbilu, Motshaedi was dipokolo ga a fele pelo***, a common Proverb across our African languages that teaches us resilience and determination. Despite setbacks and challenges, we shall never surrender, for we shall guide our children toward a brighter future.

Today, we proclaim with one voice and unshakeable pride, Limpopo is marching forward with purpose! I stand before you to announce that the Class of 2025 has achieved an **Improved National Senior Certificate** pass rate of 86.15 per cent, surpassing our previous performance. This marked a commendable one-percentage-point increase from the 85.01 percent of the previous year.

This 86.15 percent is a powerful symbol of our consistent progress. It represents thousands of personal victories and a bright future full of possibilities. From a pass rate of 79.54 percent in 2023, to 85.01% percent last year, our journey has been one of steady and determined ascent. Today, we have taken another firm step forward, proving that our collective commitment to education is yielding solid, sustainable results. This commendable achievement is the direct result of a province-wide effort. This 86.15 percent is a monument built by an entire province.

To the Matriculants of 2025: You are the heroes of this story. You built upon the foundation laid by those before you and drove our province to new heights. Your dedication is reflected in the "Early Birds" initiative for the Class of 2026, where learners and communities began preparing early—a culture of diligence you have helped to strengthen. You have carried the hopes of your families and fulfilled them. This is your triumph.

To the Educators and School Management: You are the steadfast architects of this success. Your skill and unwavering dedication in classrooms across our province form the bedrock of this consistent improvement. We have focused on recruiting quality teachers, and your work validates that mission. We thank you.

To the Parents and Guardians: You are the foundation. Your support and sacrifices have provided a stable platform from which your children can succeed. You partnered with us in understanding that education is a societal matter, and today, you share in this reward. Your unwavering support for our school camps has contributed significantly to our continued success. We have seen your commitment to organising, funding, and safeguarding our learners in the camps.

To Our Leadership and Partners: My sincere gratitude to Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba for her leadership and to the departmental officials. Our strategy has been clear, collaboration over conflict. As our Premier rightly stated, achieving our goals requires us to "work hand in glove together". Today's result is proof that this philosophy works.

While we celebrate, our work continues. Achieving 86.15 percent is a meaningful milestone, but consolidating and building upon this gain is our immediate focus. We must now intensify our work to ensure more learners achieve quality results, Bachelor's and Diploma passes that open doors to further study and the development of critical skills. The work for 2026 is already underway. I am confident the next cohort will build upon this legacy. Our commitment is to support them with continued dedication, refined strategies, and the same unwavering belief in their potential.

People of Limpopo, today we celebrate tangible progress. We are methodically rewriting our story, demonstrating that with sustained effort, improvement is inevitable. We have redefined the old 'last' tag. This is being challenged by the most powerful tool we have, the demonstrable, growing success of our children.

To the Class of 2025, you have made us proud. You have upheld the standard and lifted it higher. Go forth and conquer the following chapters of your lives. You carry with you the knowledge that you are contributors to Limpopo's rising story, a story of perseverance, partnership, and steady, undeniable progress.

Premier, we set a target to be in the top 5 by 2025; however, despite the improvement, we were unable to achieve it due to healthy competition among the provinces. We are celebrating the province's upward mobility, and our goal remains the same. We will not give up until we ascend and are counted among the top 5 performing provinces. With the 1 percent improvement, I maintain that we are a Province on the rise.

While we celebrate our collective progress, it is right to honour those who have excelled extraordinarily. This is the moment we have all been waiting for.

Programme Director, please allow me to invite the Mayor of Mogalakwena, Cllr Ngoako Taueatsoala, the HoD of the Department of Education, Mr Maropene Seshibe, and the Director General, Nape Nchabeleng, to the stage to present the Top 3 District Awards.

1. Top 3 Districts

Position	Wrote	%Pass	District
3	9 695	87.8	Mopani West
2	8 785	87,9	Capricorn North
1	5 197	90,9	Mogalakwena

Once again, Congratulations to District Director Mr. Ndo Mangala and the team from Mogalakwena for clinching it two years in a row.

The performance of the remaining Districts, in the order of their 2025 performance, is as follows:

Position 4 Vhembe West at 86.9%.

Position 5 is Sekhukhune East at 86.7%.

Position 6 is Vhembe East at 85.9%.

Position 7 Mopani East at 85,1%.

Position 8 Capricorn South at 85.0%

Position 9 is Sekhukhune South at 83.7%

Position 10 is Waterberg at 82,7%.

The most notable issue is that all Districts are performing above 80%, which has been maintained for two years in a row in the Province.

2. Most Improved District

Let me invite onto the stage the Chairperson of SCOPA, Hon. Esther Mokwele; the Chairperson of the Education Portfolio Committee, Hon. Nkakareng Rakgoale; and the Mayor of Collins Chabane Municipality, Cllr Gezani Maluleke, to present the Most Improved District.

The District we are recognising improved its performance by 12.0% between 2023 and 2025. In 2023, they achieved a pass rate of 74.7%, followed by 84.0% in 2024. In 2025, the District reached a pass rate of 86.7%. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome on stage for the second consecutive time, Acting District Director, Dr. J.F. Malatjie, for Sekhukhune East District.

3. Top 3 Circuits

Position	Bachelors	District	Circuit
3	759	Vhembe East	Malamulele Central Circuit
2	874	Capricorn South	Mankweng Circuit
1	1 627	Capricorn South	Pietersburg Circuit

In this category, it is for the third consecutive time that Capricorn South and Vhembe East have stamped their authority over this award.

4. Most Improved Circuit

Allow me to invite onto the stage the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Mr Kgabo Mohoai; the MEC for Sports Arts and Culture, Funani Jerry Maseko; and the Mayor of Thabazimbi Cllr. Tumisang Pilane.

This Circuit improved its performance by 19.9%. The Circuit attained 74.4% in 2023, 89.5% in 2024, and 94.3% in 2025. From Sekhukhune East District, Ladies and Gentlemen, put your hands together for Mr. Makotanyane S.S., Circuit Manager for Bogwasha Circuit.

5. Best Performing Independent School

Ladies and gentlemen, in this school, 371 candidates sat for exams, and 231 achieved bachelor passes. From Vhembe East District, in Malamulele Central Circuit, the school is New Era College.

6. Best Performing Public Special School

Honourable Premier, all 16 candidates who sat for exams at this school passed, with 15 attaining bachelor passes. The school is located in Vhembe West District, Elim Circuit, and is none other than Rivoni School for the Blind.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in welcoming MEC for DTCS, Hon Susana Violet Mathye, MEC for Public Works, Mr Sebataolo Ernest Tony

Rachoene; and Mayor Makhado, Cllr Dorcus Mboyi to the stage for the following category.

7. Top 3 Public Ordinary Schools

Honourable MECs, the three best performing public ordinary schools are:

Position	Wrote	Bachelors	District	Circuit	School
3	246	218	Mopani West	Tzaneen	Merensky High
2	412	219	Vhembe West	Nzhelele East	Dzata Secondary
1	492	248	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary

I am now inviting the Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality, Cllr John Mpe; the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District, Cllr Minah Bahula; and Mayor Molemolle, Cllr Paya, to come forward and assist me with the two awards.

8. Top Three Mathematics Club 100 – Public Schools

Ladies and gentlemen, the schools that have performed according to the set criteria are:

Position	Achieved 50% and above	District	Circuit	School Name
2	106	Capricorn North	Bochum East	Dendron Secondary
1	128	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary

Ladies and gentlemen, only two schools met the set criteria; therefore, there is no third-place awardee.

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

Three awardees were lined up for this category; however, only one school qualified for the award. Congratulations to the school.

Position	50% and above in Mathematics	50% and above in Physical Sciences	Total Candidates	District	Circuit	School Name
1	128	163	291	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary

It is my honour to call the MEC for LEDET, Vho Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe and Mayor Thulamela Cllr Sarah Rambuda to present the following.

10. Top Three Life Sciences Club 100 in Public Schools award.

In this category, the top three Club 100 Schools in Life Sciences are recognised:

Position	Achieved 50% and above	District	Circuit	Centre Name
3	170	Vhembe East	Tshinane	Tshivhase Secondary
2	172	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary
1	203	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary

Worth noting is that, in 2025, this category is monopolised by one District: Vhembe East District.

For the next category, I invite onto the stage the Executive Mayor of Vhembe District, Cllr Fridah Nkondo; the Executive Mayor of Waterberg District, Cllr Jack Maeko; and the Mayor of Lepelle Nkumpi, Cllr Merriam Molale.

11. Top Performing Teachers in Gateway and/or Selected Subjects. The teachers to be recognised in this category for outstanding performance are:

Total candidates achieving 70% and above	Subject	District	Circuit	School	Names of Teachers
57	Accounting	Capricorn North	Bochum East	Dendron Secondary	Molepo MJ Madibana MC Seshibe MG
53	Business Studies	Capricorn South	Pietersburg	Taxila Combined Secondary	Mashalane KD
84	Geography	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary	Tshivhalavhala Pfarelo Rachilomela Reneth.

Top Performing Teachers in Gateway and/or Selected Subjects. The teachers to be recognised in this category for outstanding CONTINUES--

As we continue in this category, I invite onto the stage the MEC for Health, Hon Dieketseng Mashigo; MEC for COGHSTA, Hon Basikopo Makamu; and the Mayor of Maruleng, Cllr Tsheko Musolwa.

Total candidates achieving 70% and above	Subject	District	Circuit	School	Names of Teachers
78	Life Sciences	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary	Munyai NK Mutshaeni

Total candidates achieving 70% and above	Subject	District	Circuit	School	Names of Teachers
					TS Kwinda M Netshitanda ni T
61	Mathematical Literacy	Capricorn South	Pietersburg	HoërSkool Pietersburg	Hageman Rita Vermaak Corstiaan
63	Physical Sciences	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary	Kurien A Munjoma S Phillip S Tshikumbana M

12. Top performing candidates in gateway and selected subjects

I am now inviting to the stage Bishop Naledzani Sikhwari, Hosi Penny Ngove, Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders and Acting Queen Manyaku Thulare

Subject	Mark	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Computer Applications Technology	291	Capricorn South	Pietersburg	Hoërskool Pietersburg	Male	Reynecke Christiaan Johannes
Economics	297	Mopani East	Klein Letaba	Gawula High	Male	Mahlaule Botlhare Frans
Engineering Graphics and Design	288	Sekhukhune East	Bogwasha	Mogale wa Bagale	Male	Moime JASON

Top performing candidates in gateway and selected subjects CONTINUE ----

I am now inviting to the stage Mayor Epraim Mogale Cllr Given Moimana, and Mayor Musina, Cllr Godfrey Mawela.

Subject	Mark	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
History	268	Capricorn South	Mankweng	Ramoshobohle High	Female	Letsoalo Kgaugelo Thalitha
Information Technology	296	Capricorn South	Pietersburg	Capricorn High	Male	Mankge Mankhedi Moagi
Life Sciences	298	Vhembe East	Mvudi	Thohoyandou Secondary	Male	Munyai Maduvha Steven

Top performing candidates in gateway and selected subjects CONTINUE ---

I am now inviting to the stage the Mayor of Greater Tzaneen, Cllr Gerson Molapisane, the Mayor of Blouberg Municipality Cllr. Mariah Thamaga and the Mayor of Bela Bela, Cllr Gloria Seleka

Subject	Mark	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Mathematical Literacy	288	Vhembe West	Elim	Waterval High	Male	Mobale Phindulo Lennox
Mathematics	295	Vhembe West	Soutpansberg East	Jonathan Thifhulufhelwi	Male	Machaba Ndamulelo Joy
Agricultural Sciences	283	Mopani West	Tzaneen	Merensky High	Female	Beukes Christene
Physical Sciences	293					

I now invite onto the stage the Executive Mayor of Mopani District, Cllr Pule Shayi, and the Executive Mayor of Capricorn District, Cllr Mamedupi Teffo and Mayor Makhuduthamakga, Cllr Merah Mahlase, to assist me with the following two awards.

13. 300/300 Performing candidates in one Gateway or Selected Subject

Subject	Mark	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Accounting	300	Vhembe East	Dzindi	Khwevha Commercial	Female	Ramovha Mutshidzi Audrey
Geography	300	Waterberg	Palala South	Matshwara High	Male	Motshegoa Amogelang Jacob
Business Studies	300	Vhembe West	Lwamondo	Lwamondo High	Female	Ndou Matamela Pearl

Top Performing candidates in gateway and selected subjects CONTINUE ---

I am now inviting to the stage, Mayor Elias Motsoaledi, Cllr Magetle Tladi, Mayor Ba Phalaborwa Cllr Merriam Malatjie and Mayor Lephallale Cllr Aaron Mokgetle

Subject	Mark	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Business Studies	300	Sekhukhune South	Rakgwadi	Ngwanamashile	Female	Gadebe Amogelang
Business Studies	300	Mopani East	Klein Letaba	Gawula High	Male	Mahlaole Bothare Frans
Business Studies	300	Vhembe West	Soutpansberg East	Makhado Comprehensive	Male	Radzilani Ndivho Blessing
Business Studies	300	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary	Female	Makhuvha Gundo Ndiene
Business Studies	300	Vhembe East	Mvudi	Liivha Combined	Female	Mawelewele Phophi

Let me call on stage the Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Honourable Tebogo Mamorobela and SABC Head of Public Service Broadcasting for all African Languages, Mr. Sipehelele Sixaso to assist with the following award.

14. Provincial Ambassadors to National Awards

Ladies and Gentlemen, just yesterday the Minister of Basic Education conducted the awards for the best performers nationally. Nine Provincial ambassadors represented Limpopo. These national awardees are:

District	Circuit	School	Award	Position	Name of Candidate
Vhembe East	Mvudi	Thohoyandou Secondary	Overall Performance in Quintile 4	3	Munyai Maduvha Steven
Capricorn North	Maleboho Central	Sekeleka Secondary	Overall Performance in Quintile 3	3	Seota Thabo
Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary	Overall Performance in Quintile 3	2	Fhedzisani Ndivhuweni Rodney
Vhembe East	Mvudi	Tshikevha Christian School	Top Learner in Physical Sciences	2	Nwafor Arinze Anthony
Sekhukhune East	Tubatse	Leolo High	Top Learner in Technical Sciences	2	Mathake Thabo

District	Circuit	School	Award	Position	Name of Candidate
Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe High	Top Learner in Accounting Quintiles 1, 2 and 3	2	Fhedzisani Ndivhuweni Rodney
Vhembe East	Dzindi	Khwevha Commercial	Top Learner in Accounting from Quintiles 1, 2 and 3	1	Ramovha Mutshidzi Audrey
Vhembe West	Elim	Rivoni School for the Blind	Learners with Special Education Needs	3	Mokonyane Tebatso Isaac
Capricorn South	Maraba	Setotolwane Secondary	Learners with Special Education Needs	2	Ntjakata Mpho Doris

15. Top Three Candidates in Independent Schools

Allow me to invite on stage the Mayor of Greater Giyani Cllr Thandi Zitha and the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Honourable Nakedi Kekana to handover the awards to our top achievers.

Position 3:

Total Marks Obtained: 1 624

District: Mopani West

Circuit :Nkowankowa

School: St. George College

Gender: Female

Candidate: Shiluvana Musa Cate

Position 2:

Total Marks Obtained: 1 631

District: Vhembe East

Circuit : Mvudi

School: Tshikevha Christian School

Gender: Male

Candidate: Mulaudzi Udivhazwothe Jehoshaphat

Position 1:

Total Marks Obtained: 1 695

District: Vhembe East

Circuit :Mvudi

School: Tshikevha Christian School

Gender: Male

Candidate: Nwafor Arinze Anthony

Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Hon Makoma Makhurupetja; and Acting Mayor for Modimolle-Mookgophong, Cllr Anna Mboweni, may you please join me on stage for the following category.

16. Top Three Candidates in Public Special Schools

Position 3:

Total Marks Obtained: 1 360

District: Capricorn South

Circuit: Maraba

School: Setotolwane Secondary

Gender: Male

Candidate: Mmakola Kgethego

Position 2:

Total Marks Obtained: 1 443

District: Vhembe West

Circuit: Elim

School: Rivoni School for the Blind

Gender: Male

Candidate: Mokonyane Tebatso Isaac

Position 1:

Total Marks Obtained: 1 484

District: Capricorn South

Circuit: Maraba

School: Setotolwane Secondary

Gender: Female

Candidate: Ntjakata Mpho Doris

I now have the honour to invite the Premier of the Province, Hon. Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, Bishop Dr. Barnabas Lekganyane, and Bishop Joseph Lekganyane to come forward and congratulate the top three candidates in the Province.

17. Top Three Candidates in Public Ordinary Schools

Distinguished guests, this year we do not have position three because we have a tie in position 2

Position 2:

District: Vhembe East

Circuit: Tshilamba

School: Thengwe Secondary

Gender: Male

Candidate: Fhedzisani Ndivhuweni Rodney

Position 2:

District: Mopani West

Circuit: Tzaneen

School: Merensky High

Gender: Female

Candidate: Beukes Christene

Ladies and gentlemen, I now have the honour of presenting to you the foremost luminary of the Province, as we observe the guard of honour. I kindly ask everyone in the hall to stand and give a hearty round of applause to the crème de la crème. This is a young gentleman with a very promising future.

Position 1:

Total Marks Obtained: 1 698

District: Vhembe East

Circuit :Mvudi

School: Thohoyandou Secondary

Gender: Male

Candidate: Munyai Maduvha Steven

18. MEC Special Award

The 2025 MEC special award goes to an exceptional and dedicated educator who transformed a chronically underperforming school. Upon his arrival in March 2021, he revitalized a school with a decaying morale and a performance history of 44%–59% between 2017 and 2020 into an academic standout. Under his guidance, the school achieved remarkable results, including a Circuit second place with a 98.6% average in 2024.

His dedication has cultivated a lasting culture of excellence, significantly increasing learner enrollment from 525 to 1,004 and educator numbers from 15 to 30 between 2021 and 2025. The school's renewed reputation has sparked unprecedented demand, evidenced by 314 Grade 8 admissions for 2026, a clear indicator of community trust and institutional turnaround. He is the exemplary candidate for the Special Award today. I present to you the Principal of Mark Shope Secondary School, Mr. Mzamani Samuel Baloyi.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Honoured Guests, and most especially, our brilliant Class of 2025,

As we draw this celebratory gathering to a close, let us hold firmly in our hearts the significance of today. We came here not merely to review numbers, but to honour a profound collective victory. A testament to what our beloved Limpopo can achieve when we unite with purpose and unwavering belief.

Today, we have seen evidence of our ascent. An 86.15% pass rate is more than a statistic; it is a loud declaration that our province is on the rise. It is a story written by the relentless dedication of our learners, the skilled guidance of our

educators, the steadfast support of our parents, and the committed partnership of our leaders and community. From the top-performing districts to every learner who overcame personal challenges to pass, you have all contributed to rewriting Limpopo's narrative.

Let the proverb that opened our ceremony resonate once more: "Mutshaeli wa Donngi ha fheli Mbilu...". We have not lost heart. Together, we have pounded away at obstacles, and today we reap the harvest.

To our 2025 matriculants: you are now the ambassadors of this success. As you step into the world, remember that you carry the resilience and brilliance of Limpopo with you. You have set a new standard; now go forth and build. Our journey does not end here. While we celebrate, our vision remains fixed forward, on quality, on access, on excellence. The quest for a place among the top five performing provinces continues with renewed vigour. The work for the Class of 2026 has already begun.

Thank you to every person, every partner, every leader who has played a part. Let us leave here today with our heads held high, our spirits lifted, and our resolve strengthened.

Together, we are Limpopo. Together, we are rising. Congratulations once again.

Thank you!