



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DCS MEDIA STATEMENT

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For Immediate Release

INMATES READY FOR THE 2019 MATRIC EXAMS

This is an exciting period for the matriculants behind bars as they have pronounced to be more than ready to commence with the 2019 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations. The Department of Correctional Services (DCS) is satisfied with the level of preparations, and has given necessary support to inmates in order to achieve best results possible.

A total of 183 inmates from 13 schools will get off to a full start of the NSC examination on Wednesday, 16 October 2019 and run until 28 November 2019. The Department is ready for a well-managed examination with no irregularities, as it has been the trend over the years.

Working together with the Department of Basic Education has not only assisted Correctional Services to increase the number of schools behind bars, but has positioned formal education as a programme of choice for inmates, especially the youth. DCS is thus confident of a performance that will surpass the 77.3 percent pass achieved in 2018.

As we will soon embark on the writing of examinations, DCS has tested its system in terms of providing a safe and secure environment for examination. The 183 inmates writing are housed separately from the general inmate population in order to ensure a zero disturbance for the entire duration of the NSC examinations. All schools have long completed their syllabi and currently wrapping up revision work with the assistance of educators.

The winter school programme has also been one of the best working mechanisms in preparing inmates for the final examination. Subject specialists on Mathematics, Accounting, Physical Science and other disciplines utilise this platform to sharpen inmates with valuable knowledge that empowers them to get ready, and in the process boost their confidence.

Formal Education in Correctional Services does not only respond to rehabilitation needs of inmates, but it is also viewed as a tool that can radically transform our society and advance the development of the country. Thus it remains as a priority for the Department due to its capacity to lift people out of poverty.

The National Commissioner of Correctional Services, Arthur Fraser stressed that education is strategically aimed at eliminating illiteracy, under qualifications as well as the absence of critical technical skills, which are a key requirement for one to either source employment or be self-employed.

"I wish all inmates the best of luck and I am confident that a 100 percent pass is achievable," said Fraser.

Ends.

Issued by the Department of Correctional Services

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