



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Vote of Thanks Delivered by

Deputy Minister of Correctional Services,

Nkosi Phathekile Holomisa (Ah! Dilizintaba) MP, on the Occasion of the

Release of 2019 Inmate Matric Results

Tswelopele Correctional Centre, Kimberley Management Area, Free State/Northern
Cape Region, on
9 January 2020

Programme Directors, Mr Gustav Wilson and Ms Tshegetsang Govindasamy,
Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Ronald Ozzy Lamola,
Member of the Executive Council for Basic Education, Mr Jack,
Acting National Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Mandla Mkabela,
Acting Director-General of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Skhosana,
Senior Management of Correctional Services and other sister Departments,
Correctional Services Officials,
Our Partners in our work to rehabilitate our inmates,
Inmate Grade 12 Class of 2019 and Parents, Relatives and Friends,
Esteemed Guests,

Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good day!

It is truly a matter of delight to be called upon to thank all of you for your presence, contribution and participation in this Offender Grade 12 Awards Ceremony, held to honour the inmates who passed the matric examinations in the 2019 academic year. This is part of the DCS programme aimed at strengthening the enjoyment of the freedoms and rights enshrined in our Constitution.

Building on the achievements we made since the dawn of our democracy, it is worth emphasising that this government is continuously seeking to ensure a progressive realisation of universal schooling, improving quality in education and eliminating disparities.

As the Greek Philosopher, Aristotle, puts it “Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity”. Every society needs this ornament and refuge. It is in this regard that each and every person in society must be a stakeholder in education, whose actions should support the protection and promotion of teaching and learning at all times.

The South African correctional system, as an integral part of the country’s criminal justice system, requires an effective, integrated justice system to ensure efficient service delivery on the core mandate of the Department of Correctional Services.

The enforcement of court sentences alone is not enough to ensure an attitudinal, cognitive and behavioural change on the part of offenders. Today’s announcement confirms yet again the commitment of Correctional Services to advance the values of education. It says to us it is not enough simply to have access to education, but that the

provision must be excellent too. We need to ensure that it is not just access to education we offer to inmates, but access to quality education.

This event presents us with an important opportunity to see for ourselves the impact of our interventions and current correctional practices pertaining to the rehabilitation of inmates in South Africa. We must put forward a formidable and invigorating corrections and justice system for all.

Looking at this day, it gives us a real testimony that our inmates have courageously battled all the wars and managed to sit for their exams in an environment that some may not deem to be ideal for learning. There can be no doubt that high quality teaching is essential to improving inmates' outcomes. Excellent leadership is also key because it boosts performance and functionality in our centres. That is why getting great officials and leaders where they are most needed is our absolute priority in order to reengineer corrections as the real centres of new beginnings.

In conclusion, as the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services, we would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every person who contributed to the success of the 2019 offender Grade 12 examinations. Particular mention must be made of Correctional Services management, as well as educators and correctional officials, at Correctional Centres, Management Areas, Regional Offices and Head Office.

The Department of Basic Education, and all other stakeholders and partners, must also be commended. Mr Jack, the Northern Cape MEC for Education, gave an inspiring message of support, showing neither jealousy nor envy for beating his Province in terms of the acquisition of better results than they did. Thank you, sir!

Mr Minister, where do we even begin to thank you for the insightful leadership you give to the Department of Correctional Services whenever you are with us. The clarity of thought and ideological understanding of the challenges of our times shines through in

your message of the day. We can only but pledge to give you all the support you need as the head of our house. Thank you, sir!

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the inmate Grade 12 class of 2019 who have been successful in their examinations, as well as their families and loved ones. We also want to convey special congratulations to those inmates who have excelled. You have made us proud, and we wish you the very best.

We will continue to give the necessary support to all our schools, with a special attention to those which are struggling to improve their performance.

Finally, in the words of President Cyril Ramaphosa: “Just as the strongest steel is forged in fire, just as diamonds are forged deep inside the earth’s crust under the most extreme pressure, let us turn adversity into opportunity”.

I THANK YOU.