



# correctional services

Department:  
Correctional Services  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## MEDIA STATEMENT

09 October 2026

### **268 Inmates Ready to Sit for the 2026 National Senior Certificate Examinations**

A total of 268 Grade 12 candidates in the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) are ready to commence with their 2026 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations, scheduled to start from 13 October and conclude on 26 November 2026. The 268 candidates are enrolled at 18 correctional services schools across the country.

The National Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Makgothi Samuel Thobakgale, wishes all candidates well as they prepare to write their final examinations. He encouraged them to remain focused and draw confidence from the effort they have invested in their studies. "The long hours of studying, attending classes, engaging with educators and collaborating with your fellow inmates will be rewarded through your results. Remain disciplined, believe in your abilities and give your best throughout the examination period," said Commissioner Thobakgale.

The National Commissioner noted a significant 56.7% increase in the number of inmate matriculants, from 171 in 2025 to 268 in 2026, reflecting continued progress in expanding access to education within correctional facilities. This growth reflects the Department's continued commitment to promoting formal education as a key component of rehabilitation and personal development. It also brings increased responsibility to ensure that candidates receive the necessary support to succeed.

Commissioner Thobakgale acknowledged the dedication of educators, school principals and officials who continue to create learning opportunities and support candidates in their educational journeys. "Your work makes a meaningful difference in the lives of those entrusted to our care. Continue the good work, knowing that your efforts are reflected in lives improved and transformed through education," he said.

The Department remains committed to providing the necessary academic support to prepare candidates for the examinations and equip them to pursue further studies at higher education institutions or explore other opportunities upon release.

In the 2025 NSC examinations, the Department achieved an overall pass rate of 94.4%. Correctional Services is looking forward to the announcement of the 2026 results in January 2027, highly optimistic of more correctional services schools securing a 100% pass. The NSC examinations are an important measure of the Department's efforts to advance rehabilitation through formal education. By providing incarcerated individuals with access to learning opportunities, DCS seeks to improve their prospects for further education, employment and successful reintegration into society.

Alongside formal education, the Department continues to prioritise vocational training and other rehabilitation programmes to equip offenders with practical skills and support their successful reintegration into society.

The Department of Correctional Services is fully prepared with all necessary arrangements in place to support the 268 inmate candidates throughout the examination period

**ENDS**

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