



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Minister Groenewald Announces Another High Pass Rate for the 2025 DCS Matric Results

The Minister of Correctional Services, Dr Pieter Groenewald, today announced the 2025 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results for learners in the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) at Goodwood Correctional Centre in the Western Cape.

A total of 180 inmates from 18 DCS schools across the country sat for the 2025 NSC examinations, joining thousands of other matriculants nationwide. Minister Groenewald described the announcement as one of the proudest moments for the Department and the country at large. He emphasised that rehabilitation remains a core mandate of the Department of Correctional Services, and that educational achievement plays a critical role in breaking cycles of crime and contributing to safer communities.

“We are here to celebrate resilience, discipline and educational excellence. These results affirm that rehabilitation through education is yielding positive outcomes and giving offenders a meaningful opportunity to rebuild their lives,” said Minister Groenewald. While welcoming the overall performance, the Minister noted a concerning trend of learners opting for Mathematical Literacy instead of Mathematics. He cautioned that the Department must continue to encourage learners to aim higher academically, as Mathematics remains a critical subject for broader career and educational opportunities.

DCS achieved a historic overall pass rate of 94,4% for the 2025 matric results, with 15 schools recording a 100% pass rate. In total, inmates achieved 132 distinctions. Usethubeni Youth School at Westville Correctional Centre in KwaZulu-Natal produced the highest number of distinctions with 58, followed closely by Baviaanspoort Youth School with 56 distinctions. The Minister further congratulated the KwaZulu-Natal Region for registering the highest number of learners and achieving the most Bachelor passes.

Top Performing Learners

Position 1: Nkosinathi Jabulani Gumede (85.5%)

Usethubeni Youth School, Durban Westville Correctional, KwaZulu-Natal

IsiZulu Home Language – 91%

English First Additional Language – 77%

Mathematical Literacy – 55%

Life Orientation – 94%

Business Studies – 95%

Geography – 87%

History – 93%

Tourism – 92%

Position 2: Jooste Tyrique (84.4)

Baviaanspoort Youth School, Gauteng (currently on parole)

English Home Language – 68%

Afrikaans First Additional Language – 90%

Mathematical Literacy – 84%

Life Orientation – 89%

Business Studies – 93%

Economics – 81%

Tourism – 86%

Minister Groenewald extended his appreciation to DCS educators, officials and management for their dedication and commitment to offender rehabilitation and public safety. He urged inmates to draw inspiration from former offender Mr Lubabalo Fongoqa, whose life journey stands as proof that transformation is possible.

“Do not allow incarceration to limit you or let these opportunities slip through your fingers. One day, we hope you will go out into society and make us proud,” said the Minister.

Mr Lubabalo Fongoqa, who served 18 years in correctional facilities after entering prison with only a Grade 9 qualification, encouraged learners to remain persistent in pursuing their dreams. He now holds an LLB degree from the University of South Africa (UNISA) and serves as the Director of Songo Legal Consultants, a motivational speaker, and Deputy Chairperson of the Black Lawyers Association (BLA) Student Chapter in the Western Cape.

He echoed the Minister’s message, reminding inmates that prison walls do not define or limit dreams and ambitions. While acknowledging the challenges and doubts he faced, Mr Fongoqa credited his success to perseverance and the educational opportunities provided by the Department of Correctional Services, which enabled him to turn his life around.

ENDS

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