



# correctional services

Department:  
Correctional Services  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## MEDIA STATEMENT

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20 October 2025

### **National Commissioner Thobakgale Wishes Matriculants Well for Their Final Examinations**

As the 2025 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations commence, the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) joins the nation in extending best wishes to all matriculants, including the 189 inmates across various correctional centres who will sit for their final exams this year.

National Commissioner, Mr. Makgothi Samuel Thobakgale, has applauded the educators and support staff who have worked tirelessly to prepare inmates for this defining moment. “Education not only empowers offenders with knowledge, but also paves the way for a second chance in life. At DCS, we remain steadfast in our belief that learning transforms lives and restores dignity,” said Commissioner Thobakgale.

The Department has confirmed its full readiness for the examinations. Inmates have completed their syllabus on schedule and participated in rigorous preparatory assessments throughout the year. Educators in DCS schools have gone above and beyond to ensure that every learner enters the examination room confident and well-prepared.

Formal education continues to be a cornerstone of rehabilitation and reintegration within the correctional system. Through its partnership with the Department of Basic Education, DCS has consistently achieved impressive academic results, often surpassing national averages. In 2024, thirteen (13) DCS schools achieved a 100% pass rate, a remarkable increase from nine schools in 2023. The Department is optimistic that the 2025 results will reflect continued progress.

DCS attributes these achievements to the dedicated educators, motivated learners, and a supportive environment that fosters discipline, focus, and growth. The Department also continues to uphold an impeccable record of incident-free NSC examinations, reflecting strict adherence to national assessment standards and unwavering professionalism among officials.

“To all our matriculants, both inside and outside correctional centres, you carry the hopes of your families and your communities. We believe in your potential and eagerly await to celebrate your success,” concluded Commissioner Thobakgale.

**ENDS**

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