

MEDIA STATEMENT

Issued by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Attention: Journalists and News Editors

Pretoria, 19 January 2024

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DWYPD IS COMMENDING THE YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WHO SET THE TONE HIGH DURING THE 2023 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION.

The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities wishes to congratulate the **five thousand, two hundred and eighty-eight** (5 288) learners with special education needs who wrote the 2023 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination. The NSC is the key to opportunities to develop and It is the basis on which you can build your future as It allows you to study at the university and college.

It is through dedication that the youth and persons with disabilities have given our country another generation of young people whose prospects in life have been greatly improved and whose achievement in basic education is undoing the harm done to generations of South Africans who were denied access to quality education because of apartheid.

Providing learners with special education needs access to quality basic education programmes is imperative, as enshrined in the constitution Constitutional social justice principles of equity, inclusivity and redress, among others. For the past few years, we have included learners with special education needs in tracking learner performance in the NSC examinations.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities gives all persons with disabilities the right to education. South Africa has ratified the CRPD without reservations and it is therefore bound by its provisions. “We strongly believe that an Inclusive Education system makes an immense contribution towards an inclusive economy and will change the lives of all South Africans”. said Minister Dlamini Zuma.

Speaking at the Release of 2023 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination Results, Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga stated that “**five thousand, two hundred and eighty-eight** (5 288) learners with special education needs wrote the 2023 NSC exams. **Four thousand, five hundred and eighty-one** (4 581) of them passed the exams.”

It is encouraging that some of the learners with special education needs choose to write the full complement of seven (7) subjects. To those candidates who sat for the 2023 NSC exams, and who did not do well, they must not despair, it is not the end of the road there are still more chances for them to do better.

ENDS

For Media-Related Queries:

Director Communication

Mr. Cassius Selala on cassius.selala@dwypd.gov.za or 060 534 06 72.

For Media Engagements with Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma:

Ms. Lorraine Shabangu on Lorraine.Shabangu@dwypd.gov.za / 066 080 6226

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