

EDUCATION - SECONDARY SCHOOL

1996

**WEDNESDAY**  
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## 'Apartheid a matric factor'

EDUCATION REPORTER

(52)

*CT 3/11/96*  
POOR matric exam results by many pupils were a reflection of years of apartheid education and not just one year of study, the assistant general secretary of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union, Mr Mxolisi Nkosi, said yesterday.

He said that matriculation was the end of a long process — from the formative years to secondary education — which was why apartheid still influenced pupils' marks.

Despite the successful integration of the education system, Mr Nkosi said, there had been no real change in the conditions of many pupils and teachers. Overcrowding, lack of resources and the threat of teacher retrenchments compounded a difficult situation.

He cited a lack of incentives for teachers, who endured poor salaries and conditions of service and a lack of recognition of performance, as factors in the high turnover of staff.

Mr Nkosi called for the education budget to be "reprioritised" in line with the Reconstruction and Development Programme. Funding for education should be equal for all provinces, he added.

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# Khayelitsha anger over matric results

CT 5/1/96

(52)

**CAROL CAMPBELL**  
EDUCATION REPORTER

MATRIC pupil Thulile Qhagana, 17, of Luhlaza High School in Khayelitsha, dreamt of one day becoming a mechanical engineer but he is one of 384 township pupils whose matric examinations appear to have gone horribly wrong.

He and his friends arrived at school on the day the results were released to find they had failed their best subjects and were marked absent for others they know they sat and wrote.

## Top student

"I was hoping for a C on the higher grade for physics but instead I was given an H on the standard grade — I don't know how this could have happened because I was the top student in my school," he said.

The sudden drop in marks of academically sound pupils or receiving no marks at all has affected 10 high schools in Khayelitsha and devastated pupils are desperately trying to find out whether they will have to go back to school next year or whether they should continue with plans to go to university or a technikon.

Yesterday the Khayelitsha Education Forum, a community group of teachers and parents, said there were alarming irregularities and discrepancies in the 1995 results.

The 384 students affected did

not have marks for Xhosa — their first language and a compulsory subject. There was an abnormally high failure rate in history and physics even among traditionally strong candidates.

At Masiyile High 112 students had results that were pending but they were told they had failed the year.

A number of students who sat and wrote exams were recorded as absent for some subjects and their overall results had been negatively affected.

Education forum spokesman Mr Sharif Pandor said that despite the anxiety the Western Cape Education Department appeared to be in no hurry to rectify the situation or to reassure students and their parents.

The forum was assuring pupils they were not alone in their predicament and was trying to get the department to act quickly on the matter.

He accused Western Cape Education Minister Mrs Martha Olickers of being elusive, inefficient and incompetent.

To rectify the situation he called for examiners to submit reports in the affected subjects and for the department to assist in finding a solution.

Last night a spokesman for the Western Cape Ministry of Education said the department was aware of the problem and would look into the matter with a view to commenting on the situation today.

## Schools needed for failed matric pupils

(52)  
Kevin O'Grady

BD 10/1/96

ALMOST two dozen new schools would have to be provided immediately if the Gauteng education department was to accommodate the 23 000 pupils who failed matric in the province last year, provincial education MEC Mary Metcalfe said yesterday.

This was just one of the problems the department faced as the new school year got under way today, she said.

The department had indicated that pupils' readmission would be determined by whether the schools to which they applied could accommodate them. Last year's Std 9s would be accommodated first and if space remained, pupils rewriting matric would be admitted. If no space could be found in schools, other possibilities such as rewriting in adult education centres should be explored, Metcalfe said.

The department would establish a task force immediately to consider how to accommodate the many young people unable to find space in schools.

It was expecting 180 000 grade one pupils to begin their school careers today. Several initiatives had been adopted to alleviate overcrowding. They included:

- Establishing container schools where temporary accommodation was

Continued on Page 2

## Schools (52)

BD 10/1/96

Continued from Page 1

needed while new schools were built. Plans were in place for such schools in Boipatong, Bekkersdal, KwaThema and Bronkhorstspuit;

- Putting 45 new building projects out to tender by the end of this month in the areas of greatest need. The new buildings represented a "massive commitment" from the department's 1996/97 budget and exceeded Gauteng's 4% share of the R1bn made available at national level for the school building backlog;

- Transforming underutilised primary schools into junior secondaries in Orlando West, Jabavu and Dube;

- Increasing the number of schools

choosing to become dual or parallel-medium schools, as had happened in Westonaria, Carletonville and Randfontein, where 13 formerly Afrikaans schools would begin the year as dual-medium institutions; and

- Ensuring schools allocated to other government departments because they were no longer needed by the former white education department were again used for educational use.

Department head James Maseko said action was being considered against about 50 private schools in Gauteng which were contravening provincial education regulations, uncovered in a blitz on "fly-by-night" schools late last year. Action against them could include withdrawal of their subsidies or registrations, he said.

Picture: Page 3

# Matrics: Thousands wait

*Sowetan 19/1/96*

Many matric pupils still awaiting their exam results are unable to plan their future (52)

**By Charity Bhengu and Khathu Mamalla**

**O**UTSTANDING matric results in some parts of the country have caused great anxiety among thousands of pupils whose careers have been put on hold until they know if they have passed or not.

Pupils throughout Mpumalanga, Gauteng and Northern Province are still sitting at home awaiting their results.

The provinces would yesterday not give the number of pupils affected by the delays, but sources said the figure in Gauteng was very high and the province's education department was not revealing it because of "embarrassment".

According to complaints received by *Sowetan* this week, most pupils still do not have their Tsonga, Sotho, English, Afrikaans or geography results.

In Mpumalanga alone, 40 schools have not received their results. A total of 340 results are still outstanding in 11 subjects which include physical science, English, Afrikaans, geography, oral marks and commercial maths.

Meanwhile, applications for admission to many universities and technicians in these regions close next week.

The Gauteng education department said yesterday results at some schools in Ateridgeville, West Rand and Benoni were still outstanding because the schools had sent in their oral marks late.

Spokesperson for the department Mr Prem

Govender said: "Only one percent of results with one or two subjects are outstanding in Gauteng."

He refused to commit himself to when all revised statements of symbols would be released. He said the department had appointed a team to attend to pupils' calls and was giving results on the telephone. Pupils, who had called at the office about their outstanding results this week, should expect their revised statement of symbols by next week.

Seventy pupils from Seetakitso High School in Kagiso on the West Rand said yesterday they wanted their results today so that they could decide whether to rewrite or go ahead with their careers.

Mpumalanga education department chief director Mr CM Mashaba said yesterday the outstanding results would be available today and would be sent to schools through the district and circuit offices.

Meanwhile, about 6 000 pupils who did not get all their results in Northern Province in December will know by today how they have performed in the examinations.

The results were due to be sent to their different regions throughout the province yesterday, an official attached to the examination section said. The delay in results was caused by several factors, including the outstanding oral marks and other answer sheets which had not been taken to the correct marking centres.

However, the final results will change the failure rate slightly as the province has recorded a failure rate of 61 percent.



## All for Bafana Bafana

More than R500 000 was raised by auction at Wednesday night's Good Luck Dinner for the South African national soccer team. In what is believed to be a local record price for sporting memorabilia, Corporate Africa bought this portrait, featuring President Nelson Mandela, for R235 000. In the picture are (from the left) squad captain Neil Tovey, Sefa president Solomon Mosewa, *Sowetan* Night Editor Mike Tlisoeng, Day Editor Mike Sliuma and Corporate Africa chief executive Jonty Sandler. See story on page 3 and more pictures on page 30 and 32.

**Only one percent of results with one or two subjects are outstanding in Gauteng**

Gauteng Education Department spokesman Mr Prem Govender

# Truth body starts KwaZulu inquiry

~~(22)~~ BD 26/1/96  
Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — The truth commission's reparations committee will begin its work on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast where 19 people were massacred in political violence on Christmas Day.

Hlengiwe Mkhize of the truth commission staff said yesterday the committee would meet organisations in Port Shepstone early next month to begin its work.

A mass attack by more than 600 armed men left 19 people dead in Shobashobane near Port Shepstone late last year, in an area that has been plagued by political violence for years.

Police commissioner George Fivaz announced earlier this week that there was clear evidence that some police officers were involved in the incident.

Mkhize said this first consultative meeting with community organisations on February 7 would be followed by others in other regions of the country.

The purpose of the meeting would be to draw on the experiences of various community organisations in drawing up recommendations on a policy for reparation and a strategy for rehabilitation, Mkhize said.

"The function of the reparation and rehabilitation committee is to make recommendations to the President on both urgent interim relief and long-term reparation for the victims of gross human rights violations."

# VAT on gambling plan raises k

Tim Cohen

CAPE TOWN — The Katz commission's recommendation that gambling be subject to VAT was met by a chorus of disapproval from provincial government representatives yesterday.

The representatives claimed that a potential investment of R20bn would not take place if the proposal was implemented.

At a hearing on the commission's report before the parliamentary finance committee, Scott Scherer, a representative of Las Vegas-based company International Game Technology, said should the proposed taxes be applied, a host of very successful casinos around the world would run at a loss.

Scherer said it was expected that 34 casinos would be created if the proposed legislation was implemented, which would create 40 000-60 000 jobs. If a 15% gambling tax was imposed on top of VAT, this investment would simply not take place, and many illegal casinos would continue to the detriment of the fiscus.

Sun International MD Peter Bacon said his company's calculations demonstrated the same results. VAT was normally applied to casinos' net win and not to their profit, which meant that direct expenditure, overheads and capital charges were not taken into account.

Sapa reports Bud Russell, former CEO of US-based International Game

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# Classification dispute as matric passes fall

Ingrid Salgado

THE pass rate for black matric pupils last year fell 10,5% to 43,4%, according to figures published by the SA Institute of Race Relations in its journal Fast Facts yesterday.

The figure compared with a pass rate of 55,25% for matric candidates of all races.

The institute said that Education

(52) BD 26/1/96  
Minister Sibusiso Bengu's claim that government had been able to "arrest the trend of decline in education" was contradicted by a deterioration in black pupils' results.

The institute said Bengu was unwilling to publish results broken down by race. However, the Central Statistical Service believes classification should be reintroduced to track the demise of race.

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# Plans to end high matric failure rate

52

*Sowetan 30/1/96*

JABU Sithole, of the former homeland of Lebowa, wrote matric in 1995 – and in 1994, 1993, 1992, 1991, 1990, 1989 and 1988. Sithole (not his real name) has failed eight times. The education system failed him.

His teachers were not able to teach him effectively when there were about 150 pupils in his class. The classroom was a clearing in the bush and every time it rained he had to run for cover and lessons stopped.

In Northern Province, 78 000 matric pupils failed last year, about a quarter of the country's total matric candidates. Three tried the exam unsuccessfully for the eighth time, seventeen for the seventh time and many more repeated year after year.

But this year will be different for the 78 000 matric candidates who failed in Northern Province.

Education MEC Dr Aaron Motsoaledi has planned finishing schools for repeat pupils and bridging courses for those who passed science-oriented subjects but did not gain an exemption.

He hopes this "operation catch-up" will reverse the cycle of deteriorating results. In 1995 only 38 percent of the 122 000 candidates passed matric and only seven percent achieved exemptions.

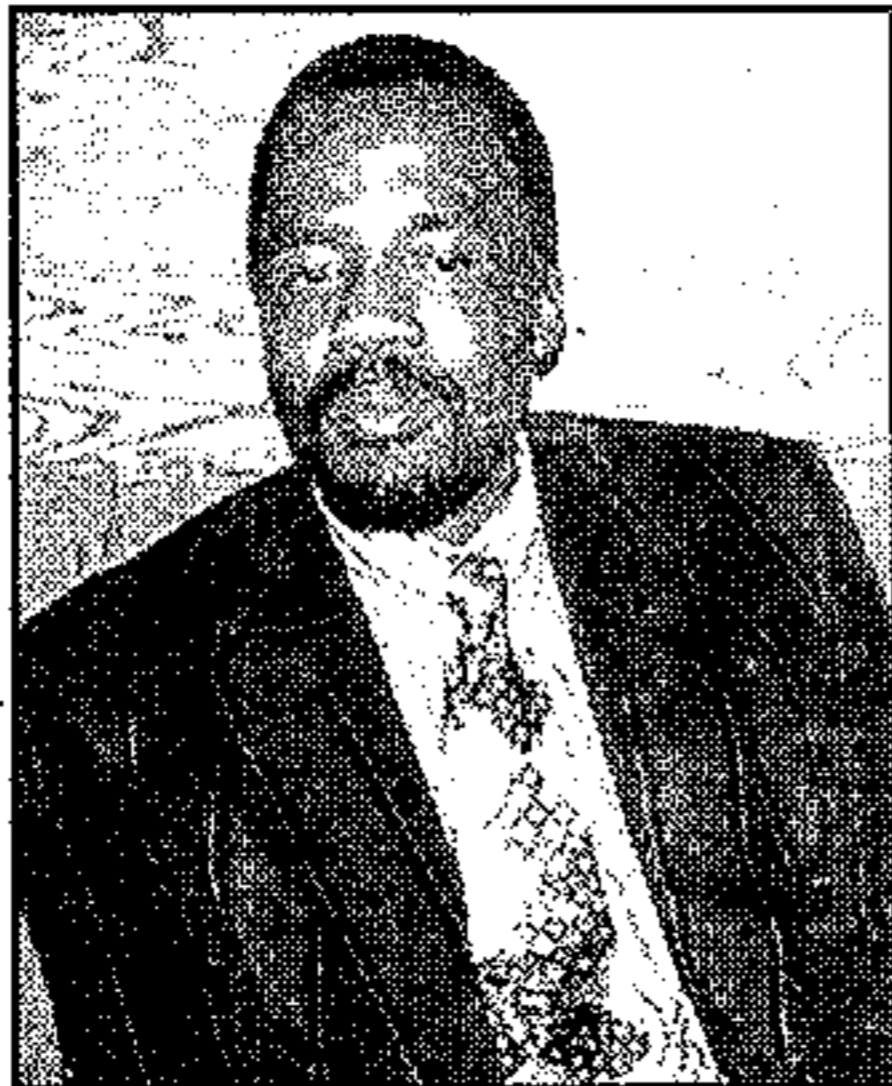
"I want to visit all the schools with a failure rate of over 70 percent and see what is happening there. Some schools have a 100 percent failure rate," he said.

Northern Province was officially declared an "education disaster area" two weeks ago after Deputy President Thabo Mbeki visited schools in the province.

"We need emergency measures and funds to be released soon. We can't wait till April to support the finishing schools," said education spokesman Mr Laduma Thembe.

"Their aim is to create a different environment with different conditions for matric candidates. We have problems with logistics but we are determined to do it."

Unsuccessful matrics must register at their old schools and will be referred to the nearest finishing school when it is established.



Northern Province MEC for education Dr Aaron Motsoaledi.

**It is important to help students pursue careers that the economy needs**

## Many buildings commandeered

Former parliamentary buildings of the three former homelands in Northern Province, church halls, tribal offices and other available buildings will be used for classes. The province has identified 183 centres which it can commandeer.

More difficult will be finding about 2 000 experienced teachers to coach the students. "We will employ special teachers on a contract basis even if they are retired. We want to use lecturers from teachers' colleges," Motsoaledi said.

The department will give schools which get good results additional resources as pupils flock to many rural schools that get positive results.

Pupils who passed subjects like science, mathematics, technology and commerce will have the opportunity to upgrade their results to prepare them for tertiary education.

The running costs will be financed by Reconstruction and Development Programme funds. Bridging courses will be given at teachers' colleges which will not be admitting first years as there are about 12 000 unemployed teachers in the province. From 1996 only students with matric exemptions will be admitted for teacher training.

## Shortage of science teachers

There is a shortage of science, maths and technology teachers but qualified teachers can only be employed after April because of budgetary constraints.

Most lecturers for the bridging courses will be drawn from college staff and posts have been advertised. The lecturers attended a workshop last week to prepare them for their new responsibilities.

"It is important to help students pursue careers that the economy needs," said Thembe.

# Shock black matric results findings

Star 1/2/96

(52)

An investigation into the weaknesses  
of current examination system  
could suggest radical changes

BY LEE-ANN ALFREDS  
Education Reporter

Last year's matric pass rate for African candidates was 10% lower than the previous year, contradicting Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu's claim that the decline in education had been arrested, the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) said this week.

The statistics, released for the first time in the SAIRR's February newsletter, show that only 43,3% of African pupils passed, measured against a 1994 pass rate of 48,5%.

## Response to increase in failures

This was three times the drop of the national pass rate, which decreased from 58% in 1994 to 55,25% last year. The national pass rate was buoyed by good results in the Indian, white and coloured schools, the SAIRR said.

Reacting to the SAIRR's claims, the Education Ministry yesterday promised far-reaching changes to the examination system.

When the results were released late last year, Bengu said analysis suggested "we have been able to arrest the trend of decline in education".

He warned that sustained stability was needed for three to four years before the changes could be felt.

A breakdown of the results according to race was not released, in line with a policy decision to

move away from the racial divisions that characterised the publication of matric results in the past.

While the SAIRR could provide no figures for the former white, coloured and Indian results, they must have performed as well as, or even better, than in 1994 to make up the national average of 55,25%.

The 1994 pass rate for white pupils was 97%, 88% for the former coloured category, and Indian pupils 93%, the SAIRR said.

Education Ministry spokesman Lincoln Maliwoud not confirm the statistics but revealed that a comprehensive investigation had been established last month to analyse the matric results in order to probe the weaknesses of the existing examination system.

He said the committee was being co-ordinated by the Committee of Heads of Education Departments in conjunction with the provinces.

The investigation would culminate in a workshop where plans to adjust the education and examination system would be formulated on the basis of the findings.

"If they tell us the situation in the Northern Province is unacceptable, we will pump more money into the province, or if there is evidence that we need to open up schools, we will do that. I do not want to pre-empt the findings, but if the report suggests it, we will obviously make major changes," Mali said.

Centre for Education Policy Development director Ahmed Esop declined comment on the results, but said it would be "false to expect improvements to be effected overnight".



# Poor black matric results could spark big changes

52

ARG 2/2/96

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. - Far-reaching changes to the examination system might be in the pipeline following last year's abysmal matric results which showed that only 43,4 percent of black pupils passed - a drop of about five percent on the 1994 pass rate.

This was three times the drop of the national pass rate which decreased from 58 percent in 1994 to 55,25 percent last year.

At the time, Education Minister Sibiso Bengu also said analysis of the results pointed "to the fact that we have been able to arrest the trend of decline in education".

He warned sustained stability was needed for three to four years before the changes could be felt.

A breakdown of the results by race was not released in line with a decision to move away from the racial divisions which characterised the publication of matric results in the past.

But in its February newsletter, the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) disclosed the pass rate for black matric candidates had been 43,4 percent, down from 48,5 percent in 1994.

Although the institute could not provide figures for the former white, coloured and Indian results, they must have performed as well as, or even better, than in 1994 to make up the national average of 55,25 percent.

The 1994 pass rate for pupils of the

former House of Assembly (white) was 97 percent, pupils in the ex-House of Representatives (coloured) 88 percent and pupils in the ex-House of Delegates (Indian) 93 percent, according to the SAIRR.

Education Ministry spokesman Lincoln Mali would not confirm the statistics.

But he did reveal that a comprehensive investigation had been started to analyse the matric results and to probe the weaknesses of the examination system.

Mr Mali said the committee had been established this month to "examine the entire examination process".

He said the committee was being co-ordinated by the Committee of Heads of Education Departments in conjunction with the provinces.

The probe would culminate in a workshop where plans to adjust the education and examination system would be made based on the findings.

"If they tell us the situation in the Northern Province is unacceptable, we will pump more money into the province or if there is evidence that we need to (concentrate on) opening up schools, we will do that. I do not want to pre-empt the findings, but if the report suggests it, we will obviously make major changes," he said.

Gauteng Education Minister Mary Metcalfe was unavailable for comment.

Centre for Education Policy Development director Ahmed Essop said although he could not comment on the

# Matric satellite project launch

(52)

EDUCATION WRITER

CT 27/2/96

A R6,5 MILLION adult-education campaign to teach matric via satellite television was launched at centres throughout the country yesterday.

The programme, called Power Matric, is being funded by the Sanlam insurance company as part of its social responsibility programme.

In the Western Cape, 31 learning centres have been set up in urban and rural areas to ensure accessibility.

Sanlam managing director Desmond Smith said adults without a matric qualification were struggling to make a living and could not afford the high cost of conventional tuition.

"Census figures show that over three-quarters of the South African adult population does not have a matric qualification," said Smith.

The Power Matric programme was an attempt to solve the problem by harnessing technology.

# Pupils and Metcalfe agree on code of conduct for high schools

By TROYE LUND

Gauteng student bodies and Education MEC Mary Metcalfe have committed themselves to a code of conduct for high school pupils.

The code, which provides disciplinary action for all misconduct and aims to reinstate a culture of learning in the province's 900 secondary schools, was released yesterday.

It was drawn up with Metcalfe at the request of the four student bodies represented in Gauteng's schools - the Congress of South African Students, the Pan African Students' Organisation, the Azanian Students' Movement and the South African Students of State Aided Schools.

They agreed that the code would be accepted by and bind-

ing on all students, and would provide solutions to transgressions, including guns in the classroom, sexual harassment and other "dominant hard-core attitudes currently destroying education opportunities".

While the state had a responsibility to transform education and address the crisis in many schools which were "barely functioning", Metcalfe stressed that their efforts had to be complemented by an acceptance of responsibility by students, teachers and parents.

Aside from facilitating learning and self-discipline, the code aims to clarify the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in the education process. It also provides a range of formal disciplinary measures and mechanisms for students, parents and

educators to air grievances.

Extensive attention is given to the general conduct of students, including criminal offences, vandalism and arriving late for class. Students' responsibilities, as

## **Pupils to debate new rules before binding themselves**

well as what they can expect from parents, guardians and educators, are clearly defined. The code emphasises mutual co-operation and understanding.

(52) Skar 7/3/96

Possible penalties and corrective measures range from affordable fines and community service to suspension and expulsion.

The code will be debated for the last time at a provincial workshop attended by Metcalfe, students, parents, teachers, and civic and political groups at the Johannesburg College of Education on March 24. A final draft will then be distributed to students in every school to debate, adjust and adopt.

Metcalfe and students rejected suggestions that the initiative was ambitious and that the code would be discarded, just as previous rules of conduct had been.

"Previous codes have been created by single student groups and were undermined by other groups. This document will be-

long to all students, especially because it is not to be enforced rigidly, but is to be adjusted and ratified by every individual in all schools," said Congress of South African Students provincial leader Sakhile Sibambo.

Metcalfe said: "This is more than a set of illogical, enforced rules; it is a code all students will debate and commit and therefore bind themselves to. Self-discipline is the crux and it is the only form of discipline that lasts. It is an exciting process."

Describing the process as one of the crucial steps in the process of achieving a comprehensive transformation in education, she admitted that while it would not solve everything at once, it would begin to solicit constructive responses from all involved.

# RDP to help past failures in matric

BD 8/3/96 (52)

**Mduduzi ka Harvey**

THE national RDP office has injected R24m into a scheme to help an estimated 6 000 youths in Gauteng who failed their matric under the old education system, or who had been unwilling or unable to attempt the examination, get a second chance.

The project applies to pupils who failed the examination between 1985 and last year, who passed a first language other than English.

Announcing the pilot project, sponsored jointly by the Gauteng education and training department and the RDP, at the recently established Gauteng Youth College yesterday, provincial education MEC Mary Metcalfe said the programme would be a bridge for those the previous education system failed.

The programme would aim also at bridging the gap between education and training by the previous education departments, and change the focus from unemployment to self-employment, Metcalfe said.

College director Piet Manota said there were 130 000 pupils in the Gauteng region who complied with requirements for registration. The immediate aim was to attract youths from this group who were willing to complete

their education. Registration will close at the end of the month.

The programme's curriculum was developed by Alternative Secondary Curriculum for Adults, SA Committee for Higher Education and the Science and Technology Education Project.

For the two-year duration of the programme, all students would take foundation courses in mathematics and English in the first year, while in the final year there would be a choice between maths, integrated social studies, combined science or contextual business studies or technical college subjects such as travel and tourism, hospitality and catering, educare, electronics, electrical engineering or metal engineering.

The programme would include life skills and workplace orientation.

Manota said although 96% of the costs would be sponsored by the RDP, students would be required to pay R90 a subject and were liable for examination fees charged by subject.

Tuition would be given at four satellite stations in Crown Mines, Vanderbijlpark, Alberton and Pretoria. Students would receive certificates which would allow them entry to a university or technikon if their points rating met the necessary criteria, Manota said.

# Second chance for 130 000 <sup>(52)</sup> who failed Star 8/3/96 matric exams

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Less than 5% of school leavers find  
employment, but this work-oriented  
course should make the search easier

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**BY TROYE LUND**

**G**auteng's 130 000 students who failed matric in the past eight years have been given a second chance to complete their education and acquire the skills with which to find jobs.

Education MEC Mary Metcalfe said at yesterday's launch of the Gauteng Youth College in Crown Mines, Johannesburg, that the college was a pioneer project to be incorporated into the national education system if successful.

The project is a joint initiative between Metcalfe's department and the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

The 6 000 students who will be admitted to the college this year will be the first to sit for courses which combine technical and academic subjects in programmes using distance education, as well as a face-to-face tutorial system.

Said the college director Piet Manota: "Less than 5% of school leavers find employment. That is most disturbing. Once candidates finish this two-year, work-oriented course they will have the means to enter the job market or further their studies.

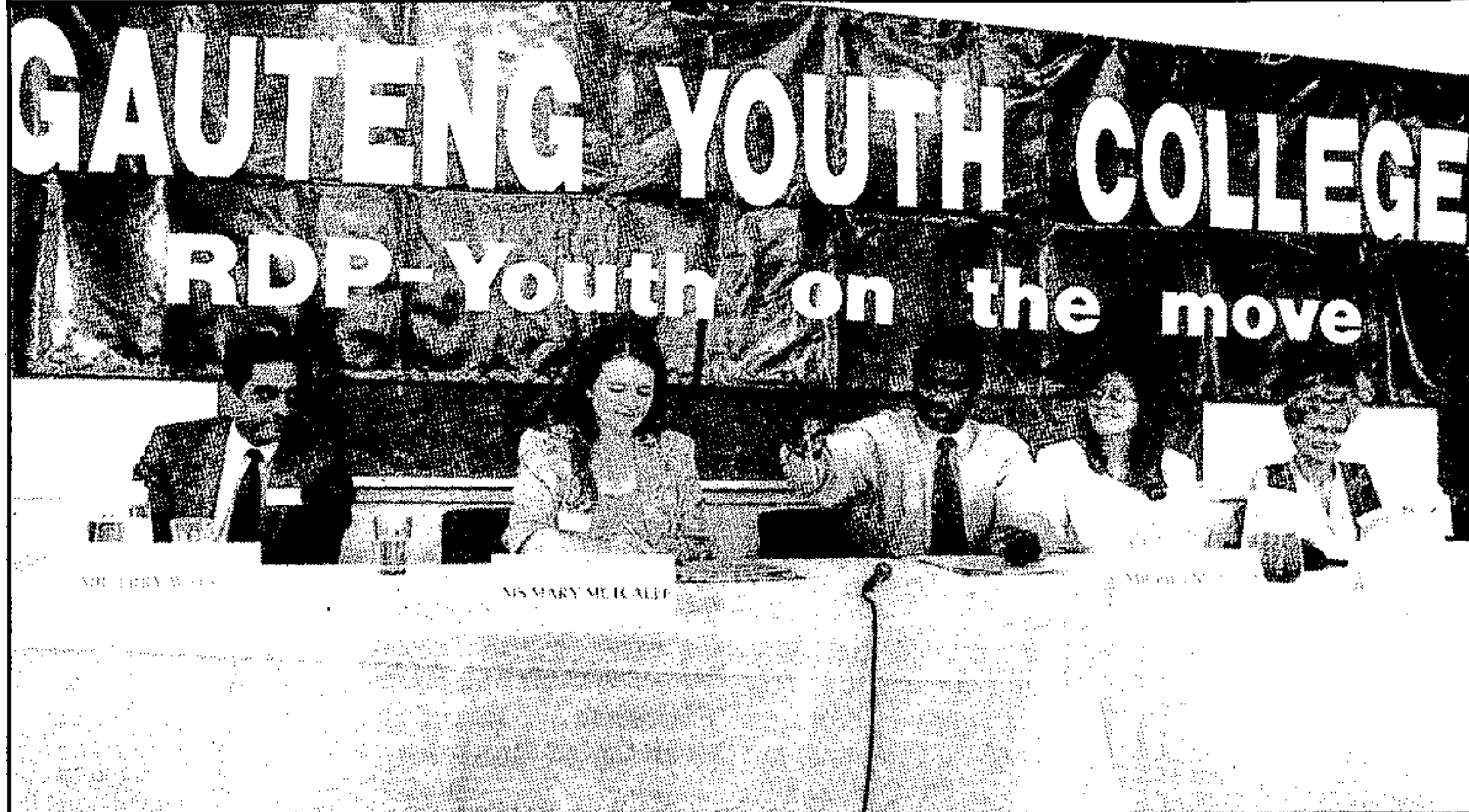
"They will generally be self-confident and better prepared for life after school."

Educationists who designed the curricula are confident that 80% of this year's intake will be self-employable in two years.

Successful applicants must have failed matric between 1988 and 1995 and passed a first language other than English.

Each subject will cost R90 and students are liable for examination fees.

Registration for study at the college this year closes on March 29. Applicants can contact the college at (011) 494-5820.



**EDUCATION DRIVE . . . Director Piet Manota (third from left) at the launch of the Gauteng Youth College's registration ceremony this week.** ■ Pic: TLADI KHUELE

# Write matric again!

By **ANDILE NOGANTA**

**SCHOOL-LEAVERS** shouldn't despair!

That was the message from Piet Manota, the director of the newly-established Gauteng Youth College when the college launched its registration drive this week.

The Gauteng Youth College, a pilot project of the Gauteng Department of Education and the RDP – is seen as a saviour for the thousands of former students who failed matric between 1988 and 1995 – and have been unable to sit for matric a second time.

Manota said that the college aims at “competency-based outcomes which allow students to take up formal or self-employment”.

*CP 17/5/96*  
The college has a curriculum which combines the Alternative Secondary Education for Adults – developed by the South Africa Committee for Higher Education (SACHED) – and a range of technical courses developed by ORT-STEP (Science and Technology Education Project).

The technical subjects offered by the college include travel and tourism, hospitality and catering, electronics, electrical engineering and metal engineering.

Praising the special nature of the college, Gauteng MEC for Education Mary Metcalfe said the college would serve as a bridge between employment and non-employment and aims to attract 6 000 students a year.

Although 96 percent of the costs are sponsored by the RDP, students will be required to pay R90 per subject.

# Scrapping of matriculation exemption proposed

(52)

Commission wants to make higher learning accessible to all South Africans

BY LEE-ANN ALFREDS  
Education Reporter

*Star 18/4/96*

A top-level education commission has proposed the scrapping of matriculation exemption as a requirement for admission to university in a bid to make higher learning accessible to all South Africans.

But the securing of a place at an institution will depend on additional requirements – such as selection tests which measure the candidate's educational history and potential to benefit from higher education.

If the proposal to scrap the exemption is accepted, it will bring to an end a practice which has endured since the establishment of the Joint Matriculation Board in 1917. At the time, the exemption benchmark was set by universities to standardise entrance requirements following confusion between the different provinces after the Boer War.

The latest proposals on uniform statutory minimum requirements for entry into higher education was part of a discussion document released by the National Commission on Higher Education yesterday.

The proposals follow a 15-month investigation by the commission into the transformation of higher education. The proposals will be subjected to public scrutiny before a redrafted document is presented to Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu.

The commission said in its proposals minimum entry requirements were needed to co-ordinate the higher education sector.

"This will allow for greater mobility of students within higher education as well as broadening the pool of students eligible to enter higher education," the document read.

In its place will be "appropriate selection criteria and mechanisms" which have not been

finalised.

But the document stressed that, while passing matric made a pupil eligible for entry to a tertiary institution, it did not automatically guarantee a place.

"The commission also believes that the minimum statutory requirements cannot be implemented until there are acceptable selection criteria and mechanisms in place. In the meantime, current policy would have to be retained," the commission said.

In a second recommendation, the commission proposed that a new funding formula be adopted to determine subsidies to institutions.

It said the new funding approach should reflect the increased participation in the sector, increased responsiveness to social and economic demands and more co-operative governance.

The commission proposed the funding mechanism which should be adopted be a combination of formula funding (based on the number of students enrolled in a particular field and the kinds of subjects offered at an institution) and earmarked funding (the targeting of funds for high priority fields like science and engineering).

Other recommendations were that:

- Institutional and national education planning be done on the basis of three-year rolling plans.
- Education, nursing and agricultural colleges be incorporated into existing universities and technikons.
- A single qualification framework be developed.
- New research funding and co-ordination mechanisms.
- A higher education council and forum be established
- A new higher education act be put in place.

► Profs lock horns

... Page 19

# Innovative steps to be taken against exam paper leaks

(52) Star 27/5/96

Measures to ensure security include printing and packaging by the department itself

By LEE-ANN ALFREDS  
Education Reporter

Gauteng education authorities have outlined innovative steps to be taken this year to prevent a repeat of last year's leaking of matric examination papers.

And the new steps will also include the early releasing of matric results - some time before Christmas - provincial education authorities have revealed.

Gauteng Education and Culture MEC Mary Metcalfe and Gauteng education superintendent-general James

Maseko said last week provincial authorities had been working hard to ensure this year's matric examinations would be the beginning of an "error-free era".

Last year, several Department of Education and Training examinations had to be postponed and a police investigation instituted after it was discovered that the accounting, mathematics and biology papers had been leaked.

Despite assurances that arrests were imminent, no one has been arrested in connection with the leaks.

Last week Maseko said several innovations had been implemented to ensure 1996 would not see a repeat of 1995's leaking of papers.

These included the vacuum-sealing of papers; the printing and packaging of papers by the department it-

self; and papers being delivered only on the morning of the examination.

He said markers were only being appointed if they were high school teachers.

Preference would be given to teachers who taught the subject they were appointed to mark.

Markers and examiners were also required to take an oath to ensure the integrity of the examinations, Maseko said.

He said new mechanisms, including the bar-coding of examination scripts, the staggering of marking and

the use of three examinations centres, were being implemented to speed up marking.

Special teams were being appointed to monitor the process,

## Teams will monitor the process

he added.

"It will be crucial for us to meet our deadlines so we can release the results before Christmas as we have targeted," Maseko said.

This year marks the first time that provinces will set and supervise one common examination for all of their matriculants.

Maseko said the process of transformation would take a long time.

"It will be years before we can say we are confident that the standard of education has improved.

"For that we need to improve the quality of teaching and learning, but we also need to look at an outcome-based approach to education," Maseko said.



# An unusual 'finishing school' reaps rewards

This college doesn't teach spoilt young ladies how to ski, but gives older pupils a second chance to get their matric

BY SUSAN MILLER

For most people the words "finishing school" conjures up a picture of spoilt young women learning social skills and skiing in the Swiss Alps. For students at the Dlambulo Finishing School in Soweto it means a last chance to get a really good matric pass.

The school, created through the efforts of the Gauteng Education Department at the beginning of this year, has taken in 450 young people from 18 years up to give them another chance.

Its efforts go a little way towards alleviating the effects of inferior education on a number of young black South Africans.

Now these young adults have taken a conscious decision to fight back.

What has struck headmaster Eric Dhlamini is the determination each student has not only to pass, but get enough marks to get into universities or technikonis.

"Young people came from all over Soweto at the beginning of the year, but with the facilities we have available, we could only take 450 students," he said.

Dhlamini said what was encouraging was that the teaching staff had also accepted the challenges with enthusiasm.

"They will stay behind to give students extra coaching. Because we are dealing with young adults, we want to start looking at teaching additional skills they can use later on, in studying and

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**Taking another chance ... K Z Thobejane teaches some of his extremely keen young adult students, helped by educational videos and access to television programmes.**

in life," he said.

An enthusiastic group of students gathered to explain their determination to increase their skills when The Star visited the school.

"I passed matric last year but I did not get good enough marks to get to Wits, where I want to study Speech and Drama, so I came back and think I am really doing well," said Portia Mapela (20).

The students emphasised that they were encouraged by the fact that some of their colleagues were over 25 years old.

"It makes you realise that learning can carry on from any age and you don't have to give up just because you are older,"

said one student.

They said some of the reasons they had either failed or had not earned good passes before included overcrowding at schools in Soweto, a shortage of teachers and a lack of books and stationery.

An interesting factor pointed out by Mapela was that there were more young women than men attending the "finishing school".

"We were checking ratios the other day and we realised there were more girls.

"One of the reasons is probably that girls are expected to go home and clean, cook and do the washing, so they find it harder to do their school work," she said.

## THE CAPE



**CELEBRATION:** Teacher Leonora Tole celebrates the opening of the new Ntshonalanga Secondary School building with some of her pupils.

Pictures: ESANNDEKOCK, The Argus

# Brand new school puts education in a new light

*Pupils, teachers delighted as poor conditions become history*

ESANNDEKOCK  
Education Reporter

SWEATY, hot and tired - concentrating on teaching and studying became a battle in the over-crowded Phillippi township school.

Now, a brand new high school - Ntshonalanga Secondary - built with crisp, clean lawns, and with a thick, green teachers every morning.

Until two weeks ago, the 1 480 high school pupils and 42 teachers could only start at midday each day as they shared the same premises as the primary school.

It was early evening by the time many pupils got home and some would then have to start

Few could study at night after they came home from school - their township shacks and houses don't have electricity.

Now they have brand new desks, and from the school's courtyard the rhythmic beat of the drummers echoes across the township.

"The other schools used to laugh at us because we only went to our classes at noon and we could never do our homework with our friends from other schools because we got home too late at night," said Std 9 pupil Nolusindiso Mbiba.

Nolusindiso and her schoolmates and teachers say the

physical and aesthetic comforts of the new Ntshonalanga Secondary School have boosted their morale and improved their enthusiasm for studying and teaching.

Nolusindiso and her friends are proud of their new school, but say it was about time something was done.

Teacher Leonora Tole says she has to pinch herself when she walks through the school gates in the morning.

"We couldn't believe it. It has really motivated us. Someone directed money into a community which really needed it."

In the days they shared the primary school, teachers and pupils had to sit on three tiny chairs stacked on top of each

other.

"We have proper chairs now," Ms Tole smiled.

She said she told the principal to watch the absentee figures.

"I'm sure it will drop dramatically. The children are keen to come to school again."

While the pupils and their teachers enjoy their new building, some of the other township residents are also smiling.

In the year it has taken them to build the school, construction company Grinaker have given many local people training in building skills.

The company ensured more than 90 percent of the workforce building the school came from the local community.

Sowetan 29/8/96 (52)

# No going back on subsidy cuts - MEC

**By Victor Mecoamere**

PUPILS who attend private schools - most of which may soon close due to subsidy cuts - could be absorbed into public schools because the Government will not rescind its decision, Gauteng MEC for Education Mrs Mary Metcalfe said yesterday.

State-aided schools which had their subsidies cut by 30 percent recently, also face other drastic measures including increased school fees and retrenchment of staff.

The schools affected include about 60 Catholic schools which have vowed to petition the Government. They have also threatened to engage in mass action if the authorities do not rescind the decision.

They do not understand why they were grouped with other private

schools because they have been operating for a long time during apartheid. Church schools, they argue, can continue to receive subsidies if placed in a different category to other private schools.

In an interview with *Sowetan* yesterday, Metcalfe said private schools had been warned about the possibility of subsidy cuts due to a shrinking budget and the mushrooming of more private schools which qualified for subsidies.

She said the threatened march would not derail her ongoing discussions with the Joint Liaison Committee and the Catholic Education Negotiating Team.

"We have to collaborate on how to manage the crisis and deal with any disruptions," she said.

Asked what would happen to the

affected pupils should their schools close down, Metcalfe said they (pupils) could be absorbed into public schools.

She said some schools in Soweto, for instance, were half empty and that in the event of closure, "those children could be absorbed into these public schools".

"The Government will not be able to rescind the cuts as they had been unavoidable. We will also not be able to institute selective cuts."

Parents at Roman Catholic Schools argue that public schools are already overcrowded and that the government's decision was going to banish the children to the streets.

Meanwhile, no decision has been taken yet on the fate of private schools in KwaZulu-Natal, according to a department of education official.

# End to dream of good township education for many pupils

THYS DULLAART

By BONGIWE MLANGENI

The words "Holy Cross" are spread across the heavy iron gates of Immaculata High, in Diepkloof, Soweto, a Catholic school opened in 1971 and renowned for producing outstanding matric results, black professionals and leaders.

This is where I spent two years to complete my matric in 1989, amid political violence that destroyed most township schools.

Today, Immaculata is one of the eight private schools in Soweto facing closure following the Gauteng government's decision to cut subsidies to private schools. The decision has left parents, pupils and teachers angry and uncertain.

"The cut is unjust," says school principal Brother Michael de Klerk, adding: "We can either increase the fees or close the school."

If the school closes, about 1 200 children would lose the chance of obtaining the best available education in the township and about 50 teachers will lose their jobs. This dilemma applies to other private schools in the province's townships, schools which have managed to maintain good education, order and discipline compared with most public schools.

Last week, I visited my old school and was amazed by the silence in the corridors, impressed to see all the pupils and teachers in classrooms.

During my years, this was a rarity. Immaculata had shed most of its Catholic ethos, allowing a semi-secular culture to take over.

That year, the school failed to live up to its reputation and acquired the lowest matric pass rate in its history.

However, it was still one of the top four schools in Soweto.

Ironically, the three top schools - all private institutions - which in that year faced huge obstacles to be among the best, could this year be producing their last matriculants.

In the last four years, Immaculata has risen from ashes to achieve the above 90% pass rate and has fully regained its Catholic identity.

Brother De Klerk says the 30% subsidy cut means the school will actually lose 70% of its budget: "They are cutting our lifeline," he said.

The school's budget this year was about R2,9-million out of which R1,9-million was sub-

sidised.

Other funds come from donations and school fees, costing R800 per child in high school and R600 in primary school a year.

The subsidy cut news has

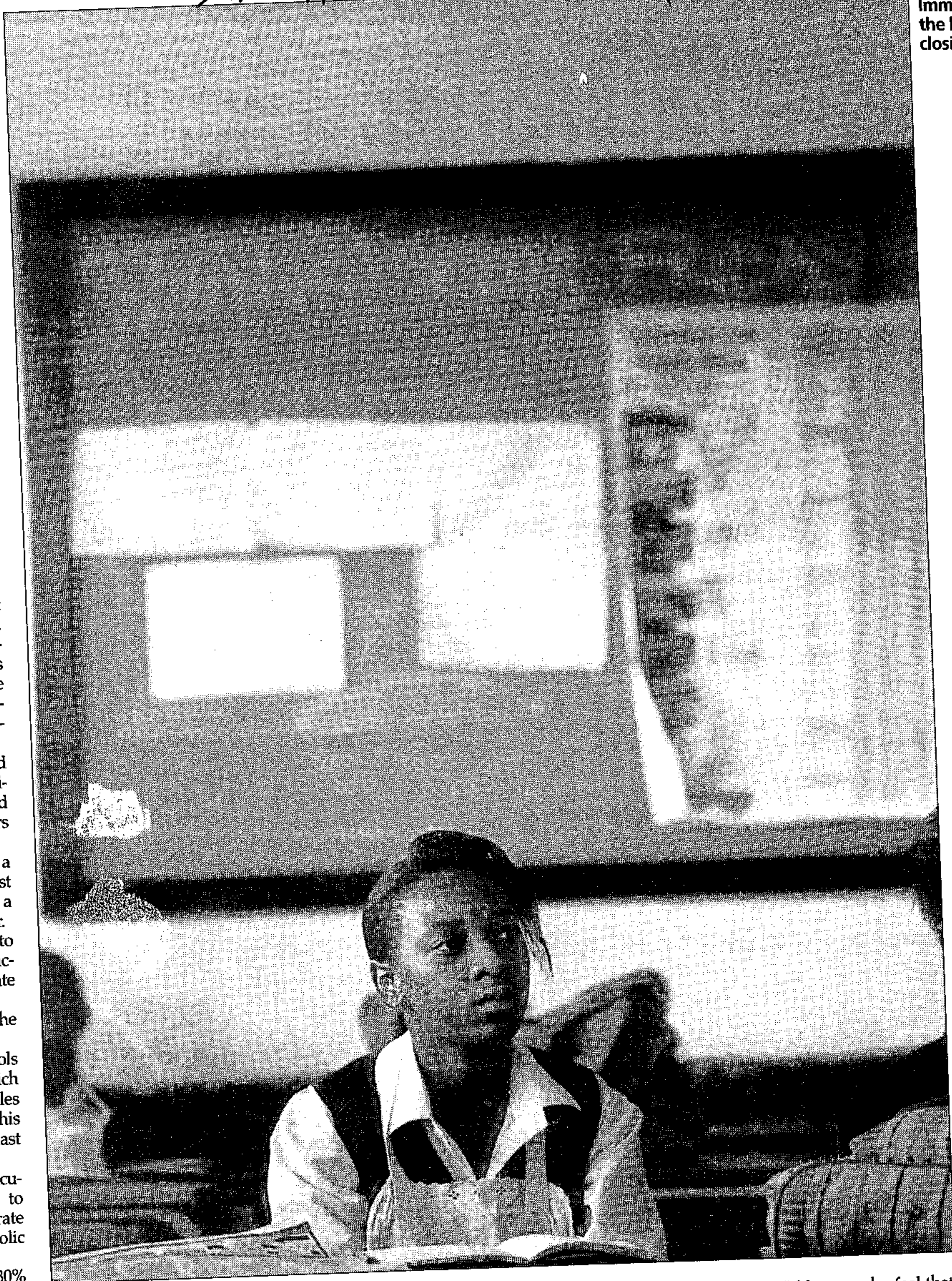
shattered Std 9 pupil Ignatia Hlatshwayo: "They (the government) just want to kill our morale. This school should be saved, it has done a lot for the community."

English teacher Mike Takkos could only say: "I am angry and disappointed." His feelings are shared by all teachers.

The fear of closure has also gripped community members

who feel that many parents who cannot afford private schools outside the township may never realise the dream of having their children in good township schools.

Reliving it ...  
Immaculata at  
the brink of  
closing down.



(52)

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BD 10/9/96

# Exam crisis deepens as talks reach deadlock

By Farouk Chothia

52

**DURBAN** — The crisis over matric examinations in KwaZulu-Natal deepened yesterday after negotiations between the SA Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) and education MEC Vincent Zulu broke down at a specially convened meeting in the education labour relations chamber.

Sadtu claimed Zulu walked out of the meeting in Pietermaritzburg, but education department superintendent-general Sydney Shabalala claimed Sadtu had done so. Sadtu KwaZulu-Natal secretary Ndaba Gcwabaza said more than half of the 141 000 matric pupils in KwaZulu-Natal had not received syllabuses, textbooks or specimen papers for the new examination format.

The meeting had been called at the request of the provincial cabinet to deal with Sadtu's grievances. However, the stakeholders represented in the chamber, including Sadtu and the Natal African Teachers Union, had become bogged down in a dispute over the agenda, Gcwabaza said.

He claimed that Zulu indicated he was "uncomfortable" at the meeting and walked out. Shabalala said Zulu had "excused" himself but had planned to return once the unions had reached agreement on the agenda. The unions failed to find common ground and Sadtu walked out.

Gcwabaza said many schools were still using the old matric syllabus. Sadtu appealed to Shabalala as early February to make the new syllabus available to the union so that it could distribute it to schools. However, Shabalala did not even acknowledge receipt of the letter.

Shabalala said Sadtu was the only organisation which believed KwaZulu-Natal was not ready for examinations. The provincial legislature's education portfolio committee, on which the ANC was also represented, gave its "legal support" for examinations to continue as scheduled.

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SE10

## Tight security to plug leaks in first nonracial matric exam

Star 21/9/96

The Gauteng Education Department has set out to reassure teachers, pupils and parents that this year's matric examinations - the first common examination for all formerly segregated education departments - are on track.

With the setting and supervision of the common examination for all matriculants for the first time, teachers have expressed their concerns

that papers will be leaked.

Last year, several examinations had to be postponed following the leaking of accounting, mathematics and biology papers.

Gauteng education spokesman Prem Govender said security measures were already in place and his department had done its utmost to ensure there were no leaks. - Staff Reporter

(54) (52)

symposium at the Volkswagen Centre, Midrand, on 18 and 19 November 1996.

#### Job opportunities created

\*40. Mr D W MAKHANYA asked the Minister of Labour:†

- (1) How many job opportunities were created in the (a) 1994-95 and (b) 1995-96 financial years;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N1592E

The MINISTER OF LABOUR:

- (1) On the basis of the only available data from the Central Statistical Services which covers non-agricultural employment between the second quarter of 1994 and the first quarter of 1995, corresponding to the financial year 47 000 new jobs were created with an average employment level of 5 170 000 persons per quarter over the period; and between the second quarter of 1995 and the first quarter of 1996 the data appears to show that 59 000 new job opportunities were created with an average of 5 151 000 jobs per quarter over this latter period.
- (2) A comparison of the average figures per quarter shows that employment declined by about 19 000 persons over the period. It should be noted that the data does not include employment in the agricultural sector and nonformal employment, and that employment in the manufacturing, construction, and electricity sectors of the former TBVC states is not included in the quarters prior to the first quarter of 1996 which might account for the apparent increase in employment reflected above between the second quarter of 1995 and the first quarter of 1996.

#### Sarfu: annual financial contribution

\*41. Mr A WILLIAMS asked the Minister of Sport and Recreation:†

- (1) Whether his Department makes an annual financial contribution to Sarfu; if not, why not; if so, what was the amount paid to this body in the past financial year.

ban by South Africa on 15 November 1995 has not been rescinded and is being applied stringently.

- (2) Yes. This policy formulated by the National Conventional Arms Control Committee is consistent with that of (a) the Commonwealth and (b) with South Africa's commitment to democracy and human rights.
- (3) To date no request for sale of arms has been received from Nigeria therefore it has not been necessary to formally advise General Abacha's military government that South Africa will not permit such sales.

#### Matriculation examination/evaluation process: problems

\*44. Mr R S SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Education:

- (1) Whether any (a) factors are threatening the effectiveness and credibility of, and/or (b) problems are being experienced in regard to, the 1996 matriculation examination and evaluation process, particularly in those provinces conducting the said examination for the first time; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what factors and/or problems;
- (2) whether he or his Department intends taking any steps towards ensuring that the 1996 matriculation examination proceeds without obstacles; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N1605E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

- (1) There do not appear to be any factors threatening the effectiveness and credibility of the examinations, for which safeguards have already been put in place. Day to day difficulties arise but are being handled by experienced provincial officials. The provinces have reported that the necessary plans are in place, that everything is under control with the process well on track and continuously monitored by the Heads of Department.

The major safeguards concern security measures such as:

— a senior official of the examination section is always on duty in the printing room while the examination papers are being printed.

— all examination papers are sealed and will only be opened in the presence of the candidates, by duly appointed and trained independent Invigilators who are fully aware of their tasks.

— the examination papers are stored in the departmental strongrooms at present and when delivered will be stored in the strongrooms at schools. Where a school does not have a strongroom, it will receive its examination papers on a daily basis.

As far as effectiveness is concerned, schools have been provided with examination guidelines in each subject; the examiners are all people who have the necessary qualifications and experience and the sub-examiners/markers will only be appointed if they meet laid-down qualifications and experience criteria.

The issue of remuneration for markers is one of several matters receiving attention at this stage.

(2) The provincial matriculation examinations are the responsibility of the provincial education departments. The provinces had mentored capacity-building, hands-on training and experience until May 1996, to prepare them for this year's work. Until the end of July this year the Department of Education's Provincialisation Unit assisted wherever it could. During 1996 an *Ad hoc* Inter-provincial Examinations Committee (IPEC) has monitored progress and made recommendations to the Heads of Education Departments Committee (HEDCOM), on which the national Department of Education is represented. Various issues are currently being reviewed by the HEDCOM. It is not the intention of the Department of Education to intervene in a provincial matter, but it is monitoring the situation.

According to the provinces, the following steps have been put in place to ensure that

the examinations proceed without any obstacles:

— Provincial examinations boards and SAFCERT have supervised the entire process.

— The expertise of previous examination administrations has been utilised.

— Procedures covering matters to do with the examination have been drawn up, e.g.

- appointment of examiners and moderators
- appointment of sub-examiners
- structure, functions and procedures of the Irregularities Committee
- structure, functions and procedures of the Complaints Committee
- instructions to examiners and moderators

— Workshops have been held to discuss

- examination and security
- manual for conducting external examinations
- examination monitoring
- release of results

— Invigilators have been trained

— District and provincial monitoring teams have been set up

— Markers have been appointed

— Marking venues have been organised and dates for marking have been set.

— In one province the Head of Department and the MEC have scheduled Technical Review meetings with external experts.

(3) A statement on this matter will be made if HEDCOM and CEM request that this be done. At this stage the public should feel confidence in the process, not experience anxiety.

**Deputy director appointed before due date for applications**

\*45. Mr R S SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Education:

(1) Whether the post of Deputy Director: Communication in his Department was filled before the due date for the submission of applications; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, why was the accepted procedure not followed;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1606E

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION:**

(1) No. Following the closing date all the applications were scrutinised individually to determine who was to be invited for interviews. A candidate was interviewed on 4 September 1996. Applicants who were not suitable for the post of Director: Communication and Related Services, but who were very good candidates and who were interviewed, were also considered for the post. A nomination has been made which I will, hopefully, be able to consider shortly.

(2) No.

**CA: funds from budget used for travel abroad**

\*46. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:

Whether at any time since the adoption of the constitutional text by the Constitutional Assembly on 8 May 1996 any funds from the budget of the CA have been used for travel abroad; if so, in respect of each such visit, (a) which countries were visited, (b) which persons visited each country, (c) what was the purpose of the visit and (d) what are the relevant details concerning the expenditure involved?

N1607E

**THE MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

My Department does not have any administrative or financial responsibility with regard to the functions of the Constitutional Assembly and does not dispose of the information asked for.

**State-aided pension scheme for housewives/ househusbands**

\*47. Ms B M NZIMANDE asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development:

Whether, in view of the full-time nature of the work performed by housewives and househusbands, she or her Department will consider the establishment of a State-aided pension scheme for housewives and househusbands; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1609E

**THE MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:**

No, the major criterion for a person to qualify for State assistance is a lack of means to support himself. Any person, whether she or he is a housewife or a househusband, an aged person, a disabled person or a single parent, will only qualify for a State grant if she or he complies with all the criteria stipulated in the Social Assistance Act, 1992 (Act 59 of 1992) and more specifically the means test.

**State departments: budgets**

\*48. Mr A H NEL asked the Minister of Finance:

(1) Whether any State Departments budgeted more than the amount they spent during the past financial year; if so, which State Departments;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1610E

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:**

(1) All the State Departments have not yet closed their books for the past financial year. Furthermore the Auditor-General has not completed the auditing of all the financial statements. As usual the Auditor-General will table his Report on the Accounts of the National Government for 1995/96 during the first quarter of 1997.

(2) No.

*For written reply:*

**Transkei/Ciskei: payments for telephone services**

534. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

(1) Whether any payments for telephone services in the former homelands of (a) Transkei and (b) Ciskei are still outstanding;

ing; if so, (i) what total amount is outstanding; (ii) how many subscribers still owe money on their accounts and (iii) over what period does the non-payment of telephone accounts extend;

(2) whether all telephones in these areas are linked to payment accounts; if not, how many telephones are not so linked;

(3) whether any arrangements have been made for the payment of these accounts; if not, why not; if so, what arrangements;

(4) whether telephone services to any subscribers in these areas have been discontinued as a result of the non-payment of accounts; if not, why not; if so, how many;

(5) whether any other action has been taken or is to be taken against payment defaulters; if not, why not; if so, what action? N935E

**THE MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:**

The Managing Director of Telkom SA Limited has informed me as follows:

(1) Payments in respect of telephone services are still outstanding in the former homelands of Transkei and Ciskei.

(i) A total amount of R73 million in the Transkei and R20 million in the Ciskei is outstanding;

(ii) 22 800 subscribers in the Transkei and 26 700 subscribers in the Ciskei still owe money on their accounts;

(iii) most accounts are fully paid but a significant percentage is extended over a couple of years.

(2) No telephones in the Transkei and Ciskei areas are linked to payment accounts.

(3) In terms of section 5(4d) of the Reorganisation Act, Telkom will continue to render final accounts on behalf of the State for a period of twelve months after which period the outstanding accounts will be handed over to the State Attorney.

In order to honour this agreement an interim structure was put in place to operate from 1 April 1996. It is known as the Bridging Structure and consists of a number of people (not Telkom staff) situ-



maintenance of the current unlimited benefits requires unattainable increases in the fuel levy rates, and therefore only part of the losses suffered by the victims can be borne by the MMF while the balance is to be shouldered by private insurance.

- (3) No econometric study on this issue has been carried out. However, the following observations may be made. With claims paid by the MMF increasing by some 20% p.a., it is to be expected that the levy rates themselves need to be increased since the growth in the volume of fuel sales (3%-5%) in itself is not enough.

The cost of cover can be expected to increase in an inflationary environment. In addition, the rate of inflation in medical costs have been exceptionally high. To that extent, the levy rates necessarily have to reflect and keep pace with inflation in the general economy. In the process it certainly adds to inflation, but that is unavoidable. If, in addition, there is a greater increase in the number of claims than in the volume of fuel sold, then one is dealing with further superimposed inflation.

Reply in substitution of reply to Question \*8 on 19 September 1996:

### Moratorium on trapping of/trade in primates

\*8. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether he or his Department intends placing a moratorium on the trapping of and trade in primates pending the outcome of the process aimed at determining the legal status of primates; if not, why not; if so, when?

5617E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

No, the Department does not intend placing a moratorium on the trapping of and trade in primates. Incidents of damage to crops and livestock caused by primates occur from time to

HANSAARD

time and these animals are eliminated. Provincial ordinances determine the legal status of primates and not the Department. The issue is currently being addressed by the provincial authorities. However, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism in consultation with the relative role-players is presently developing a national policy which will, amongst others, address trapping of and trade in primates. Once this policy has been finalised, an informed decision on a possible trapping and trade moratorium can be taken. I support the decision taken by the Gauteng Environmental Authority to suspend the export of primates for experimental purposes, during this consultative process of policy formulation.

For written reply:

### Matriculation examination: statistics

23. Sen A J WILLIAMS asked the Minister of Education:

- (1) What percentage of pupils in each province wrote and passed the past matriculation examination (a) with and (b) without matriculation exemption;
- (2) what percentage of pupils in each province achieved (a) less than 20%, (b) between 20% and 30%, (c) between 30% and 40%, (d) between 40% and 50%, (e) between 50% and 60%, (f) between 60% and 70%, (g) between 70% and 80% and (h) more than 80% in the past matriculation examination;
- (3) (a) how many pupils in each province who wrote the past matriculation examination sat for examinations in (i) Mathematics, (ii) Physical Science, (iii) Biology and (iv) Geography, respectively, and (b) how many such pupils passed each of these subjects;
- (4) whether his Department is contemplating any measures to improve the matric results; if not, why not; if so, what measures;
- (5) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

- (1) (a) and (b)

Table 1: Number of students who passed with and without a matriculation exemption for the 1995 matriculation examinations, excluding the supplementary examinations.

Province	Pass with exemption	Pass without exemption
Eastern Cape	10.7%	37.1%
Free State	11.7%	37.9%
Gauteng	18.8%	39.2%
KwaZulu-Natal	25.4%	43.8%
Mpumalanga	7.5%	30.7%
Northern Cape	17.4%	57.5%
Northern Province	7.5%	30.6%
North West	16.9%	49.4%
Western Cape	27.4%	53.8%

- (2) This information is not available. The current information system does not have a program to do the analysis for the required information.

- (3) Table 2 and 3: Number of students who wrote and passed Mathematics, Physical

Science, Biology and Geography in 1995 matriculation examinations (excluding supplementary examinations) according to province and grade (Higher Grade (HG), Standard Grade (SG), and Lower Grade (LG)).

Table 2

Province & Ex-Department*	Mathematics						Physical Science					
	Wrote			Passed			Wrote			Passed		
	HG	SG	LG	HG	SG	LG	HG	SG	LG	HG	SG	LG
Western Cape (4, 6, 7, 8)	3 213	13 887	63	2 938	9 036	57	3 563	6 383	42	3 220	4 797	39
Northern Cape (4, 6, 8)	546	1 892	38	381	1 121	23	546	1 017	21	341	757	20
Free State (2, 6, 8)	2 999	10 738	193	1 548	3 053	179	4 100	4 821	140	2 090	1 669	139
Eastern Cape (4, 6, 7, 8, 9)	3 662	21 537	46	1 528	7 703	41	7 005	9 388	18	2 614	4 854	16

Province & Ex-Departments*	Mathematics						Physical Science					
	Wrote	Passed	Wrote	Passed	Wrote	Passed						
KwaZulu-Natal (3, 6, 7, 8)	15 536	23 488	292	10 272	11 596	392	2 972	6 584	120	9 160	4 246	178
Mpumalanga (1, 6, 7, 8)	4 931	8 907	565	1 304	2 527	384	5 685	3 535	302	1 892	1 649	255
Northern Province (1, 6, 7, 8)	18 116	16 651	330	2 360	2 513	248	13 286	3 777	189	3 883	1 124	176
Gauteng (1, 6, 7, 8)	12 325	25 869	2 756	7 288	13 091	1 773	14 019	11 348	1 294	8 512	7 032	1 076
North West (1, 4, 7, 8)	4 288	11 859	459	1 856	4 307	306	6 568	3 669	211	3 183	1 892	190
Total	63 762	13 135	4 613	24 834	51 619	3 158	55 970	48 813	2 217	33 207	26 349	1 911

Table 3

Province & Ex-Departments	Biology						Geography					
	Wrote	Passed	Wrote	Passed	Wrote	Passed						
Western Cape (4, 6, 7, 8)	12 363	13 385	102	8 832	10 285	92	6 053	8 062	24	4 781	6 119	24
Northern Cape (4, 6, 8)	2 537	2 912	22	1 437	2 016	21	1 694	1 584	4	533	1 177	4
Free State (2, 6, 8)	17 984	7 658	113	6 400	2 438	106	8 922	4 181	# <sup>1</sup>	4 148	2 356	#
Eastern Cape (4, 6, 7, 8, 9)	52 749	11 602	87	21 556	5 329	76	20 651	11 955	28	8 557	6 596	26
KwaZulu-Natal (3, 6, 7, 8)	56 631	14 229	334	42 691	7 984	326	26 517	8 614	68	16 647	6 812	96
Mpumalanga (1, 6, 7, 8)	30 220	5 046	281	10 228	1 676	220	14 269	4 337	105	5 487	1 936	101
Northern Province (1, 6, 7, 8)	113 404	7 519	140	37 996	1 164	125	83 250	7 601	27	8 286	2 439	27

Province & Ex-Departments	Biology						Geography					
	Wrote	Passed	Wrote	Passed	Wrote	Passed						
Gauteng (1, 6, 7, 8)	36 149	16 485	1 526	6 024	8 529	1 314	18 415	9 663	562	11 315	6 473	487
North West (1, 4, 7, 8)	30 747	5 373	276	12 971	2 130	235	18 185	3 785	73	9 903	2 631	69
Total	350 636	82 176	2 575	145 987	39 518	2 231	195 888	58 594	823	67 742	35 250	762

\*The numbers in brackets represent the previous departments of education whose results have been disaggregated and combined by province. The following codes have been used for previous departments, (there is no code 5):

- 1 = Transvaal Education Department
- 2 = Orange Free State Education Department
- 3 = Natal Education Department
- 4 = Cape Education Department
- 6 = House of Representatives—Department of Education and Culture
- 7 = House of Delegates—Department of Education and Culture
- 8 = Department of Education and Training
- 9 = Transkei Education Department

The former Self-Governing Territories as well as Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei wrote the Department of Education and Training Examinations (DET) coded as 8; Transkei had its own examining body, the Transkei Department of Education, coded as 9.

<sup>1</sup>Geography was not offered in lower grade.

- (4) Since the release of the White Paper on Education and Training in March 1995, the emphasis has been placed on the development of an integrated approach to education and training, which addresses the learners' and the nation's needs. This implies a shift to an outcomes-based approach to education and training, which is based on a philosophy that everyone can learn. This approach defines clearly what learners are to learn, measures their progress based on actual achievement, meets their needs through various teaching strategies and gives them enough time and help to meet their potential.

The Council of Education Ministers has approved a curriculum framework for pre-higher education and has decided that the phasing in of a new curriculum should start in January 1998. This curriculum framework will serve as a sound basis for developing the learning programmes to be implemented in schools, and should take cognisance of the requirements of the world of work, the imperative to establish

- (5) The Minister will not be making a statement.

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## Matric pass rate 'will be low for years'

(52) CT 1/10/96  
PRETORIA: With just over two weeks to go to the start of matric exams, experts expect that the pass rate will remain low for at least a generation — a legacy of inferior Bantu education and problems affecting schools since the 1976 uprisings.

The culture in black schools of "liberation before education" had contributed to

lagging standards, said Dr At van Schoor, acting director of Unisa's Student Services Bureau.

"It doesn't have anything to do with ability or potential. When pupils get to matric, they present a knowledge base with gaps. It's going to take at least a generation to work through." — Own Correspondent

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# Matric exams' <sup>(62)</sup> validity in doubt <sup>Nov 1/10/96</sup>

Problems envisaged as provinces prepare for first tests under single department

By ADAM COOKE

Two teachers' organisations are concerned about the running of this year's matric exams - the first to be held under a single system in Gauteng. Pupils start writing exams in a fortnight's time.

Provincial education departments are to conduct their own exams which were previously organised by national departments. The organisations are citing inexperienced markers and potential exam paper leaks.

According to Chris Klopper, deputy director of the Transvaalse Onderwysersvereniging (Transvaal Teachers' Association), rumours of leaked exam papers are rife.

"In general, the supervision and security of the whole exercise

has been worrying. This is just not up to scratch," he said.

Klopper said there was also a problem with markers.

"Affirmative action is understandable, but when it comes to markers you need the best," he said.

Association of Professional Teachers president Suzanne Rees said inexperienced markers could jeopardise top students.

"The lack of qualifications could mean they (markers) will not recognise a truly brilliant and creative answer because it may not stick to the exam memorandum," she said.

Education ministry spokesman Lincoln Mali said it should be appreciated this was the first time provinces were handling exams, but problems would be ironed out.

# Fury over matric chaos in Gauteng

(52) Mon 17/10/96

Nats call for resignation of 'out of touch'

Education MEC after breach in security

BY ADAM COOKE

As allegations of irregularities in the handling of Gauteng's matric exams continue to stream in, political parties have lashed out at Education MEC Mary Metcalfe.

The NP called yesterday for Metcalfe to resign immediately. The party pointed to an incident on Tuesday in which a reporter, posing as a teacher at Braamfontein's exam collection point, was given papers for that day's art exam. No identification was needed.

The DP said it continued to receive reports of "blunders" in the administration of exams after certain schools in Pretoria incorrectly received copies of Tuesday's practical art exam paper in yesterday's bundle of theory papers.

DP spokesman Jack Bloom said if the trend continued, the entire Gauteng matric examinations "could be irredeemably compromised".

Even the Congress of South African Students, an ANC-aligned student organisation claiming mass support from pupils, has called for Tuesday's art exam to be rewritten because of a "lack of security".

NP Gauteng education spokesman Juli Kilian said Metcalfe was out of touch

with reality. "She has handpicked her officials, many of whom have no idea of how to run a department," said Kilian. She said Metcalfe had known since the beginning of the year there could be problems and had put "a generation of matrics at risk".

Two principals, wishing to remain anonymous, expressed frustration with the handling of the exams. "It is a highly inefficient system that lacks the security measures of the past," said one from a school south of Johannesburg.

He said principals were not being trusted to guard exam papers as they had been in the past. "I am responsible for the futures of all the children at my school. Does the department think I am so irresponsible as to leak papers to them?" he asked.

Another principal said he had to travel 120km a day to collect papers and then drop them off in Lenasia: "What if my car breaks down?" he asked.

At the time of going to press, Metcalfe's office had not responded.

■ Sapa reports that in the Northern Province, exam papers were found strewn over the lawn at the Seshego police station entrusted with their safekeeping. The papers were supposed to be kept in a storeroom at the station to prevent theft and leaks to pupils.

## Principals not trusted to guard papers

# New matric sits its first exam

(52) ST 13/10/90

**CHRISTINA** Cardoso, an 18-year-old matric pupil at Germiston High on the East Rand, sums it up: "We are in a difficult year because we got stuck with all the changes, but at least we are making history."

Cardosa is one of 138 students at the 79-year-old former model C school who begin writing their matric examinations this week under the newly established Gauteng department of education. This will be the first time in the country's history that matriculants at government schools will write the same end-of-year provincial examination papers.

About 102 000 full-time and 10 000 part-time candidates have been registered for the exams, which begin tomorrow and end on November 26. The candidates are drawn from the former Transvaal Education Department, the Department of Education and Training, the House of Delegates and the House of Representatives.

Last year Germiston High obtained an excellent matric pass rate under the former TED and headmaster George Lilleke expects his pupils to do well again this year. "I am looking forward to good results. The syllabus is exactly the same and our students are well-prepared. But I expect kids in black schools will have a tougher time in trying to achieve the same results," he says.

On the other side of town is 19-year-old Phindile Mngadi, a matric pupil at Alafang High, a Khatlehong school which held its first classes in the 70s in a disused beer hall with the help of white army teachers. It moved to its present premises in 1982.

The school has 1 431 students and 47 teachers and last year scored a matric pass rate of below 30 percent. Mngadi is one of 172 matriculants registered for the exams.

But with just days to go, she says they have not completed their biology syllabus and have had to teach themselves physics because no one seems to understand the science teacher.

Despite her problems, Mngadi says she is confident she will do well and is looking forward to the challenge of writing the same exam as Cardosa and other matric-

**Black and white matriculants write the same exams for the first time this week. JACOB DLAMINI looks at the difficulties raised by the process of integration**

lants from better-equipped schools.

She says: "For the first time I will be able to compare my performance with that of white students from places like Germiston High. They obviously have better facilities and will have an advantage when it comes to practical questions. But I'm hoping to do well and so are most of my classmates."

**M**NGADI'S confidence is shared by her headmaster, Price Motsabi, who predicts his pupils will register at least a 50 percent pass rate.

He says: "Our students have been co-operative, attendance has been regular, late-coming and absenteeism have come down by 80 percent. Things have changed — all we have now are just normal school problems," Motsabi says.

But his confidence is peppered with a dose of anxiety.

"I'm anxious to see how our pupils will perform because odds are definitely against them. Half the things you find at Germiston High are not here. But that does not mean we expect them to fail — we expect them to succeed," he says.

Motsabi dismisses attempts to compare the performance of black matriculants with that of their white counterparts.

"There is no basis for comparison at this stage because this is a new thing. I suspect it will take at least five years before we can look at matric results with a degree of accuracy.

"But at least our students will be proud of their certificates," he says. A lecturer at the Johannes-



WRITING HISTORY... Christina Cardoso and Phindile Mngadi agree it has been a difficult year

Picture: JULANI VAN DER WESTHUIZEN

burg College of Education, Suzanne Rees, says the new examination system may not work and she is concerned about the level of training and preparation given to those who will be marking the matric scripts.

"Matching children taught under one style and level with those taught under another may not work and no one is confident about the training given to markers, who have different experiences. Some of them may even fail to recognise the competence and quality of some of the matriculants," says Rees.

President of the 9 000-strong Association of Professional Teachers, she says officials of the Gauteng

department of education have had "the immensely difficult task of accommodating teachers and subject advisers from the various education departments".

She says: "This will result in some question papers being a lot longer than what many students have been accustomed to, and there might be occasions where one is confident about the children answer the wrong question."

The English literature question paper is expected to be about 36 pages long to accommodate the books read by pupils from different schools. Alafang High's set Shakespeare piece this year was *Julius Caesar*, while Germiston High read *Macbeth*.

Cardosa says: "We may not be able to finish all the questions because we are first going to have to page through the exam paper to find questions relevant to us. We may end up answering the wrong question and losing marks. So it's going to be difficult."

However, Gauteng's superintendent general of education, James Maseko, dismisses claims that a lot of "experienced" markers have been left out of the marking process.

He says only 10 percent of the 6 000 markers are new and they have had to meet far more trying employment criteria than has ever been applied before. New markers were expected to have a specialised teaching qualification; they needed to have had more than three years' teaching experience and were also expected to have taught matric pupils recently.

The introduction of a single matric examination for government schools was first mooted by the Minister of Education, Professor Sibusiso Bengu, in response to last year's drop in the national matric pass rate. Of the 441 853 candidates who sat for last year's examination, only 55,25 percent passed.

For the first time, results of black and white matriculants were issued on the same day last year. However, there were complaints that the combining of results served only to mask the appalling

results of black matriculants. George I headmaster in Davey to is being education, instead the shielding po matric results of white schools He says introduction of matric examinations warns that black schools very bad for Hlulwazi cent pass rate Marueng s expect a k this year.

"The government teachers their power punishment the main scibles and corrected the improve A few m leng tried to who arrived giving the asking him next to the boy sold the mted the m

**T**HEir depart been their place bodies have are respons examinations and collecti pers, marking the result. The last n November 3 expected to afterwards.

The provin the South Afric Teacher Maboa, disr this year's again be low of the poor education. Maboa sa glaringly dispa examiners th ered that w exam paper itive about come but ve that this is a have to know

# Exodus to greener pastures gains impetus

Nov 16/10/96

Twice as many leaving the country than settling here, while expected tourism boom has not materialised

SARA

The brain drain from South Africa continued to gather momentum in the first half of this year with twice as many people leaving for greener pastures than coming to seek work here.

This was disclosed by the Central Statistical Service (CSS) in Pretoria yesterday.

During the first half of 1996 about 5 627 emigrants left the country.

During the same period the number of immigrants was 2 509.

The CSS said: "The net result of immigration and emigration therefore shows a loss of 3 118 people. This picture is slightly better than for the first

quarter of 1996 when the number of emigrants - 3 083 - was nearly three times the number of immigrants."

By far the biggest migratory sector included professional, semi-professional and technical people.

Liz Coetser of the CSS said this included engineers, accountants, technologists, educationists, doctors and dentists.

Managerial staff, clerical personnel and artisans were also among those leaving.

The most popular destination was the United Kingdom, closely followed by Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Canada.

The CSS said, however, that there had been an improvement in the second quarter

with a 17,5% decrease in emigration and a 24,4% increase in immigration.

The much sought-after boost in tourist traffic did not materialise.

The CSS reported: "The number of overseas visitors - 525 178 - to South Africa during the first half of 1996 increased by only 0,2% compared with the same period in 1995.

"This small increase is mainly due to the large decrease (44,9%) in overseas visitors from May to June 1996."

The number of South African residents who temporarily went abroad during the first six months of this year increased by 3,6% compared with the same period in 1995.

## Racketeers steal recyclable paper

Organised racketeers are crippling the Mondi Recycling company and ripping off the community by stealing recyclable waste paper left on pavements by residents in Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal.

National marketing and sales manager Peter Hunter said Mondi Recycling had caught operators stealing the paper. "Their vehicles are privately owned," he said. Communities were the losers because municipalities were rewarded for the amounts retrieved. Residents with information are asked to call 0800-022112. -Staff Reporter.

## Matric exam glitches sorted out

Nov 16/10/96

The Gauteng Department of Education has reacted to reports that the matric examination process was in crisis, saying the problems experienced in the first two days were the exception to the rule and had been promptly solved.

Departmental superintendent-general James Maseko said some media reports had chosen to highlight the problems, which he claimed were limited to only four of the 18 districts in the province.

The matric examination got off to a shaky start on Monday when exam papers failed to turn up at certain venues and

Certain schools reported cases of a shortage of exam papers which led to the issuing of emergency photocopies. Others complained that security procedures had changed from last year and were not water-tight.

Teachers said exam papers of the former Transvaal Education Department were kept locked in school safes and the seal was opened in the presence of pupils. On Monday, loose papers were apparently handed out.

Claims of security leaks would be thoroughly probed and offenders would face the full brunt of the law, Maseko said.

## Suspects from con syndicate arrested

By Lara Smith

Three people who are believed to be part of a national syndicate conniving elderly people out of thousands of rands have been arrested in Malvern, Johannesburg.

The three men, aged 48, 36

and 54, were arrested in Jules Street at 12.30pm yesterday after a member of the public reported their "suspicious behaviour" to police.

Two of the men had been previously arrested in April this year for trying to con a 71-year-old woman.

The gang prey mainly on elderly people, telling them that they represent a company busy with a promotion. They then offer to double any cash they are given.

A 68-year-old Turffontein woman was conned out of R60 000 on March 4 this year.

# 'Nothing unique' about matric exam problems

(52) Star 18/10/96  
By ADAM COOKE

Problems with the matric exams in Gauteng should have been expected and were not unique to this year's exams, the Gauteng Department of Education has said.

Superintendent-general James Maseko said the problems had been experienced in the past and would continue in the future "as long as there is a human factor involved in this process".

The initial hiccups with the exams, which are being run by the Gauteng department under one roof for the first time, began on Monday when teachers alleged that insufficient papers were available in certain districts.

Maseko said the circumstances surrounding a mixup in the art exam, in which theory papers were mixed in with the drawing

## Glitches likely to continue for some time

exam papers, would force the department to replace the history of art exam due to be written on November 14.

In a further breach, a Beeld newspaper reporter, in the guise of a school official, walked from an exam collection point in Braamfontein on Tuesday with exam papers without having been asked for identification.

Maseko said the person responsible for that breach of security had already been removed from the post and, pending further investigations, more serious disciplinary action was likely.

But he said that only four of the 18 districts involved in the exams had experienced hitches, so the whole process had not been irredeemably compromised.

Maseko urged those with information of breaches in security to tell the department so that the problems could be dealt with. Additional precautions had been taken and packages of exam papers, a number of which had been broken open, had now been reinforced to ensure absolute security.



PUPILS WRITE SAME EXAM FOR THE FIRST TIME

# Matric examination 'too easy'

eT 22/10/96

(52)

**ENGLISH LITERATURE** papers written by matrics yesterday received a mixed reception with some teachers considering some questions too easy and others calling the papers well balanced. **CAROL CAMPBELL** reports.

**M**ATRIC pupils in the Western Cape started their final exams yesterday and for the first time pupils of all races wrote the same papers, bringing to an end decades of segregated education.

Speculation in old Model C schools that exams would be "much easier" than in the past, as the education department tried to accommodate "disadvantaged" pupils, proved false when the first paper was declared "tough".

Until now South Africa's standard 10s have written different exams based on race — white pupils wrote under the old Cape Education Department, coloured pupils under the House of Representatives (HoR) and black under the Department of Education and Training (DET).

Mr Thami Mseleku, Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu's right-hand man, said in future the matric certificate would compete with the best in the world.

"The South African Qualifications Authority, established six months ago, will vet all exam papers to ensure they meet the standards we want in education. "To talk about maintaining past

standards is impossible — the way things were done in the past meant there were no standards for many people."

Yesterday the province's 51 000 matrics wrote English literature, first and second language, exams which were described as "too easy" by some and "balanced" by others. At Cathkin High School in Heidelberg senior English teacher Mr Billy Parsotam, whose pupils wrote the second language paper, said it was "much too easy" and offered no challenge to his top students.

"The questions were very straightforward and major themes like the supernatural in Macbeth were not even touched on — it was disappointing."

Last year's exam, which quizzed children on the "tone" of a book and the "feelings" of characters, had required far more insight into the set works, he said.

"The essay questions were fair and gave the better student an opportunity to test their writing skills. This was the first time second language pupils were given essays — which was a good challenge."

A question which asked what Macbeth did when he "totters" and then gave options like he was

(a) drunk, (b) physically tired, (c) emotionally tired and (d) slipped on blood — was silly, he said.

Mr Adnaan Mohamed, an English teacher from Guguletu Comprehensive High School, where pupils wrote the Department of Education and Training exam last year, said in the past "multiple choice" had been a major element of the paper but this year pupils were not let off the hook easily.

"Our pupils wrote the second language paper which we found balanced. It seemed to have elements from all the old education departments and pupils were encouraged to think when they answered questions.

"This exam is definitely a step in the right direction."

The head of the English department at Camps Bay High School, Mr Dave Campbell, said the first language paper was "more testing" than last year.

"The examiners used a literary style of questioning which was dropped a few years ago — we expected the questions to be more open-ended and less verbose."

Teachers at the school were not unhappy with the paper but thought some questions were "ambiguous" and inaccessible to the average pupil.

"There was a question about the use of the word 'garrulous' in the unseen poem which must have wiped out a lot of pupils who



**TOO EASY:** Mr Billy Parsotam said major themes in some setworks were neglected in the second language English exam, disappointing well-prepared pupils.

wouldn't have known what it meant. However, there was a good spread of poems and well chosen contextual passages."

Abbott's College pupil Britony Robertson said the first language paper was "harder than expected" and some questions unclear.

"The question about Great Expectations which wanted us to discuss the significance of food and the manner of serving and eating in the novel flustered me."

Cambridge College pupil Desmond Diergaardt who wrote



**CHALLENGING:** Mr Adnaan Mohamed said the second language English paper was balanced and a "step in the right direction".

the English first language paper said the questions demanded a good knowledge of the setworks and anyone who didn't study would have struggled.

Several schools where pupils wrote the first language standard grade paper where "furious" to find the paper tested four setwork books when teachers had been told they need only teach three. The problem is being addressed.

Matrics will sit their final English writing and language papers today.



**TESTING:** English teacher Mr Dave Campbell felt parts of the paper were "ambiguous" but the selection of poetry was good.

**PICTURES: GARTH STEAD AND DENZIL MAREGELLE**

## Street traders agree on policing policy

ANDREA WEISS  
METRO CORRESPONDENT

ARG 25/10/96

Informal traders in Cape Town have agreed to police themselves during the festive season in line with the proposed hawking by-law.

The municipality believes this will curb conflict during the summer.

A draft agreement that will involve delegating portions of the city to trader organisations to police themselves was accepted at a meeting this week.

The municipality will give the authority to specific trading associations that present a map indicating their area of activity to co-ordinate, manage and control it.

In terms of the agreement, a trader organisation in charge of a specific area will be required to control all individual traders on the land irrespective of whether they are members of their organisation.

The trader organisations, in turn, agree that they will refer any conflicts to the Cape Town municipality for resolution. The municipality intends assigning a conflict resolution expert to deal with problems that may arise.

Ben van Rensburg, assistant city administrator, said the draft agreement was endorsed at a meeting of informal traders, but it was being left to the individual trader organisations on the ground to decide who should control specific areas, because this could not be determined by the council.

He was optimistic that this plan would ease the situation during the festive season.

The agreement would operate in the run-up to the introduction of the hawking by-law, which was likely to be approved by the city council at its monthly meeting next week and promulgated by December, Mr Van Rensburg said.

# Rewrite fears as exam chaos grows

*Now W Cape paper delayed*

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT AND STAFF REPORTER

ARG 25/10/96

Pretoria - Gauteng matriculants may have to rewrite their English and geography examinations amid widespread allegations of chaos within the Gauteng Department of Education.

Pupils who arrived at Gauteng schools to write accountancy exams yesterday were turned away after a last-minute decision to postpone the exam, when it was found by the department that the paper had been leaked. Department spokesman James Maseko said a well-organised syndicate was behind the leaks and arrests of department staff were expected soon.

In another tale of disarray, Western Cape pupils yesterday started writing their matric Latin exam an hour late, after invigilators found they had incomplete question papers from the Western Cape Department of Education.

The school principals telephoned the department, which in turn faxed the missing portion. Copies were then run off for each pupil.

In Gauteng, several matriculation papers have already been leaked to pupils

at a cost of around R2 000 each. "The geography and English papers were written at the beginning of the week and afterwards it came to the department's attention that the papers had been leaked in certain areas before the time," Mr Maseko said.

The syndicate had profited from the selling of exam papers for a number of years. Police had visited several houses this week to obtain evidence.

"I think a rewrite is a last resort," said department spokesman Subethri Naidoo. "Other possibilities are being looked into. We could possibly use the June exam marks or last year's mark instead."

The department said it would make every effort to ensure that no other exam would be postponed.

Meanwhile the National Party has accused the department of inefficiency. "The present crisis has had a long run-up," said NP spokesman Donald Lee.

"Shortened time schedules, notifications which were late in arriving, incompetency of authorities, inexperienced officials and inefficient handling of the process have all contributed to the problems experienced in many provinces."

## Cooking oil fire races through luxury home

Damage estimated at nearly R1-million was caused when burning cooking oil started a fire which raced through a luxury double-storey house in Bloubergstrand.

The Milnerton fire brigade put out the blaze at the home belonging to J C Kriek in Gull Street yesterday afternoon, but not

before major damage had been caused.

Police said the fire was believed to have started when a domestic worker dropped a hot cooking utensil with burning oil while taking it off the stove. The domestic worker fled to safety after the burning oil set fire to the floor covering. - Staff Reporter

## Matric exam managers taken to task for 'incompetence'

(52) ARG 26/10/96

Pretoria - Problems in the management of matric examinations drew sharp criticism from three organisations here.

A lack of expertise and competence was clearly to blame, they said in separate statements.

Describing the theft of examination papers as a scandal, the SA Federation of State Aided Schools threatened to apply for a Supreme Court interdict to protect the interests of pupils.

The Transvaalse Onderwysersunie said it had all along warned provincial education departments not be hasty in retrenching experienced education experts.

The Conservative Party said the African National Congress was clearly unable to manage the education system. - Sapa

# Matrics 'can sue' over exam change

52

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

ART 26/10/96

Pretoria - Matric pupils could take the Department of Education to court for financial losses incurred as a result of the change to the exam timetable.

According to the South African Federation of State Aided Schools (Safsas), pupils who planned and paid for a holiday after their exams could claim for their financial losses.

Many matric pupils have already made plans and paid for traditional celebrations after the examinations, but have had to cancel their arrangements after the accountancy paper was postponed until November 27.

"Due to the ongoing examination scandal, especially in Gauteng and Mpumalanga, Safsas has sought legal advice," federation president Hennie van Deventer said.

Any parent or pupil who has suffered financial loss or other damage due to negligence or careless behaviour of an Education Department employee can claim compensation.

"We learned about two girls who have finalised arrangements with families in Britain to start as au pairs after their matric exams," Dr Van Deventer said. The change of schedule will cost their parents money.

According to department spokesman Subethri Naidoo, the investigation into leaks of exam papers is progressing well and arrests are expected soon.

The postponement was necessary, she said. "We need to protect the entire exam," she said.

# Exam scam: arrests are imminent

(52)

Star 26/10/96

By PETA KROST AND  
OWN CORRESPONDENT

Investigators are closing in on a syndicate which has been stealing and selling matric exam papers. And a number of arrests are imminent, say both the police and the Gauteng Department of Education.

As the public outcry over the scandal escalated, angry matric pupils, parents, teachers and principals told the *Saturday Star* they felt the scam had discredited the entire matric year. Educationists also say some papers were far too easy.

The department maintained, however, that the exam paper leak was not widespread and was contained in "pockets" across Gauteng. Despite this, the department had decided to postpone this week's accountancy exam until November 27. This would cost "hundreds of thousands of rands"

And the South African Federation of State Aided Schools (Safsas) says pupils, who planned and paid for a holiday after their exams, could claim for their financial losses.

Federation president Dr Hennie van Deventer said Safsas had sought legal advice. "We learnt about two girls who have finalised arrangements with families in Britain to start as au pairs after their matric exams."

Because the accountancy examination paper had been postponed, all their arrangements had to be changed - at extra cost to their parents.

"If the education authorities do not take immediate and suitable steps to prevent further irregularities concerning the examination process, Safsas

will strongly consider an interdict through the Supreme Court to force education departments to ensure that parents and learners do not suffer any further harm," he said.

Department spokesman Subethri Naidoo said the postponement was necessary. "The fact of the matter is that we need to protect the entire exam. If people are wanting to take any kind of legal action they're welcome to do so. The department will respond."

The change in the matric exam timetable would have no effect on the date results were published, she said.

But there is still growing anger over the fact that thieves were able to discredit the exam process.

A Soweto high school principal (whose views were echoed throughout the province) said: "It is a total farce. How can our children be made to sit exams after working hard all year while others, who haven't picked up a book, score the top marks and get accepted first for university?"

However, it has become evident that this is not the first year matric exam papers have been leaked. But it is the first time that both police and education department investigations have been ordered.

Police have so far confirmed that the geography and accountancy papers were stolen and sold for up to R2 000 a copy. While the accountancy paper was postponed on Thursday, the morning it was due to be written, the matriculants sat for the leaked geography paper on Tuesday.

TO PAGE 2

P.T.O.

# Standard of matric papers to be probed

(52) c 7 28/10/46

JOHANNESBURG: Thousands of matric pupils could be affected by the outcome of an investigation into the standards of certain examination papers by the South African Certification Council, the official body in charge of moderating and monitoring examination standards.

The council's executive officer, Dr Fred Calitz, announced yesterday that an investigation would be launched into claims that the standard of certain examination papers had been low and that some papers might have been leaked before they had been written.

The council's action follows several complaints in the past week about the "easy" geography paper and about certain English and Afrikaans examination papers.

The move also follows widespread criticism about management problems in various provinces.

Last Friday, Western Cape pupils had to start their Latin exam an hour late because they had received incomplete examination papers.

Last Thursday the accounting exam in Gauteng was postponed, forcing thousands of angry pupils to return home.

Calitz said the 20-member council would meet on November 14 to discuss the allegations and possible action.

He warned that the council would recommend that certain marks be lowered if it was proven that the examination papers were of a low standard. — Own Correspondent.

# Matric exam emergency

ARG 28/10/96

(52)

## *National meeting on leaks, standards*

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

**Durban – An emergency meeting about exam leaks and claims that some Gauteng matric papers have been below standard has been called by a national accreditation council.**

The meeting has been called for November 14 by the South African Certification Council, which is responsible for ensuring matric exam papers are of a uniformly high standard throughout the country.

Safcert will deal with questions which are being asked by politicians, the business community and parent groups after remarks by a former moderator for the South African joint matriculation board, Wits academic John Earle, that some of the questions in the Gauteng geography paper were "inappropriately simple".

There have also been complaints in Gauteng that the Afrikaans second-language paper was not of the same standard as previously.

Dr Morgan Naidoo, head of matric exams for KwaZulu-Natal, said the type of geography exam questions that had been reported in the press were not of a standard acceptable in the province.

He assured candidates that tight security, including the use of private security guards, had been arranged to ensure there were no leaks in the province.

Certification council executive officer Fred Calitz acknowledged that the questions in the Gauteng geography higher grade appeared to have been too simple.

"But I have had to rely on what I have seen in the newspaper and have not had any communication from the Gauteng education department," he said.

He would have to confirm that the paper that was written was indeed the paper that had been given the go-ahead by national geography moderator Piet van Rensburg.

If it was found the examination was too easy, adjustments would have to be made.

"If the Gauteng education department doesn't agree to make the necessary adjustment to marks, we could refuse to issue matriculation certificates for Gauteng."

Professor Van Rensburg is in France and not available for comment.

Gauteng MEC Mary Metcalfe said it was up to professionals, not politicians, to make announcements about the standard of geography papers.

The debate about standards happened every year and was "healthy".

However, it was the job of the certification council to moderate the standard of papers across the country.

Commenting on the leaking of papers, she said the exam paper had been replaced before pupils had written it and the arrest of perpetrators was imminent.

Superintendent-general of the Gauteng education department, James Maseko, preferred not to comment.

Parents' Association of Durban South spokesman Mohammed Saheed Gaffar said it was vital that papers all over the country were up to standard.

"How are pupils to meet the challenges of South Africa and, indeed, the international community if we are not up to standard?" said Mr Gaffar.

Durban Chamber of Commerce spokesman John Bryce said business needed to be assured of the quality of the education certificate issued by the department.

He said it could affect productivity if people were appointed to positions in companies on the basis of their qualifications but were not able to deliver once they started working.

# Misery for matrics as

Star 28/10/96 (52) exam scandal grows

Amid rumours of leaks, marks may be lowered if an inquiry finds that the papers have been below standard

By EDWIN NAIDU AND  
JANINE SIMON

Schools, education authorities, and politicians are demanding answers to the escalating scandal surrounding this year's matric exams as pupils sit their algebra examinations today.

Amid rumours that the paper had been leaked on the Internet and had had to be cancelled, the South African Federation of State-Aided Schools (Safsas) said it had already briefed lawyers to prepare a case and would go ahead with court action should urgent negotiations with the Gauteng Education Department fail to bear fruit.

As the draft SA Schools Bill faces its final passage through the National Assembly and the Senate, the NP has asked for an urgent meeting with Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu and the South African Certification Council, the body in charge of moderating and monitoring exam standards, has announced an investigation into leaks, and claims of "easy" geography, English and Afrikaans papers.

Exams went ahead this morning. Subethri Naidoo, spokesman for education MEC Mary Metcalfe, said she could not reveal whether the algebra paper had been replaced or whether staff thought to be involved in the leak would be suspended today.

A standard Internet search by The Star showed the algebra paper was not widely available on the Net.

However, this does not mean

it is not on the Internet, but that surfers would have to know - or pay for - its address.

Safsas chairman Hennie van Deventer said Safsas would seek undertakings that other matric exams would not be compromised.

If this was refused, the federation would apply for a Supreme Court interdict compelling the authorities to take measures to ensure compliance with the basic principles of administering a fair examination, Van Deventer said.

The scandal had caused misery, confusion and frustration among many matriculants, parents and teachers, he said.

Yesterday, the certification council's executive officer, Dr Fred Calitz, said the council would meet on November 14 to discuss the allegations.

He warned the council could recommend that certain marks be lowered if it were proved that papers were below standard.

NP education spokesman Renier Schoeman said the NP was perturbed about the reports.

The Transvaalse Onderwysersunie and the Conservative Party have also joined the growing band of critics, accusing the authorities of incompetence.

Metcalfe said she was pleased with the overall standard of the papers. "There is absolutely no drop in standards," she said.

SA Democratic Teachers' Union spokesman Kate Skinner said it had always been claimed that standards in former whites-only schools were higher than in black schools.

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN



Escape from danger ... as a new refugee crisis unfolds in the Great Lakes region, rebels continue to rout the Zairian army, closing in on two provincial strongholds. General Mobutu Sese Seko. He is being treated in Switzerland.



# Police seize exam paper copies

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

(52)

Pretoria - Police have recovered about 1 000 copies of a Mpumalanga school's Standard 2 to Standard 6 exam papers - due to be written this month - at a company's premises here.

Detectives were informed yesterday that a box containing copies of the exam papers was found at arms manufacturer Denel in the city.

Investigator Sergeant Danie Nel said it appeared that a cleaning woman at Denel had made photocopies of the Standard 2 to Standard 6 final exam papers. The papers came from the Bongani Combined School in Tweefontein.

Mpumalanga.

The box contained copies of the science, mathematics, biology, history, Afrikaans and English papers for the 1996 November/December examinations, Sergeant Nel said.

Police believe the cleaning woman is the mother of a Standard 5 pupil at the Bongani school. It is alleged that she was approached by a teacher at the school to make the copies, Sergeant Nel said.

Police said last night that the teacher confirmed that she asked the Denel cleaning woman to make the copies. Apparently the school's copy machine was out of order and she approached her neighbour who works at Denel to

make 50 copies each of five separate exam papers, Sergeant Nel said.

A total of 15 different exam papers were recovered, he said. Bongani headmaster Mr M S Mbonani was not prepared to speak to police before contacting the Department of Education and getting legal advice.

Police said that shortly before 8am yesterday a Denel employee was asked to investigate when it was learnt that a cleaning woman was making copies in an office. The Denel employee found the exam papers in the box, Sergeant Nel said. The matter will be referred to the attorney-general who will decide if anyone should be prosecuted.

FRG 29/10/96

## Stop the rot, education chief tells students

SABATA NGCAI  
EDUCATION REPORTER

It is high time young people behaved responsibly to prevent the country sliding into the gutter, says Brian O'Connell, director-general of education in the Western Cape.

Mr O'Connell was addressing the launch of the Student Representative Forum of the Mitchell's Plain district in Newlands yesterday.

The launch was the culmination of months of discussions between student representative councils from schools on the Cape Flats.

Mr O'Connell said students, as leaders, had a huge responsibility. "You'll be accountable to the community. No more trashing of schools when the school can't pay for matric balls," he said.

"We must not have hooligans who sell drugs at schools. We need people who are committed to this country."

**THINKING OF EMIGRATING?**

**Editors, Mandela for talks**

## City matrices given wrong paper in latest exam fiasco

(52) ARG 29/10/96

SABATA NGCAI  
EDUCATION REPORTER

The matriculation exam fiasco continued as three adult candidates in Cape Town due to write the first paper of the Afrikaans second-language exam yesterday were handed the second paper, due to be written today.

The rest of the candidates wrote the first paper yesterday and are writing the second paper today.

The Western Cape Education Department apologised for the error and cited "the magnitude of the task" as a reason.

This was the second time in the Western Cape in less than two weeks that there were errors in the examinations.

Late last week pupils writing the Latin exam did not get all the question papers and the department had to fax the missing parts to schools.

Provincial education director-general Brian O'Connell said yesterday's error was detected by the department soon after the Afrikaans exam was completed.

"All three adult candidates were tracked down and isolated," he said.

This was to prevent a possible leak of the second paper.

"They spent the rest of the day and night under supervision away from home to prevent any possible contact with other candidates. The question papers were obtained from them and none of them had had any opportunity to discuss the paper with anyone.

"In this way the integrity of the question paper to be written today by more than 10 000 candidates was maintained," he said.

The three are writing the first paper today. Mr O'Connell apologised to pupils, teachers and parents for the inconvenience in the two incidents. "It should be stated that this is the first examination in the new dispensation," he said.

# Commission to investigate exam paper leaks

Bonile Ngqiyaza

(572) 90 29 10 96

AN INDEPENDENT commission of inquiry would be appointed to find ways of ensuring Gauteng matric exam papers were not leaked again, provincial education MEC Mary Metcalfe said yesterday.

Metcalfe said the commission would look into security arrangements for this year's Gauteng matric exams and the adequacy of steps taken to protect their "integrity".

This followed weekend reports of widespread sale of matriculation ex-

am papers, particularly in Gauteng. Metcalfe said the commission would begin its work once exams had been completed.

The commission — members' names will be announced at the end of the week — would present its findings to the education department at the end of the year, she said.

Metcalfe said the investigation would run concurrently with those of the Gauteng education department and the SAPS.

"The department clearly has the responsibility to pursue its internal

investigations, and the police must pursue the criminals involved."

The gravity of the matter had led her to appoint experts outside the department to investigate.

Education department spokesman Subethri Naidoo said leaked papers had been replaced where necessary. Naidoo declined to give details, saying such information would benefit students who had bought stolen papers.

Meanwhile, the NP said yesterday it had challenged Metcalfe to appear before the province's educa-

tion standing committee today to provide answers on what steps her department would take to safeguard "what is left of the integrity of the 1996 matriculation exams."

NP education spokesman Juli Kilian said it was evident Metcalfe had chosen to maintain a low profile after her arrogant dismissal of NP warnings about a crisis in Gauteng's senior certificate examination and her refusal to resign.

Kilian said Metcalfe owed the matriculants and the legislature's portfolio committee an explanation

and an apology.

The Freedom Front slammed the incompetency of the department's "affirmative action" appointees, saying they were wasting taxpayers' money by engaging consultants to execute the administration of the examinations.

The Northwest government said it had stringent security to ensure papers were not leaked to pupils. About 700 examiners were involved in producing the papers and checking their quality, later attested to by the SA Certification Council.

# Parents, pupils slam GDE for exam scam

(52) Sowetan  
29/10/96

**By Victor Mecoamere**

THE Gauteng government is to appoint a team to investigate the matric examinations scam that has forced the postponement of one and the resetting of several papers.

Yesterday pupils sitting for matric examinations in Gauteng were angered by the resetting of the algebra paper which they described as tough.

Angry pupils and parents who called both the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) and *Sowetan* complained about the department's lax security measures.

Gauteng MEC for education Mrs Mary Metcalfe said yesterday the investigation team would "inquire into the preparation of the examinations with special focus on security

arrangements, the adequacy of the steps taken to protect the integrity of the examination and make recommendations regarding the necessary action to ensure that such a situation does not arise again".

The team will include officials of the GDE, the Independent Examinations Board and the Gauteng Provincial Service.

## **Inquiry on**

Metcalfe said the inquiry had been instituted because "the theft of matriculation papers from the GDE is a matter of enormous public concern".

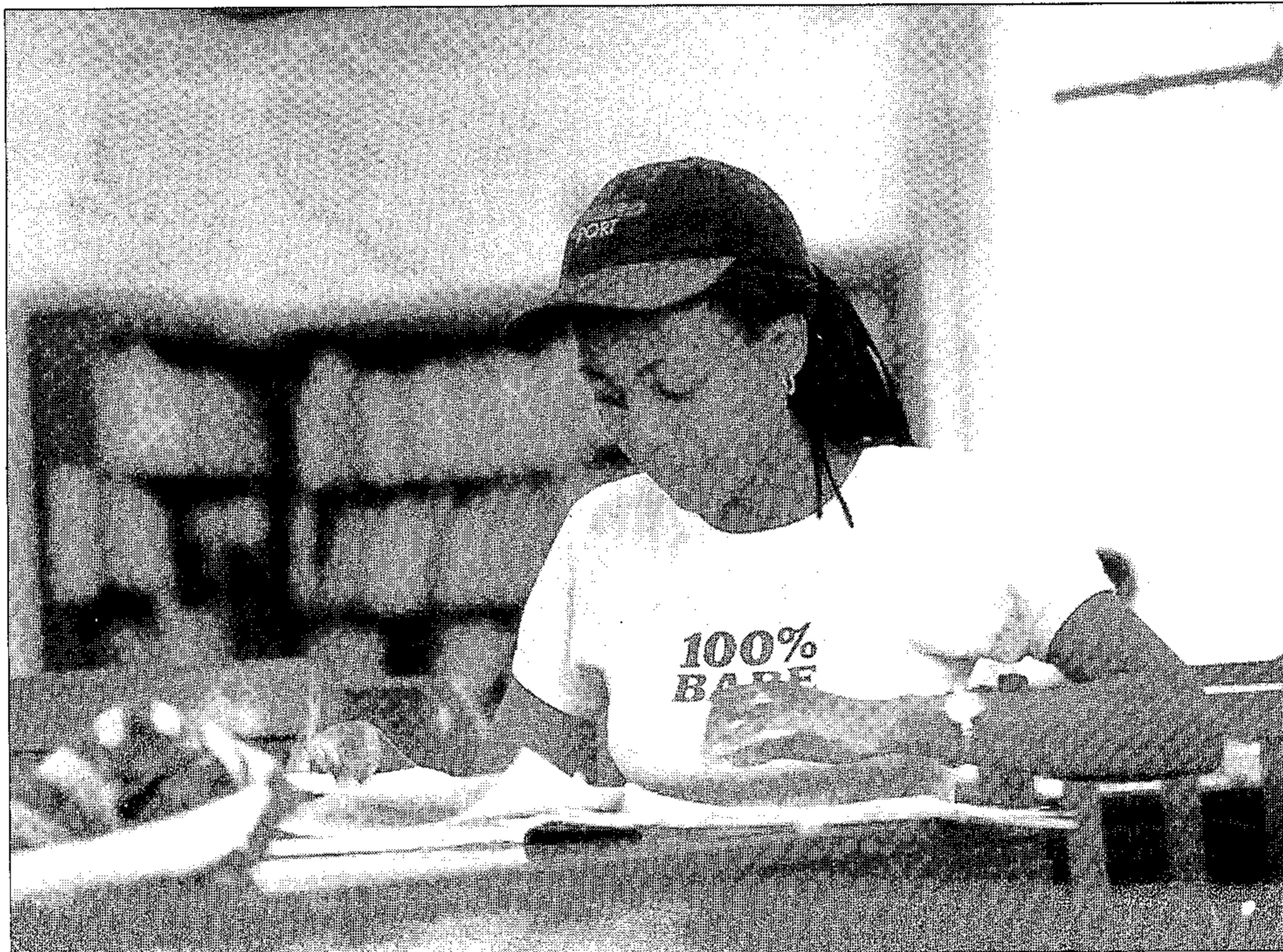
Her spokesperson Ms Subethri Naidoo said the accountancy paper, which was to have been written last Thursday, would now be sat for on November 27.

But all the other subjects will be written on the scheduled dates without change.

She said the GDE and police were closing in on a number of department officials who have been implicated in the scam, which involves the sale of leaked exam papers.

Both Naidoo and Metcalfe could not say how many of the leaked subject papers, which have been sold for up to R2 000 per paper or R35 000 for a package, would be reset.

Yesterday 102 000 full-time and 10 000 part time candidates wrote a reset algebra paper, which many of them have described as tough. Metcalfe and Naidoo also quashed rumours that the algebra paper had been widely available on the Internet.



Concerned ... Miliswa Pantshwa, studying at the Johannesburg Library, is worried about the matric exam papers being leaked.

## Leaks and standards of exam papers turn matriculants' lives into misery as education department probes scandal

By **BONGIWE MLANGENI**

The growing scandal of leaked and easy matric exam papers in Gauteng is dampening spirits and turning life into a misery for thousands of pupils who were expecting to build a future based on good results.

Miliswa Pantshwa, a pupil at Roseleigh Girls School in Observatory, Johannesburg, is one of those who have so far only written the papers that are at the centre of controversy - English, Geography and Afrikaans.

The Gauteng Education Department is currently investigating alleged leaks in some regions in the province, as well as claims that the three papers were "easy".

It is these standards the 19-year-old Pantshwa does not understand: "If the paper was below standard, whose standards are they talking of?"

This question has also been asked by some pupils in township schools, who, despite having had to face school boycotts, teachers strikes and intimidation from gangsters, are eager to come out of it all with good matric results.

Pantshwa says according to her own standards, "all the papers were challenging."

"I heard one of our teachers saying the paper was much easier compared to other years but I wrote the paper and found it fair," she says.

It has been Pantshwa's wish to pass matric with flying colours so that she could study travel and tourism at Wits Technikon next year: now she is unsure.

She became more devastated when she heard that marks may be lowered if an inquiry finds that some exam papers were below standard.

"It is frustrating and I think it

is unfair on us."

Mary Gallant, a parent of a matric pupil, also feels distressed by the rumours: "When we all go to sleep and leave my child studying, I always pray he gets the best.

"But I find these rumours really discouraging for him. Right now we are all unsure of his fate," she says.

Barry (who did not want to reveal his full name and that of his school) believes "the whole saga is just a fuss".

"Since when have standards, and the leaking of papers, been such an issue?"

"Is it because we are all writing the same paper this year? I think this is just about political bargaining."

He says the rumours are demotivating him, adding: "I hope the education authorities and politicians are aware they are playing with our lives and future."

■ This year's Gauteng matriculants received a rude shock yesterday when they wrote what they described as a "difficult" mathematics paper, writes Priscilla Singh.

In a snap poll in Johannesburg yesterday, shortly after the matriculants wrote the three-hour algebra and calculus paper, dejected matriculants sat outside their school gates and talked about the paper.

At the Parktown Boys' High School, Christopher Rorke wrote the Standard Grade paper and said he had been expecting a much easier paper.

"It was quite difficult and most of us would be lucky to pass comfortably," he said.

Hugo Sampaio wrote the Higher Grade, together with Greg Homann and Hilton Hong, said that because the other papers had been so easy they had been lulled into a false sense of security.

(52) Star 29/10/96

# Third probe into matric leaks ordered

(52) Star 29/10/96

Bitter, disillusioned students complain to The Star: Metcalfe announces independent inquiry by leading educationists

## STAFF REPORTERS

A third inquiry into irregularities in the Gauteng matric exams is to be launched by the province's education MEC, Mary Metcalfe, amid further claims of leaks and inconsistencies in the standard of papers, and threats of protest action.

Metcalfe said in Johannesburg yesterday she would appoint independent people this week to conduct an inquiry into the preparation of the examinations, the adequacy of the steps taken to protect the integrity of the examination, and to make recommendations on action to avoid a repeat of the situation.

"Because this is such a serious matter, independent experts from outside the department must be appointed to investigate," she said. Top educationists were working on the management of the exams.

Other investigations into the crisis are being conducted by the national education department and by the police, who could institute criminal charges.

Disgruntled pupils called The Star saying yesterday's mathematics papers had been leaked, and that the standard grade algebra paper - which Subrethri Naidoo, spokesman for Gauteng MEC Mary Metcalfe confirmed had been changed - was unreasonably difficult.

Pupils from Damelin College called The Star yesterday to say they had seen a copy of the mathematics exam paper just before going in to write. "A few students were gathered around and looking at the paper, which was handwritten," said one pupil.

On beginning the exam, the pupil said, it was immediately clear that the paper was identical.

She said no one at the college wanted to buy the papers because they did not wish to repeat the exams. "But they are easily available. You just need to know who to go to," she added.

The Pan-Africanist Students' Organisation has threatened protest action if the issue is not resolved, saying the process had been turned into a mockery.

The South African Certifica-

tion Board has the power to refuse to issue matric certificates if the integrity of the exams are questioned, but executive officer Dr Fred Calitz was reported as saying certificates would be issued if everything possible was done by provincial authorities to protect the integrity of the exam, and if they agreed to altering marks if the papers were too easy or difficult.

Anyone with information on irregularities should phone Ivor Hoff at (011) 355-0801. "Hard evidence is what will secure convictions," said Metcalfe.

■ Pretoria police are questioning a cleaner and teacher today after detectives linked them to the discovery of more than 950 copies of standards two to six Bongani Combined School exam papers.

The papers were found in the possession of the cleaner. The cleaner, who is employed at Denel, was making photocopies when an administrative clerk questioned her.

► Matric misery  
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# Protector urged to look into matric exam scandal

By ADAM COOKE  
30/10/96

The public protector has been called on by the South African Federation of State-Aided Schools (Safsas) to investigate Gauteng's matric exams, while the province's police commissioner has vowed to leave no stone unturned in apprehending the guilty parties.

Safsas president Dr Hennie van Deventer said the "unsatisfactory response of the education authorities to the 1996 matric examinations scandal" had forced his organisation to approach the public protector to investigate maladministration.

Safsas represents about 2 400 school governing bodies nationally and is the only organisation airing the views of parents.

Van Deventer said that although such an investigation would not undo the harm already caused by "administrative bungling", it would be a step towards finding the real causes of "the most chaotic matric examinations in history".

He said Safsas did not intend to have the 1996 matric exams declared null and void, and stated: "There is too much at stake for the matriculants in order to ensure their academic or future career possibilities."

Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale yesterday expressed his concern at the problems of leaked papers and said he had been assured by provincial commissioner Sharma Maharaj that police would do everything to find the culprits.

In its turn, the National Party has called for Sexwale to intervene and establish his own independent commission of inquiry that could go beyond the "limited scope" provided by Education MEC Mary Metcalfe's inquiry.

ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa expressed his confidence in the ability of the Government to deal with the exam crisis, which he said was "confined to just a few areas in Gauteng".

Maharaj's spokesman Captain Jan Combrinck said the police investigation team was taking statements and trying to get to the bottom of the affair.

The national Education Department's spokesman, Louise Emerton, said the situation was being monitored and the Inter-provincial Exam Committee was meeting to focus on normalising the results.

RESULTS STILL OUT ON DECEMBER 27

# Western Cape matric exams run smoothly

ET 30/10/96

(52)

**THREE ADULT MATRIC** candidates had to be isolated this week after they accidentally wrote an Afrikaans examination which was scheduled to be written the following morning. Education Writer **CAROL CAMPBELL** reports.

**M**ATRIC examinations in the Western Cape are going like "clockwork" with no reports of leaking or cheating, although three candidates were "isolated" on Monday after they accidentally wrote yesterday's Afrikaans exam.

The women, all adult candidates, were supposed to write the Afrikaans Second Language first paper but were given the second paper — due to be written the following morning — by mistake.

The head of the Western Cape Education Department (WCED), Mr Brian O'Connell, said when officials realised what had happened, the women were placed under supervision in a city hotel and an education official's home in Rondebosch.

"They were the only three candidates writing at an exam centre in Hout Bay and were traced to their workplaces and taken to a venue where they were watched for the rest of the day and night.

"The question papers were obtained from them and no-one had the opportunity to discuss the paper with anyone."

The women were not allowed to receive or make any phone calls during their isolation, which was "most inconvenient", especially for one, who has three small children. The department did offer to accommodate the children with their mother in the hotel.

WCED official Mr Dougie Kennedy said the names of the three matrics would not be made public because "it was not their fault" and they were "deeply distressed" by what had happened.

The three wrote yesterday the paper they should have written on Monday.

"We were very lucky to pick up the problem so quickly. Had it been a whole class who was given the wrong exam, we would have had to cancel the paper," O'Connell said.

Apparently an exam official accidentally took or was given the wrong envelope with the papers.

There have been reports of exam papers being leaked in other provinces, but Western Cape matrics write exams set by local teachers and are unaffected.

Kennedy said matric question

papers were sent to schools with strongrooms up to a week before they were written and only the principal and deputy principal had a key to the room.

"We have never had a problem with the trustworthiness of principals, so I cannot say what would happen if a paper was leaked."

Schools without proper security had papers delivered to them on the morning of the exam.

The principal of Garlandale High School in Athlone, Mr Eddie Snyders, said he was happy with the way the matric exams had been conducted thus far. However, he felt he should be introduced to the courier service which collected the completed matric papers every afternoon.

Ms Boniswa Xonti, the exam organiser for Joe Slovo High School in Khayelitsha, said the 181 matric candidates at the school were finding the exams "fair".

"The accountancy paper was tough, but everything is running smoothly and the pupils are happy."

Mr Graham Paulson, the acting principal of Milnerton High School, was also satisfied with the running of the exams so far.

● Yesterday, Education MEC Mrs Martha Olckers said it was still planned to release the matric results on December 27.



# Matric paper scandals highlight selection problems for

LYNNE ALTENROXEL  
ARGIS CORRESPONDENT

Pretoria - The debacle around leaked matric examination papers has highlighted the problem of assessing school leavers for study at universities and colleges.

While pupils are concerned about the validity of the exams, tertiary institutions are having to deal with the problem of how

to assess which school leavers should be accepted for further study.

And the problem takes on bigger proportions in light of the recently released report of the National Commission of Higher Education, which has recommended that the number of students at tertiary institutions double by 2005.

But pupil numbers are going to more than double, so selection is going to remain a real issue, said Nan Yeld, deputy-director

of the alternative admissions research programme at the University of Cape Town.

Ms Yeld was in Pretoria to attend a conference on increasing access to tertiary education.

"The problem is that the huge majority - at least 85 percent - of school leavers have D and E aggregates, so we must look for some kind of additional information during the selection process."

"The trend in tertiary institutions

towards developing individual assessment programmes to complement or replace matric exams complicates the issue.

"This is adding to the marginalisation of the importance of the matric examination," Ms Yeld said.

Entrance exams were well on the way and the more they were used at universities and technikons the more the school-leaving exam was devalued, she said.

When selecting pupils who got a D or E

aggregate, additional information was needed.

She recommended that these matriculants be assessed in terms of their performance in matric exams in relation to their classmates, who had the same educational experience.

"This would not tell us about the relative performance of different schools, but only the student's performance relative to other students from the same school."

"And it's much fairer than saying: 'you're from a terrible school, you're out,'" Ms Yeld said.

"The whole moderating system has for many years been problematic. There have been scandals, leaked papers and pupils getting marks for subjects they didn't write.

"I think with this year's matric exams, these problems have just come more into the open," Ms Yeld said.

APR 31/10/96 (52)  
**Tertiary institutions**

# Teachers with spades, bottles chase pupil demonstrators

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

**Port Elizabeth - It was "war" at Ithubelihle High School in New Brighton when teachers carrying spades, spanners, garden shears and broken bottles chased pupils.**

Residents and an education official watched in disbelief yesterday as teachers took on unarmed pupils who were objecting to exam invigilators they claimed were not up to standard.

Pupils, some with minor injuries, fled, jumping over fences, to get away.

An angry mother and some of her relatives stormed on to the school premises, challenging a woman teacher she said had chased her daughter with a broken bottle.

Police arrived and took the angry woman into an office to calm her down.

She eventually left the premises muttering: "I'm going to hunt down this teacher in the township and fix her up."

Chairs were tossed on to the school roof when matriculants writing examinations demanded that invigilators, who were staff

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members be replaced.

They said invigilators passed remarks while reading pupils' papers over their shoulders.

The pupils also wanted the department to produce 11 completed biology papers. They said the papers could be missing after one was found in a classroom which had not been used for exams.

Pupils writing physics at the school yesterday joined the demonstration when they had completed their papers.

Police were present today when pupils arrived to write their chemistry paper.

South African Democratic Teachers' Union regional chairman Mzoleli Mrara said Sadtu was investigating. A source said the principal, Nomaxabiso Mkencele, who had been given "indefinite leave to recover from emotional trauma" was suing three teachers for defamation.

Trouble at the school started in May when demonstrating parents locked out 30 teachers, demanding they be transferred.

Today neutral invigilators were at the school, which was quiet but still tense.

(52)

# Matric chaos continues

**SABATA NGCAI**  
EDUCATION REPORTER

**The matric exam shambles continues, with several Western Cape schools receiving incomplete and partly illegible papers.**

And some pupils complained about "tricky questions" that they had problems interpreting.

Provincial education department officials could not be reached for comment today because they were "attending a meeting".

The incidents at Pinelands, Heideveld

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and Sea Point high schools yesterday came after the department apologised publicly for three adult candidates in Cape Town being handed the wrong Afrikaans paper. They were due to write the first paper of the Afrikaans second language exam on Monday, but were given the second paper, which should have been written on Tuesday.

Pinelands High School principal Brian Ingpen received incomplete question papers for the geography second paper.

Mr Ingpen said the matter was reported to the department and the missing parts were delivered an hour-and-a-half later.

## Matric exams 'will not be scrapped'

All rumours that the matric examinations will be declared invalid must be laid to rest, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

An investigation into the progress and integrity of the matric exams in all nine provinces had found that, on the whole, the exams were progressing very well, Bengu said.

He added that he regretted the upset or inconvenience caused to pupils.

He said the investigation, conducted through the various heads of examination sections, could confirm only one leaked exam - the accounting paper in Gauteng.

Bengu said that since the beginning of the year a process of monitoring had taken place through the heads of education departments committee and the Council of Education Ministers. (52)

"I was informed ... that exam preparations were adequate and that, where necessary, measures had been undertaken to resolve problems." - Staff Reporter.

Star 31/10/96

# Matric exam leaks 'plugged'

M+G 1-7/10/96 (52)

Matric exam leaks have resulted in large-scale reshuffling within the Gauteng Department of Education, report **Joshua Amupadhi, Stuart Hess and David Shapshak**

**S**ECURITY for the matric exams was so lax and the loopholes so many that the Gauteng Department of Education this week replaced many of the 700 officials of its examinations unit.

This, it is hoped, will halt any more of the leaks which have cast a pall over the first non-racial examinations.

Said Sureshri Naidoo, representative for Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe: "We are in such a state of not knowing where the leaks occurred that we even had to replace some management staff and get more senior people to deal with issues such as packaging.

"We are not saying all of them were involved, but we couldn't take the risk of keeping them there."

She would not give the exact number of staff involved, but added that most were in the printing and packaging sections. These staff members had been moved to other sections.

The department's drastic move came as the leaks triggered widespread public anxiety. Four inquiries have been launched: an investigation by Public Protector Selby Baqwa, an internal education department probe, a commission of inquiry appointed by Metcalfe, and an investigation by the police.

While the department and police say they are close to a breakthrough, Naidoo admitted that whatever evidence they have is circumstantial and perpetrators could escape on technicalities.

The leaks were the work of crime syndicates and people acting alone, fuelled by inexperienced staff and "a few old guard" set on discrediting the department, she said. The replacement did not discriminate between the old and new bureaucrats.

She said fewer people than before were now involved in the new security arrangements.

A senior official who did want to be named said that after the leak of the accountancy paper was discovered the department found English and Afrikaans versions stapled together.

This showed internal complicity, said the source, because if the rules had been followed exam papers in the two languages would have been handled by separate officials.

It has so far been confirmed that the accountancy paper, which should have been written last week, was stolen and sold for up to R2 000. The exam has been postponed to November 27. Police say rumours that an algebra questionnaire was on the Internet have not been substantiated.

Some pupils in Laudium in Pretoria and Lenasia in Johannesburg said sets of papers for all subjects were going for R35 000. But the theft of exam papers is "by no means new", Naidoo said. And unlike in the past the new department was doing something to stop the leaks, which had become "chronic" in the education system over the years.

**R**ole players in education circles called for tougher action. South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) representative Kate Skinner said they have insisted that all remaining question papers be redrafted.

Naidoo would not say whether this would be done, but confirmed that "a number" of papers had already been changed.

Soweto's Orlando High School principal, George Mchunu, said officials knew leakages would occur because the examinations were being held on such a large scale. "There were quite a few instances of leaks in the old department of education and training and this department should have made provisions to counter the possibility of leaks," he said.

Parktown Boys' High principal Tom Clarke said reports that the current matric exams carried no weight were giving pupils and parents the wrong perception about the standard of the exam.

"Instead of questioning the standard of the exam we should rather attack the administration for their slackness and incompetence," he said.

# Pay day dawns for bond boycotters

Robyn Chalmers

20 1/11/96  
TODAY is the final day for more than 15 000 borrowers who are boycotting bonds obtained from SA Housing Trust subsidiary Khayaletu Home Loans to resume payment.

SA Housing Trust chairman Frank Chikane said yesterday that today would mark the end of the four-year bond boycott.

"The repayment agreement, signed between the SA National Civics Organisation (Sanco), and the trust last month, was the first step in reversing the boycott, which has cost more than R200m over three years. This money, together with the funds received from subsidies, would have been sufficient to build about 30 000 homes," he said.

In terms of the agreement between Sanco and the trust, bond boycotters would have to pay at least 80% of their normal monthly payment for the next six months. During this period, Khayaletu Home Loans would reassess its debt and property values and establish new instalment levels.

The organisation estimates that up to 75% of defaulters should have resumed payment by today, and has pledged that uncooperative defaulters will be evicted as a final resort.

In the wake of a housing summit hosted by Sanco and Khayaletu Home Loans two weeks ago, local leaders nationwide have been encouraged to communicate the implications of the agreement to their respective communities. They have also been called upon to motivate people to begin paying their monthly instalments from today at Khayaletu Home Loan offices or at any Standard Bank branch.

Chikane said the resumption of bond repayments was vital to ensure the building and delivery of new homes as soon as possible.

Sanco national president Mlungisi Hlongwane said the bond boycott had been initiated as part of the liberation strategy directed at the former apartheid government.

"However, that apartheid government is no more, so political reasons no longer justify the boycott."

## Officials work to ward off more chaos at school

(52) 20 1/11/96  
PORT ELIZABETH — Education authorities were hard-pressed yesterday to prevent another day of chaos at a high school in Port Elizabeth after teachers and matric pupils clashed following a physics examination on Wednesday.

Police were called in to quell the chaos at the Ithubelihle High School in New Brighton when teachers, reportedly armed with spades, garden shears and broken bottles, clashed with pupils in running battles on the school premises.

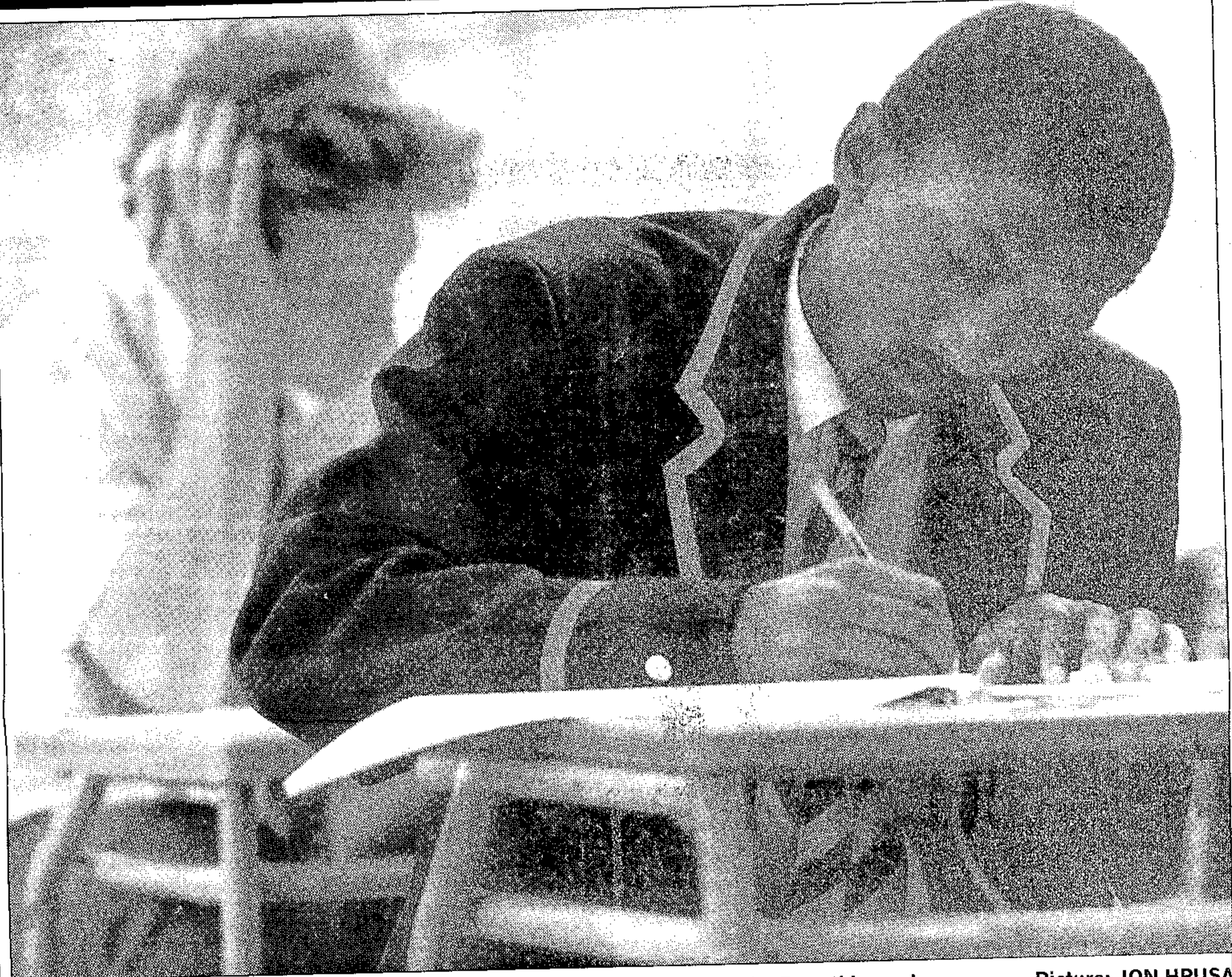
A number of the pupils were said to be slightly injured.

SA Democratic Teachers' Union regional secretary Siphon Matyolo said the incident was "regrettable" and that lasting solutions to the school's problems had to be found.

Long-standing tensions between teachers and pupils, following allegations of mismanagement of funds against suspended principal Nomaxabiso Mkencele earlier this year, erupted into open confrontation.

Chaos erupted at the school following Wednesday's physics examination, when pupils demanded independent invigilators after one pupil's script was found in another classroom. Teachers were also accused of intimidation.

One report said police had to restrain a parent who claimed a teacher chased her child with a broken bottle. Education department sources said attempts were being made to get teachers from other schools to invigilate today. — Ecna.



NO ROOM FOR ERROR . . . examination candidates at Parktown High School for Boys this week

Picture: JON HRUSA

## The difficult question of high standards

(52) ST 3/11/96

WHEN examiners drew up the geography paper they aimed to meet standards laid down by the SA Certification Council and yet accommodate pupils as different as Simone Lewis-Houghting, of Parktown High School for Girls, Johannesburg, and Morgan Mahlobo, of Ponego High School on the East Rand.

In the end, what they produced was a paper condemned by Lewis-Houghting as being too easy and by Mahlobo for being too difficult. One academic called the paper of "low standard" and a retired principal suggested that officials from the Gauteng Department of Education be charged with negligence.

Two questions in particular, for 12 out of 400 marks, riled many of the paper's critics. The first showed the national soccer team's victory route through Johannesburg and students were asked: "Where did the parade begin?" and "Give the names of the streets which were followed."

**FROM THE GEOGRAPHY PAPER:** The M1 was completed in 1973 and carries 60 000 vehicles per day between Pretoria and Johannesburg. In what year was the motorway completed and how many vehicles does it carry every day?

Another showed the M1 next to the caption: "The M1 was completed in 1973 and carries 60 000 vehicles per day between Pretoria and Johannesburg." Students were asked: "In what year was the M1 motorway completed?" and "How many vehicles does the M1 carry every day?"

"I thought it was a trick question," says Lewis-Houghting. "You set your mind to doing well and then when you get this, it makes you think everyone is taking this as a joke."

But Geoff Grover, who helped compile the paper, says: "What about kids in Tokoza who have never been on a motorway?"

"We had to try to turn around the whole thought process of children, especially those from the former DET. Some of the criticism is justified, especially from kids in former TED schools. But this is a transition paper."

Mahlobo says he found the paper overwhelming. "It was confusing. I failed to answer most of the questions. I tried to answer a few but I'm not even sure I gave the right answer."

Ponego High School had not scored a matric pass rate beyond 11 percent until 1995, when it registered 34 percent. This year the school has 265 students registered for the matric exams, and its headmaster, Ali Malebe, predicts a 50 percent pass rate.

"This debate is not about standards, it is all about point-scoring," says Malebe. Those complaining about "falling standards" are people who feel "disadvantaged" by the advent of democracy.

Tom Clarke, headmaster of Parktown High School for Boys, says: "Kids have been given a skewed perception but the fact of the matter is that those who have worked hard will benefit. The standards of papers written have been good to high."

# Teaching mistakes from which schools can learn

(52) ST 3/11/96

IS THE matric class of 96 tainted? Students and teachers at many of Gauteng's government schools seem to think so.

Simone Lewis-Houghting, a matric student at Parktown High School for Girls, for example, said that while she was not planning to go to university next year, there was a lot of concern among her classmates about the value of their certificates.

"I think some girls — especially those going to university — are worried about this year's matric not being seen as up to standard."

Such is the fear over falling standards that some government schools are said to be considering joining the Independent Examinations Board, a body whose member schools are mostly private English-medium schools.

Others, such as Parktown High School for Girls, are planning to issue certificates based on preliminary results which they hope will be considered by tertiary institutions.

Sue Eggeling, the school's acting headmistress, said: "We have been very concerned about the uncertainty surrounding the senior certificate exam this year. We have decided to issue an internal certificate which is a recognition of 12 years of hard work. While the certificate is not recognised by the SA Certification Council,

Widespread leakages and dissatisfaction about the standard of exam papers have severely tested Gauteng's educationists. **JACOB DLAMINI** and **CAROL PATON** spoke to those who had to make a new system work

we believe we have an accountability to our girls to help them and to acknowledge their work."

The idea of internal certification was mooted at a meeting of the Monastic Schools' Association, a body which represents single-sex schools. Schools will, however, take their own decision on whether to issue the certificate.

But Tom Clarke, headmaster of Parktown High School for Boys, said there was nothing new about using results from preliminary examinations to determine whether a pupil was accepted into a university or a technikon.

"That is standard procedure and has been done for 20 years — even Standard 9 results are often used to apply at universities," Clarke said.

Clarke says the "perception that this year's exams are not valid" is erroneous. "The standard of most of the papers that have been written so far has been good. I

believe that these exams should be as valid as those in the previous years."

This opinion is echoed by both Fred Calitz, chairman of the SA Certification Council, and James Maseko, superintendent general of the Gauteng Department of Education.

"According to our moderators the exams are on standard," Calitz said. "Even where we had complaints that papers were too easy (geography and Afrikaans second language) our moderators feel that the candidates will have a challenge."

In the case of schools where marks are abnormally high, possibly because pupils had access to exam papers, marks would be adjusted downwards, according to a system used "since time began".

Maseko said he thought that the integration of the four former departments and the writing of one exam raised the general standard rather than lowered it.

"We have taken all the necessary and

possible steps to ensure that standards are raised. In the system we inherited, a lot of what used to be tested was rote learning," said Maseko.

Clarke also dismisses as "completely fallacious" suggestions that IEB examinations are of higher standard than those written under the former Transvaal Education department.

"That perception must be put to rest — IEB exams are not better," says Clarke.

Ali Malebe, headmaster of Ponego High School in Katlehong on the East Rand, also rejects the idea that the "Class of 96" has been tainted by all the talk about falling standards.

"Exams have been going on smoothly and all the papers are of an acceptable standard," Malebe said.

He blames the negative talk on people who now find themselves outside of the education system.

"In the past we never knew how long it took to set an exam paper, but the change has made it possible for us to know what there is to know about how the department functions and people will come to see that the changes are better for us."

Simon Mkoko, a 25-year-old matric pupil at Ponego High, says he does not believe the Class of 96 is tainted.

"The standards have gone up. Even though I found some of the papers difficult I am confident and hope to do well."

# Leakage is part of the process

JAMES MASEKO, superintendent general of Gauteng's Department of Education, points out that it takes only one crook to upset a process involving 700 people, from setting an exam paper to placing it on a candidate's desk.

Maseko has briefed a team of top officials to help police in their investigation and would not comment on where the leak might be, but there is evidence of two probable leaks within his department.

The most obvious is the printing works, inherited from the old Transvaal Education Department, where all 270 papers were printed this year.

The accountability exam — a stray copy of which landed in Maseko's hands the day before it was due to be written — could only have been leaked after the printing stage. In another case, in which a handwritten copy of answers to the maths paper was seen circulating among students, the leak points to Maseko's officials.

This week, Maseko replaced all printing and packaging staff and put the exam process in the hands of education officials from outside head office. He set up three

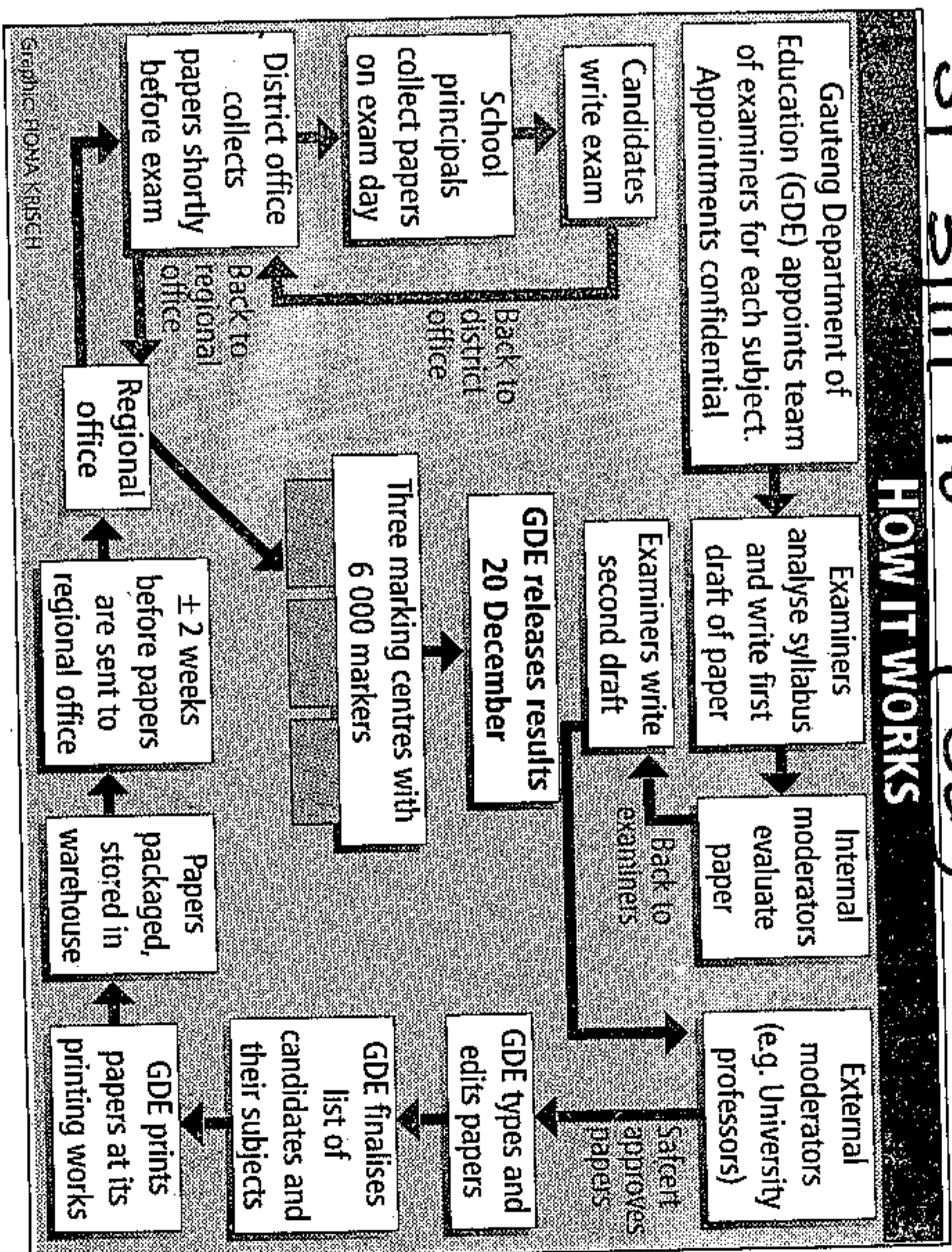
task teams to investigate leaks, tighten security and replace leaked papers.

"When we came into the picture, the system was five times bigger, with no exams in place and most schools without facilities such as safes, in which papers could be stored," Maseko said.

The four different education departments which were integrated to form the GDE, had different procedures, work ethics and cultures, making for a complex transition. The lengthy process of selecting examiners, setting papers, and printing and packaging them was thus done under greater pressure than in the past.

"The difference now is that we are victims of our own transparency," says Maseko. "Everyone has a right to be angry. But people must understand that it is in the interests of the country that we highlight these cases of fraud."

While the public outcry over leaks and the standard of some papers has caused great consternation among teachers and pupils at former white schools, schools in the townships have reported an improvement in the process.





# Exams 'may have to be abandoned'

52

*Sowetan 5/11/96*

MATRIC exams could be replaced in years to come by other more accurate ways of measuring pupils' abilities, Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

*Sapa* reports that Bengu said the current controversy over exam results made one question whether they were a good "measuring rod".

In the final analysis, an exam was arbitrary and it was the teacher at a local level who knew a pupil's ability.

However, it had yet to be generally accepted that promotions could take place on the basis of valid and uniform results determined from year marks and schools' evaluation of their pupils.

"This is where we are going," Bengu said. "I think it's bound to come but we cannot just say we are abandoning exams."

He said he had met the inter-provincial committee on examinations yesterday morning, and the SA Certification Council last Friday.

## Current examinations

Both bodies were monitoring the current examinations and the committee would send task teams to all provinces to monitor writing and marking.

Bengu said he was satisfied that exam irregularities were being "sufficiently dealt with".

**Victor Mecoamere** reports that a group of matric pupils at the Sanlam Power Matric Centre

in Johannesburg were surprised to learn yesterday that most of them had not qualified to write the final-year examinations.

Disgruntled pupils told *Sowetan* that they learnt only yesterday that they had not qualified. They said they had not been properly informed about qualification procedures.

Others said they had qualified but had been turned back by invigilators who said they did not qualify. "There is just a lot of confusion," said one of the dissatisfied pupils, most of whom are working or unemployed adults who had failed matric.

The students also said that "our white, coloured and Indian fellow students are not struggling like we do".

# More leaks of reset exam papers claimed

52  
By STUART KELLY

Star 6/11/96  
The Gauteng Department of Education has been rocked by more claims that exam papers have leaked even after some papers had been reset.

A Lenasia pupil whose name has been withheld told The Star this week that pupils obtained the algebra paper three days before it was written last Monday and the physics paper days before it was written this Monday.

"Pupils told me they were offered the memo consisting of 25% of the algebra paper three days before the examination last Monday. At least 75% of the physics paper we wrote yesterday was seen by many pupils," the pupil said yesterday.

"One would have thought that the problems concerning the leakages would have been ironed out and papers would be reset. Many of the pupils came out of the exam smiling. I am considered to be a good pupil but I struggled through the physics paper with seconds to spare, but one guy finished long before time was up. This is very unfair to those of us who have studied hard and deserve our results," he said.

"Can the department assure us that our certificates, dependant on the scandalous 1996 examination, will hold any value in the future?" he asked.

The exam papers which Lenasia matriculants were shown beforehand were alleged to have been leaked from a respected private school in Johannesburg.

Kate Skinner, national media officer of the Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu), said: "If the allegations prove true it is highly disappointing considering the exam papers were supposed to have been reset after the leaks were reported."

James Maseko, head of the Gauteng Education Department, could not be reached.

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# Public protector probes university-degrees scam

The public protector's office is investigating the alleged illegal issuing of degrees at the University of Zululand, Public Protector Selby Baqwa said yesterday.

The investigation of about 598 cases started on Monday, he said.

Baqwa is assisted by Professor K S Hunt, a former registrar at Rhodes University, and advocate T Barnard, who was seconded by the Department of Justice.

A crisis erupted at the university in May when a dean discovered that some students earmarked for graduation had not complied with all the requirements, and were therefore not supposed to graduate.

The dean immediately alerted the administration and 27 names were removed from the list.

A university investigation discovered that an official in the student-affairs section, A M Ngubane, had altered the marks of a number of students to enable

them to graduate. Ngubane has since been dismissed.

Baqwa received a formal complaint on August 28 from the director-general of the Education Department.

Baqwa said 24 students and former students had been subpoenaed to appear before him.

He said his investigation team had heard evidence concerning 10 cases which had been finalised. In some of these cases, money had not changed hands.

Fifty-four university courses were involved and Baqwa recommended that they be withdrawn by the university council with immediate effect.

He said some students would not be able to graduate as a result of the withdrawal.

Baqwa said criminal action had already been taken against four people charged with fraud. - Sapa.

(52)

Star 8/11/96

## TOWARDS THE SCRAPHEAP

FM 8/11/96

The recent fracas over leaked matriculation exam papers in Gauteng may, a few years hence, seem no more than a murmur of dismay. By then the national Department of Education will have launched a radically new schooling system. However sound in theory, it could prove so difficult to implement that teachers, parents and employers would join together to protest against the chaos it had caused.

The basic idea is to teach pupils in a manner that produces competence in the use of knowledge, rather than a mindless regurgitation of facts. This competence will be tested regularly by teachers.

The only examinations they may take are at the end of grade nine (standard seven) and grade 12 (standard 10). If they fail either of those, the in-house achievements teachers had previously awarded them are transferable to other kinds of educational institutions, such as community colleges.

There are obvious difficulties with such a system. Until grade nine, teachers will have to assess the "outcomes" for each pupil. The methods they will use for such assessment are as yet unclear.

Given the poor training and subject competence of many of SA's teachers, their ability to assess pupils reliably, not to mention honestly, should be cause for concern. Education department deputy

*Continued on page 55*

director-general Ihron Rensburg admits it will be a huge challenge "to get teachers committed and qualified."

From grade one onwards the curriculum will consist no longer of traditional subjects but eight learning areas. These will include communications, economic and management sciences and life orientation/personal and social development.

From grade nine onwards, the syllabus of each learning area will be divided into discrete, bite-sized "unit standards." That, too, is problematic for some educators, who doubt that the syllabi of some subjects can be so divided.

Independent Schools Council executive director Mark Henning reports considerable criticism of the system in New Zealand, which seems to have gambled more heavily on it than any other country. Teachers there have been on strike for several months, he says, because of the heavy increase in bureaucratic work it produces without any increase in salaries.

Its educational effects have also met with considerable criticism. Pupils are required merely to pass unit standards; there's no incentive to do more. The result, say critics, is a climate of mediocrity.

"There is merit in the idea at the interface between vocational education and traditional schooling," Henning allows. "But despite the claim that it promotes creative, lateral thinking, it's difficult to see how it won't degenerate into rote learning."

The Department of Education, says Rensburg, is determined to introduce the new system in 1998 at grade one, four and seven levels. The first year of further, noncompulsory education — grade 10 — will have to wait until 1999 to give more time for the development of unit standards for the three years that traditionally are preparation for matric.

Still to be decided is whether the certificates awarded at the end of grades nine and 12 will be based solely on passing internally examined unit standards — and, if so, how many will be required in each learning area. "The direction in which we are moving," says Rensburg, "is continuous internal assessment instead of a one-off assessment at the end of grade 12. There will be quality checks on the system each year, and we will adjust and improve it as we go along. What we're looking for, and believe will be achieved, are dividends that will begin

flowing in 10-15 years."

Next year, he says, will be spent preparing new educational materials and selling outcomes-based schooling to educators and parents. Neither will be an easy task. ■

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# 'Trauma' for students after another matric exam leak

pat

ARG 8/11/96

(52)

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

**Durban - Kwazulu Natal's 1996 matric exams are in a shambles following the postponement of today's Physical Science exam after the paper was leaked, copied and sold.**

The shock development has prompted provincial Education Minister Vincent Zulu to consider tougher legislation to deal with the breach of examination regulations. The postponement of the exam will cost the province about R1-million.

Both Dr Zulu and director of exams Morgan Naidoo said the postpone-

ment was a "traumatic experience" for pupils.

Police now have evidence of at least three leaked exam papers in the greater Durban area - Business Economics and higher grade Physical Science I and II - prompting fears that some pupils have easy access to many - if not all - papers.

A woman aged about 20, who had been due to write today's exam, was arrested yesterday. She was also in possession of Wednesday's Business Economics paper. She was allegedly selling the papers when she was snared in a police trap. It is believed the papers sell for R50 each.

# Gauteng confident exam leak has been plugged

52 Mar 9/11/96

By JACQUI REEVES

As matric exam chaos spreads to other provinces, Gauteng's education department is confident it has plugged its leak.

Secret venues have been set up to print new papers and few people in the department know who is running the operation.

"We are confident we have

the problem under control and have strict mechanisms in place to make sure this security is not breached," education spokesman Subethri Naidoo said yesterday.

Papers have also been leaked in KwaZulu Natal and Northern Cape. Sapa reports that the Northern Cape Education Department discovered on Thurs-

day that the higher-grade biology paper to have been sat yesterday had been leaked, while the KwaZulu Natal Education Department cancelled yesterday's physical science exam after it was disclosed that the paper had been leaked, copied and sold. Police said at least three papers were leaked in the Durban area.

The postponement of the

exam is set to cost the province R1-million.

The postponement follows the arrest on Thursday of a pupil caught selling copies of the business economics paper at schools in Clermont and KwaDabeka. Although three people have been arrested for selling papers, police are still looking for the source of the leaks.

# 'Matric examination crisis a national problem'

Pretoria - Irregularities in this year's matric examination are fast becoming a national problem, the SA Federation of State Aided Schools (Safsas) says.

Safsas executive chairman Hennie van Deventer said the leaking of a physics paper in KwaZulu Natal this week made it imperative for Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to take action.

"It is obvious that something will have to be done urgently to restore faith in the education system," Mr Van Deventer said.

Yesterday's physics examination in KwaZulu Natal was postponed after the arrest on Thurs-

ARG 9/11/96  
day of three pupils found in possession of the paper.

Mr Van Deventer said the province's superintendent-general of education, S Shabalala, had refused to meet Safsas and the KwaZulu Natal Association of Schools to discuss the matter.

"Dr Shabalala dismissed these suggestions and said there was no reason for him to see a representative of Safsas - although he admitted he was a "worried man," Mr Van Deventer said.

This attitude was deplorable and contrary to the spirit of partnership between parents and the state, he added.

"The events in KwaZulu Natal

52 demonstrate that the examination problem is fast becoming a national one, and that Prof Bengu should become more involved."

Mr Van Deventer said Safsas had been unable to secure an appointment with the minister.

"What matriculants and their parents have had to endure this year is grossly unfair. They are justifiably concerned about the status of the matric certificate to be awarded," he said.

KwaZulu Natal education spokesman Morgan Naidoo said the department would change all exam papers which had not been written and which had possibly been leaked. - Sapa

# Further arrests in matric exam scandal

ST 10/11/96  
(52)

By GEORGE MAHABEER

DURBAN police arrested two women yesterday for being in possession of leaked matric exam papers after a raid on a house in Umlazi.

And the net is closing in on a senior Kwazulu Natal education official at the centre of the leak, which has shaken the province. Authorities have rescheduled 22 exams.

Pelesiwe Ngcobo, 30, an education official's secretary, and her 18-year-old niece, Phumzile Zibane, were due

to appear in court yesterday evening.

In the raid, Detective Inspector Raj Sewraj and Detective Constable Allison Govender found copies of the higher grade history paper, due to be written on Monday December 2, as well as copies of the business economics paper written this week.

Sewraj said police were on the trail of an official employed by Kwazulu Natal's department of education as a circuit inspector.

Five people linked to the scam

have now been arrested. Dr Morgan Naidoo, the director of examinations, said new exam papers, which had been prepared for use in the March supplementary examinations, were being printed.

Naidoo assured parents and the province's 141 000 matric pupils that results would be released on time.

Dr Vincent Zulu, the province's minister of education, is holding an urgent meeting in Ulundi with senior education officials today to discuss the scandal.



# Bengu urged to intervene in matriculation exam paper leaks

STAFF REPORTER

Irregularities in the matric examinations are becoming a national problem that requires the intervention of Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, the South African Federation of State Aided Schools (Safsas) has said.

The call for Bengu to intervene comes in the wake of more matric exam leaks, in the Northern Cape and KwaZulu Natal. The biology paper was postponed in the Northern Cape after it was discovered the paper had been leaked, while another two people were arrested in KwaZulu Natal

on Friday, bringing to five the number of people caught in connection with the leaks.

The physics exam in KwaZulu Natal was cancelled on Friday after the arrest the previous day of three pupils in possession of the paper.

KwaZulu Natal police said an Education Department official and another pupil were arrested on Friday and would be charged with fraud and theft.

In the Northern Cape, investi-

gations uncovered concrete evidence pointing to a breach of security late last week. The discovery saw department officials using an emergency light aircraft early on

Friday morning to deliver reset papers to outlying areas of the huge province.

Safsas executive chairman Hennie van Deventer said the

leaks last week made it imperative for Bengu to take action.

"The events in KwaZulu Natal demonstrate that the examination

problem is fast becoming a national one, and that Bengu should visibly become more involved," said Van Deventer.

KwaZulu Natal education spokesman Dr Morgan Naidoo said earlier that the department would change all exam papers which had not been written and which had possibly been leaked.

Other papers that have been rescheduled because of leaks include accounting; physical science; economics; biology and physiology; history; field husbandry and veterinary practice; agricultural science; and Afrikaans second language.

## Five held in KwaZulu, more tests rescheduled

STAN 11/11/96

# Internal inquiry follows Natal exam paper leaks

Farouk Chothia

BD 11/11/96

(52)

DURBAN — KwaZulu-Natal education MEC Vincent Zulu said yesterday that an internal inquiry would be held to establish how the leakage of matric exam papers occurred in his province.

Ten exam papers would be replaced because of leaks and rumours of leakages, he said. There was a revised timetable for exams, but they would still end on December 3.

Zulu met examination director Morgan Naidoo, senior examination officer Craig Lancaster and other officials in Ulundi yesterday.

He said the papers that would be replaced were higher grade history, biology, geography, accountancy, economics, the second mathematics paper, both physical science papers, English and the second Afrikaans second-language paper.

Education ministry spokesman Lucas Mjadu said Zulu had not decided who would head the inquiry. Its terms of reference had also not yet been worked out.

Five people had been arrested in connection with the leakage of papers, including Philisiwe Ngcobo, who was secretary to an education official. Police investigations were continuing.

Zulu said the system of distribution of exam papers had also been "modified".

# Bengu 'must act on exam leaks'

(52) 27/11/196

## OWN CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: Irregularities in the matric exams are becoming a national problem requiring intervention by Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu, the South African Federation of State-Aided Schools (Safsas) says.

The call comes after further matric exam leaks in the Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

The biology paper was postponed in

the Northern Cape after it was discovered that it had been leaked.

Two people, an education department official and a pupil, were arrested on Friday in KwaZulu-Natal, where the physics exam was cancelled after the arrest on Thursday of three pupils in possession of the paper.

"The events in KwaZulu-Natal demonstrate that Bengu should visibly become more involved," said Safsas executive chairman Mr Hennie van Deventer.

# Team set up to investigate matric leaks

Star 12/11/96

(52)

BY MIKE MASIPA

Police have appointed a seven-man investigating team following the discovery of another two leaked matric examination papers at the weekend.

A 27-year-old Mamelodi, Pretoria woman appeared in the Johannesburg magistrates' court yesterday after she was arrested for allegedly trying to sell two papers for different subjects at R50 each.

Superintendent Chris Wilken said

the Gauteng Department of Education had asked police not to divulge the subjects or the dates on which they were scheduled to be written.

Wilken said security at the places of storage was being tightened.

He added that the investigating team was already following positive leads after the series of leaks.

More arrests are expected shortly.

Superintendent Sarel Schley of John Vorster Square will head the investigation.

# Tougher action promised over exam paper leak

## *School inspector arrested*

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

**Durban - Public Protector Selby Baqwa is tackling the leaked matric exam paper scandal amid suggestions that the leaks could be even worse than was thought.**

So far papers are known to have been leaked in Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal and the Northern Cape. And in KwaZulu Natal last night, police arrested an Umlazi circuit school inspector in this connection.

The issue is threatening to undermine the integrity of this year's matric certificates. Mr Baqwa has undertaken to press for tougher legislation that would "convince" criminals and pupils not to leak or buy exam papers.

Police spokesman Jugdesh Koobair said detectives arrested the circuit inspector last night for suspected theft after exam papers disappeared from his storeroom.

Five people, including two pupils, were arrested last week.

The education department has replaced at least 10 exam papers and rescheduled 21 exams at a cost of more than R2-million after leaks and rumours of leaks.

Mr Baqwa said he was alarmed at the leaks in KwaZulu Natal and would propose legislation next year to put a stop to the problem nationally.

He wants longer sentences and bigger fines for those found guilty of selling exam-

ination papers.

Pupils found with leaked papers should be disqualified from writing matric for more than two years, he said.

"The legislation must make people realise it is simply not worth it," said Mr Baqwa.

Meanwhile, the police have appointed a seven-man investigating team following the discovery of a further two leaked matric exam papers at the weekend.

A 27-year-old Mamelodi, Pretoria, woman appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday after she was arrested for allegedly trying to sell the two question papers for different subjects at R50 each.

Superintendent Chris Wilken said the Gauteng Department of Education had asked police not to divulge the subjects or the dates on which they were scheduled to be written.

Superintendent Wilken said security at the places of storage was being tightened.

Leading the seven investigating officers will be Superintendent Sarel Schley of John Vorster Square.

Education officials are also now faced with the problem of "bogus" pupils - people who have been paid to write matric papers.

This follows an incident in Umlazi yesterday when 12 "bogus" pupils were caught at one school by invigilators.

ARG 12/11/96

52

MORE ARRESTS EXPECTED

# Exam leaks: Official held

CT 13/11/96

(52)

**JOHANNESBURG:** Police have arrested a schools inspector and are ready to make more arrests this week in their inquiry into examination paper leaks.

**A**MID allegations of further leaks in the unfolding drama of this year's matric exams, police appear to be finally making headway in their investigation and expect to release an identikit of a key suspect soon.

Police spokesman Superintendent Chris Wilken said police expected to make some arrests later this week. He said the special investigation team was making ground in its search for the culprits and was busy interviewing three witnesses yesterday.

Meanwhile, pupils from Lenasia schools, which appear to be the worst hit by leaked papers, claimed that they had left the exam room after Monday's biology exam only to find copies of the model answers on the ground outside.

The Cape Times' sister newspaper, The Star, has a copy of the model answers to the Biology Higher Grade paper that are assumed to have been leaked before the exam.

"I walked out of the exam room and there it was on the ground. The culprits were so relaxed about it they just dropped it where they were," said one student.

The Gauteng Department of Education could not be reached for comment last night.

In KwaZulu-Natal, education officials are taking measures to halt the writing of examinations by "bogus" pupils who have been paid to write matric exams.

This follows an incident at Umlazi where 12 "bogus" pupils were caught at one school by



**TASK TEAM:** Sibusiso Bengu

invigilators.

On Monday night a senior schools inspector, suspected as being the source of leaked papers, was arrested by Sydenham police.

The influential South African

Principals' Association said its main concern was the "negative impact this is having on our young people who are writing the examination and the extra stress this has placed upon them".

Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu said in a statement yesterday that he had appointed a task force to visit all provinces to monitor the situation.

Bengu said he was happy the exams were progressing well in spite of the uncertainty and anxiety caused by the "real leakage of some examination papers and the wild allegations and rumours about other possible leaks".

"The provincial departments have been working around the clock, faced with unprecedented pressures and expectations to remain a step ahead of the criminals and corrupt individuals who are prepared to destroy the future of our children for financial gain," Bengu said. — Own Correspondent

# No truth in rewriting of exams

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Sowetan 13/11/96

Education MEC for Gauteng says  
leaked papers have been replaced

**G**AUTENG MEC for education Mrs Mary Metcalfe said yesterday that claims that leaked matric exam papers were still to be written were not true.

Metcalfe said all leaked papers in the province had been replaced and the education department was working with police to ensure the integrity of the exams.

An independent commission of inquiry was still investigating whether sufficient steps were taken to ensure the integrity of the exams and the matter was being investigated by Public Protector Selby Baqwa.

A 27-year-old Mamelodi, Pretoria, woman has appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court for allegedly trying to sell two question papers and more arrests were expected, Metcalfe said.

Meanwhile, Minister of Education Professor Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday that the matric examinations were progressing well in spite of uncertainty and anxiety caused by the leakage of some papers and wild allegations and rumours about other possible leaks.

"The provincial departments have been working around the clock, faced with unprecedented pressures and

expectations to remain a step ahead of the criminals and corrupt individuals who are prepared to destroy the future of our children for financial gain," he said.

"To their credit, our provincial departments have invested considerable time, energy and resources to increasing the security around the examination papers."

Bengu said he had appointed a task team comprising the chairperson of the inter-provincial examinations committee, Dr J Nieburh, and the executive officer of the SA Certification Council, Dr M Calitz, to visit all provinces as from November 12 to 29.

The team would monitor the situation in all the provinces and assist on issues related to the writing of the exams, the marking of scripts and the processing of results. — Sapa.

Kevin O'Grady

EDUCATION Minister Sibusiso Bengu has appointed a task team to monitor matric examinations in all provinces until the end of the month, following the leaking of exam papers in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

Bengu said yesterday the team would "strengthen the hand of the provinces" in dealing with exams and problems surrounding them.

Despite uncertainties and anxieties because of the leaked papers, the exams were going well.

The provincial education departments had invested much time, energy and resources in increasing the security of examination papers, but required the assistance and co-operation of the

## Minister appoints 'exam team'

(52) BD 13/11/96  
 public and security forces to isolate and arrest the culprits responsible for the climate currently surrounding the examinations.

"I am therefore pleased by the latest reports of arrests and general progress made in investigations about irregularities in the present matric examinations," Bengu said.

It was important that the investigations went to the source of corruption and criminal activity so that the real masterminds were exposed and dealt with to the fullest extent of the law.

Bengu thanked the public for its assistance in making arrests possi-

ble and urged them to continue to be "vigilant and suspicious of anyone attempting to involve them in this corrupt business".

He welcomed the investigation by public protector Selby Baqwa into the involvement of national and provincial education officials.



# NP accuses ANC of matric cover-up

Kevin O'Grady

THE Gauteng NP yesterday accused the provincial government of conducting a cover-up of the matric examination issue by allowing education MEC Mary Metcalfe to appoint members and determine the terms of reference for a commission of inquiry.

NP leader in the Gauteng legislature Olaus van Zyl also said the party was "disgusted with the contempt" displayed by Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale who cancelled a meeting with the NP provincial leadership hours before it was due to start yesterday afternoon.

Sexwale said after cancelling the meeting that he took "a poor view of political leaders who attempt to politicise theft, in this case the theft of exam papers".

"It is unfortunate that certain political leaders further unsettle the minds of our

children, particularly during this time when they deserve maximum concentration," Sexwale said. He said the leaking of exam papers was "a heritage from our apartheid past and it is very rich for the NP to now suddenly claim it is a result of the ANC's incompetence".

Later Sexwale said he had spoken to NP Gauteng leader Roelf Meyer and arrangements were being made for them to meet.

Van Zyl said the NP rejected Sexwale's allegation that exam paper leakages were a result of apartheid. "It has everything to do with the ANC's incompetent management of the progress and its arrogant dismissal of NP warnings and advice which, if heeded, would not have seen the collapse of the examination management."

NP Gauteng education spokesman Juli Kilian asked why there had not been similar problems surrounding matric exams in

the two previous years if the NP government was to blame. "It is because it was this year that the new Gauteng education department was set up. They had no understanding of the magnitude of the operation and had also suffered a serious loss of expertise," Kilian said.

Van Zyl said Metcalfe's commission was a "cover-up" and demanded an independent inquiry into matric exam management.

Kilian said since last month the party had made fruitless attempts to obtain an audience with the legislature's standing education committee to discuss the issue.

The party had also tried to secure a meeting with Sexwale that would also have been attended by Meyer, to persuade him of the merits of appointing an independent commission of inquiry. Sexwale had, however, initially declined the meeting and had allowed Metcalfe to appoint a commission.

(52) 800 14111196

# College suspends matric examiner

CT 15/11/96

(52)

**CAROL CAMPBELL**

AN ABBOTT'S College teacher who set the matric final criminology exam was suspended yesterday after an outcry from pupils at other schools that the paper was too similar to the "mock" matric exam written by pupils at the college.

In a statement from the school yesterday the chairman of the board of directors, Mr Alistair Stewart, said a full investigation into the allegations was being conducted by the Department of Education — with the co-operation of the col-

lege. Abbott's College would also conduct an internal investigation.

He asked the Cape Times to correct a "misunderstanding" in an earlier report that said Abbott's principal, Mr Malcolm Law, was involved in setting the paper. He was not, he said.

Before the paper was set the Department of Education called a meeting for all colleges offering criminology to determine the format of the paper, and Abbott's College took part with all other colleges, said Stewart.

"The content of matric papers is

determined solely by examiners who are appointed as individuals by the department and completely independently of any education institution by which they may be employed."

This was the first time a staff member of Abbott's College had acted as a matric examiner, he said.

The head of the Western Cape Education Department, Mr Brian O'Connell, said the department was investigating "the possible prior exposure" of certain candidates to some questions in the final paper — because the examin-

er was the same person.

The matter would be discussed with the examiner who set the paper and the examination authorities and appropriate steps taken to ensure no candidate was "advantaged" or "disadvantaged".

● In the matric history paper written yesterday, a diagram for a question worth 10 marks was accidentally left out. Education department spokesperson Ms Nomkhitha Makosana said the omission would be rectified in the marking of the papers and no pupil would lose marks for not answering.

# Leaks led to chaos



This year's matriculation examinations have been marred by justified accusations of leaks and the buying of stolen papers by pupils. Several arrests have already been made in Gauteng and other provinces. **JACQUI REEVES** examines the weak points in the security attached to the distribution and writing of the 1996 matric exam papers

## ROUTE OF THE MATRIC PAPERS AND



**T**op security firms were called in to transport the valuable material. Only a select few knew the exact whereabouts of the cargo during its journey, and the pickup man was informed of his rendezvous point only 18 hours in advance. These cloak-and-dagger activities have been on the go for the past three weeks, not for the protection of the latest De Beers diamond collection or the blueprint for the South African National Defence Force's newest attack helicopter, but for the delivery of the 1996 matriculation examination papers.

Departmental leaks threw this year's final exams into disarray, confusing both the pupils and their parents, and providing a massive headache for the Gauteng Department of Education.

The initial postponement of the accounting paper was the first sign of the problems to come - problems that led to the resetting of the accounting, mathematics and biology papers.

James Maseko, Gauteng's superintendent-general of education, said the department soon realised it needed a "new line of management".

"When we realised that the leaks had occurred, we had to adopt a whole new plan of action that had to operate quickly, efficiently and effectively," Maseko said.

The first line of defence was to replace all personnel involved in the planning and production process.

A highly specialised, specifically selected team began the process of setting, moderating, typing and packaging the papers, as well as distributing them to the schools.

The difference for this team was that the usual time allocated for the whole process - about a year - had been shortened to just a few days.

A separate investigative team was set up by the department to pursue rumours, leads and newspaper articles that could direct the team to the culprits. The team is working closely with the police unit that is leading the criminal investigations.

When news of the leaks broke, the department was quick to plug the obvious holes in the chain of command - but the flaws in the established system were suddenly very clear.

The department sets 270 separate papers, with the examiners drawn largely from schools in the province and heads of departments.

Examiners get together and discuss the subject syllabus, taking into account the different educational experiences of the pupils, after which they begin drafting the papers. These are then carried back and forth

*A highly specialised, selected team began the process of setting, moderating, typing and packaging the papers as well as distributing them*

between the examiners and moderators for improvement.

Both internal and external moderators have to work on the papers, so the document moves from office to office, building to building, and between various secretaries and delivery staff.

Once the final draft has been completed, language editors, layout artists and typists are called in from the department to put the finishing touches to the question paper.

The paper is once again delivered to another venue, where it is printed.

The 12 million pages that make up the

total number of pages for the duration of the examinations are then once again packed into trucks, by any number of staff, transported to a warehouse in Pretoria, unpacked by other staff members and then sent for packaging.

At the end of this stage, hundreds of people will have come into contact with the papers, greatly increasing the number of opportunities for "lifting" a copy. However, the potential for leaks does not end there.

The packaged question papers are then divided according to the districts and schools, sometimes staying in the strong-rooms of the individual schools for up to two weeks.

The department estimates that up to 700 people may come into contact with a paper during its journey to a pupil's desk. This year, the journey appears to have been interrupted at various points.

Why this year's matric finals have been plagued with so many problems is, however, a subject of much debate. Maseko said the department had not recorded new problems this year, just problems on a different scale.

"You don't need inefficiency or incompetence to cause the kind of problems we have seen in the past few weeks, just one dishonest individual along the chain of command. The person who breaks this chain affects the lives of hundreds of innocent people," he said.

The department said another factor in the exams crisis was the tight schedule on

# over matric plans

(52) Star 16/11/96

## 6 NEW SAFETY MEASURES ADDED



STUDENTS  
START  
WRITING  
PAPERS

DAY OF EXAM:  
PRINCIPALS  
COLLECT  
PAPERS

DAYS  
BEFORE  
EXAM  
DISTRICT  
OFFICER  
COLLECTS  
PAPERS

6. District  
officer  
given 18  
hours  
notice of  
venue for  
collection  
of papers

REGIONAL OFFICE

4. Increased  
security by  
packaging  
at same  
venue as  
printing

TWO WEEKS  
PRIOR TO  
EXAM  
PAPERS  
DELIVERED  
TO REGIONAL  
OFFICE

5. Long  
waiting  
period  
security  
risk, thus  
period  
reduced

GRAPHIC: GAIL IRWIN

which the department was operating.

The transition and incorporation of the the old departments of education proved to be a daunting task, and had to be achieved while this year's matric schedule was being planned. "By September, the old departments usually had the following year's matric paper pretty near to completion," Maseko said.

"This year, we only started our planning in September, and the entire process was done under major time constraints." Crisis management at the department came in the form of a huge overhaul of the security system in place around the papers.

The postponement of the accounting paper was poorly received, and it was quickly decided to replace all the possibly leaked papers, without further changes to examination dates.

Specially selected examiners and moderators were called in to reset the papers. Independent typists, brought in from outside the department, were called on to type the papers, which were then transported, with security personnel, to a secret printing venue.

The private company's high-powered laser printers were used, and security at the office was tight. None of the company's staff were used, only selected representatives from the education department.

A few members of the company's technical staff were retained for the mechanical emergencies that cropped up as the staff

worked through the night.

New locks were installed at all the entrances to the office, and supervisors were the only ones with the access keys.

On one of the nights, Maseko and his staff delivered dinner to the workers, and when he left at midnight, the printing continued until morning.

A private security firm transported the

*The private company's high-powered laser printers were used and security at the office was tight. None of the company's staff were used*

papers to the department's regional offices, who gave the school principals 18 hours' notice of where to collect the papers.

The number of people involved, the waiting time and the amount of transport was cut drastically by the strategy, but it was at a heavy cost.

Department spokesman Subethri Naidoo said the estimated cost for the replacement papers was R600 000.

The 28-year-old woman who was arrested in Mamelodi last week for the alleged sale of examination papers was the first arrest in the police investigation, which Superintendent

Chris Wilken says is ongoing.

Wilken announced yesterday that a Pretoria private school teacher was arrested on Thursday for allegedly selling six matric examination papers to students at R100 each.

He said the six papers, covering five subjects, had been positively identified by a senior Gauteng Education Department official. Some of the papers had already been written.

Wilken said police were unable to say which subjects had been leaked as this could harm the investigation.

Maseko told the *Saturday Star* this week he was "100% sure" that organised syndicates were involved in selling papers.

"There are established and recognised people in various communities who are known to be the one to go to if you want a paper," he said.

Although papers have been sold for just R50, some pupils have been paying in excess of R2 000 in the hopes of securing a distinction.

Maseko said the guilty parties were, however, not just the sellers and pupils.

"How many 18-year-olds have R2 000 to spare? Even if a group gets together with its savings, it is a substantial amount to raise."

Maseko believes that parents have been offering their children the cash to buy their papers, with the hope that it would help secure their child's university or technikon entrance.

"Such incredible pressure is put on kids these days to get into university, especially medical school, that many get desperate to secure their futures," he said.

Maseko was flabbergasted this week when an anonymous and enraged parent contacted him to complain about the replacement papers.

The parent told Maseko that she had spent R2 000 on a paper for her child, which had been rendered useless by the department's replacement plan.

"This conversation proved to me the serious social degradation which is rife in our communities," he said.

Accusations that this year's matric certificate will be considered less worthy than others was emphatically denied by the department.

"These leaks happen every year, and although this year's was serious, it must be seen in context. Pupils are expected to supply a year's work in three hours, which is already a lot of pressure, but the fact of the matter is that these final exams are the culmination of 12 years of schooling," Maseko said.

"If we dismiss these exams, you might as well dismiss the entire time these pupils have spent at school, because that is what these exams really represent."

Internal investigations within the department may see staff dismissals or suspensions, but the real focus of the investigations is tracking down the sellers.

"If I can use the analogy of the druglord, these people are the 'question paper lords'. They are the people we are going to track down and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law," Maseko said.

Not all pupils, however, have had shady characters wearing trenchcoats and dark glasses approaching them on the playground. Grinning sheepishly, Belinda, a northern suburbs matric pupil, said she hadn't had the luck of stumbling on to a "question paper lord".

"No, I'm afraid only the totally connected people seemed to know where to go. Now the new papers have messed everything up for them, so I guess they will have to study for the exams like the rest of us!"

# Cop raid opens can of worms on exams

ST 17/11/96  
By GEORGE MAHABEER

THE arrest of a headmaster in Kwazulu Natal this week in connection with matric exam leaks has led to the discovery of a well-organised exam scam which has been in operation for at least a couple of years. And the SA Democratic Teachers' Union has alleged that pupils and threatened headmasters' teachers and invigilators with death if they did not leak exam papers and allow pupils to crib.

Arthur Msomi, 52, the headmaster of Uphaga Adult School in the village of Mpumalanga, near Maritzburg, has been arrested in connection with the exam leaks.

He was released on R500 bail and is to appear in the Mpumalanga magistrate's court on Tuesday.

Five others, including a Durban circuit inspector, Sipho Mchunu, 50, and his secretary, Philisiwe Ngcobo, 38, have also appeared in court in connection with the matric exam leaks.

During a swoop on the school on Friday, police investigators found matric exam papers which had been written in 1994 but had not been submitted for marking.

They also found higher grade paper that had not been submitted for marking. Senior superintendent Jugdish Koobair, the head of the unit which raided the school, said police later discovered that another exam paper had been submitted in its place.

Investigators also found that student numbers had been deleted from some papers and the student numbers of pupils who had not written the paper added, thereby awarding good pupils' marks to pupils who did not write the exams.

Those who wrote the papers would be marked absent for the exam and would have to rely on their year marks to pass — with lower symbols than they deserved.

Koobair said the unit was investigating allegations that pupils from the school had been allowed to take their papers home to complete them.

Police suspect that some teachers may also have been involved in writing papers for below-average pupils.

Meanwhile, Ndaba Gcwabasa, the Kwazulu Natal secretary for the teachers' union, said pupils had threatened headmasters and teachers with death — or burning down their homes — unless they leaked papers and allowed pupils to crib.

"Although there are a few students involved they have great influence over other pupils. These pupils carry knives and guns into the classrooms, and teachers take these threats very seriously," he said.

"Our headmasters, Selby Baqwa, said he was aware of the threats. The public protector, Selby Baqwa, said he has to bring in some sort of discipline to stop this type of pupil behaviour," he said.

He said matric exams were back on track nationwide but he would continue to monitor the situation.

## Top schools in Gauteng issue

### own certificates

CT 21/11/96

PRETORIA: A number of top public schools in Johannesburg and Pretoria are to issue their own matric certificates this year in view of the fiasco experienced in the current matric exams.

The schools decided to join forces and hold an internal examination earlier this year in anticipation of problems with matric exams, sources said.

The pupils at these schools now have a report which could serve as proof that they have attained a certain level of schooling which is necessary for admission to technikons and universities.

The Gauteng Department of Education has been severely criticised after exam papers were leaked and the accountancy paper had to be cancelled at the last minute.

The validity of exams has also been questioned after educators complained about the poor standard of some papers including Geography and Afrikaans.

Cape Town schools are not following the example of their upcountry counterparts and pupils will have to be satisfied with a government-issued matric certificate.

Schools surveyed yesterday said they were "very happy" with the quality of the exams and the way they had been administered by the Western Cape Education Department. — Own Correspondent

sowetan 22/11/96

# Hefty price to pay for reprinting exam papers

By Victor Mecoamere

GAUTENG department of education superintendent-general Mr James Maseko is happy that the controversy about the integrity of the matric examinations had died down following the institution of several precautionary measures.

These included the printing and binding of reset question papers at a "private sector printing firm" in Johannesburg, instead of the department-owned printing press in Pretoria West.

This likely to cost between R600 000 and R1 million. Maseko said "a few hand-picked, trustworthy individuals," were now handling the examinations as part of a major departmental "clean-up".

An internal investigation will take place later this month. A report of its findings is to be submitted to the department at the end of December.

So far three people have been arrested for being in possession of "leaked" question papers. Stolen papers were sold for R1 000 a paper and R35 000 for a package of papers in Gauteng.

Police media relations officer Superintendent Chris Wilken has announced a R50 000 reward for information leading to the arrest of suspects connected to the scam.

Anyone with information should telephone Captain Venita Davraj or Inspector Charles Kganyago on (011) 497 7406.

Meanwhile, violence disrupted matric examinations in KwaThema two weeks ago. It claimed four lives.

Violent clashes followed a demand by the Congress of South African Students for the suspension of the examinations until six of their colleagues were released from jail.

Three were arrested for the illegal possession of firearms and the others for serious crimes involving murder, according to KwaThema Education Forum chairman Mr Raymond Fort.

## Students intimidated

Pupils from only two schools out of seven could sit for biology examinations. Pupils at the remaining five high schools were unable to write.

The KwaThema Education Forum, comprising teacher and student organisations and department-district director Mrs Margaret Webber, have managed to restore calm after several meetings. Police and the army have also been deployed in the area.

A new algebra paper has been written and the accountancy paper has been postponed to November 27.

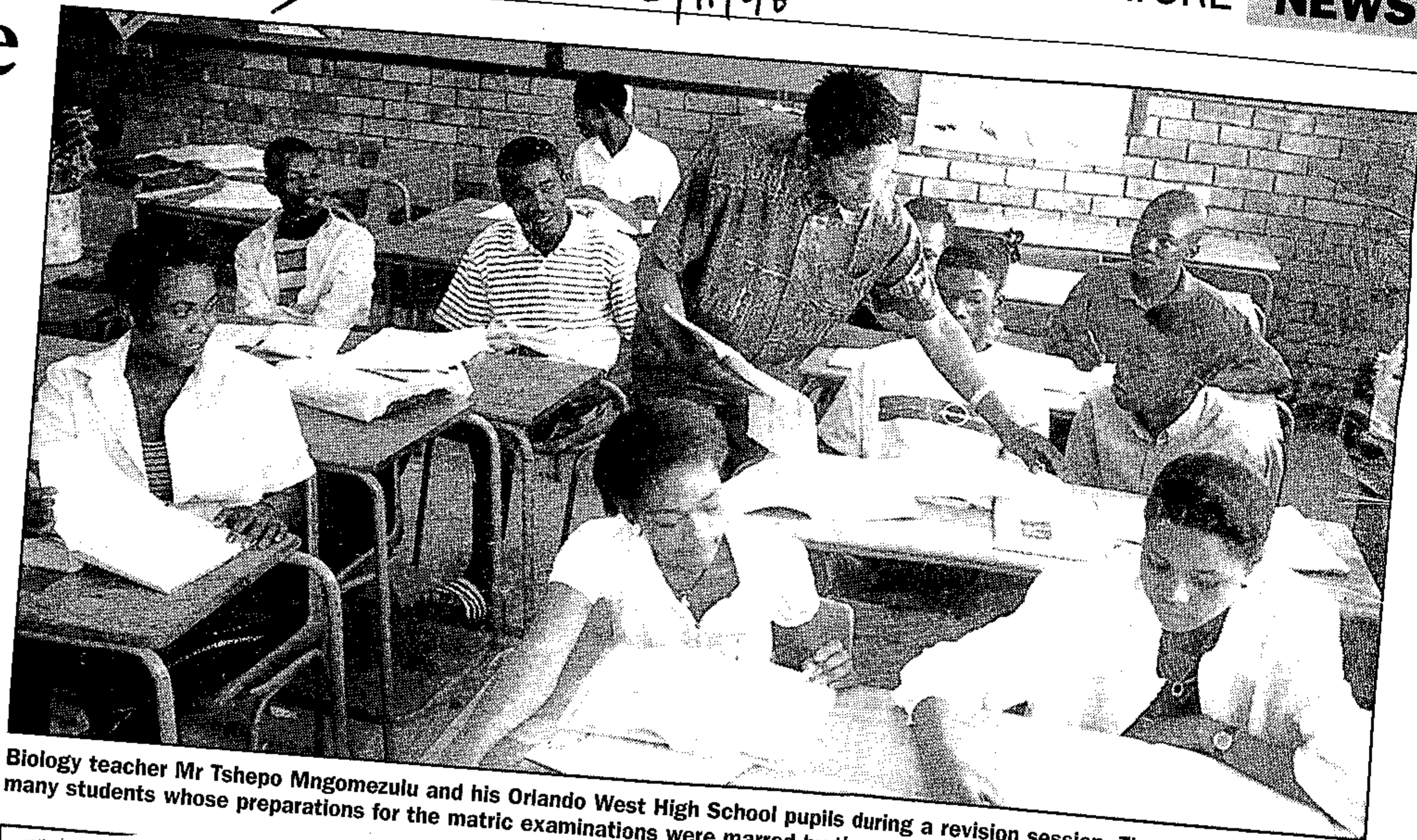
Education specialist Mr Prim Govender said the results were likely to be released "before Christmas", while his KwaZulu-Natal education department counterpart, Mr Bruce Rooker-Smith, said 141 000 candidates would be writing until December 3.

He said results would be out by December 30. KwaZulu-Natal education MEC Dr Vincent Zulu has ordered the printing of reset papers in Ulundi, Maritzburg and Durban after "ten major papers" had been leaked and five suspects arrested.

A reset biology paper was written in the Northern Cape two weeks ago after it was discovered a day before the exam that the original paper had been leaked.

Northern Cape examinations officer Ms Annalie Potgieter said 7 370 fulltime and 2 112 parttime candidates would finish writing on November 29, and that the results would be published at "end of December."

"We would be happy to get the examinations results out by December 30," said Northern Province examinations director Mr Lazarus Manyike yesterday.



Biology teacher Mr Tshepo Mngomezulu and his Orlando West High School pupils during a revision session. These are some of the many students whose preparations for the matric examinations were marred by the sale of matric examination in Gauteng. PIC: LEN KUMALO.

Tota

BROADL

# Bengu hails call for hard line on exam cheats

(52)

ARG 22/11/96

**SABATA NGCAI**  
EDUCATION REPORTER

**Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu has welcomed recommendations by Public Protector Selby Baqwa for tougher prison sentences for those found in possession of, buying or selling an examination paper.**

Mr Baqwa's recommendations, to be tabled in Parliament soon, came after his in-depth investigation into South Africa's nine provincial departments of education after reported leaks of exam papers and other irregularities in the exam process.

"I welcome the report of the Public Protector on the progress and integrity of the matric examinations and will carefully consider its recommendations for implementation," Professor Bengu said in a statement.

"I fully endorse the Public Protec-

tor's view that we need to send an unequivocal message to all potential culprits that we will defend the education system with all the means at our disposal."

Professor Bengu said he was "particularly pleased" that Mr Baqwa had concluded that the integrity of the matric exams this year was "substantially intact".

He said the new democracy compelled the new education authorities to provide an efficient, effective and transparent service that would limit leakages, expose the culprits and protect the interests of the learners and the public.

"It remains to be seen, from the outcome of police investigations, whether or not the people behind these activities are only motivated by the financial benefits of their actions or by some other factors," Professor Bengu said.



CP 24/11/96

(52)

# Reporter 'faked degree'

By CHRIS HLONGWA

A WELL-KNOWN reporter has claimed he has a BA degree and is currently studying for a honour's degree – but academic records in the possession of City Press reveal he has yet to get his bachelor's degree.

The reporter, whose name is known to us, is currently working as a freelancer at SABC TV. He is one of the 27 students prevented from graduating at the University of Zululand this year when the fake degree scandal broke out.

He included in his CV that he obtained a BA Communications degree this year and was engaged in his honour's degree – but his academic record indicates he has not yet even completed his junior degree. Records show he is doing his final year of his degree.

City Press has also discovered that the academic record of the full-time television reporter indicates the improbable situation

of being a full-time student at the university.

A well-placed source confirmed that the person did not have the degree which, the source said, he was believed by some people to have obtained from the same university.

□ Meanwhile, City Press has learnt that senior magistrate Themba Mnyandu, who is linked to the fake degree scandal at the University of Zululand, has been charged with misconduct by his commission.

In a statement to City Press, the commission said Mnyandu allegedly fraudulently submitted to the Department of Justice documents from the University of Zululand "to the effect that he had successfully completed all courses required for the award of an LLB degree".

Public protector Selby Baqwa said that Mnyandu had not yet appeared before his commission, which is investigating the degree scam at the university – as was reported last week.

## Officials innocent of degree scam

52 EP 24/11/96  
LAST WEEK, in our lead story on the investigation into fake degrees awarded at the University of Zululand under the heading "What a huge fake", we implied that the following officials of the university may have been involved:

BA Buthelezi, BJ Vorster, BM van der Westhuizen, BM Zulu, DG Sibisi, JD Adams, M Malan, NJ Xulu, PF Lembede, V Baxter and A Chin.

We have since been informed by the university that there is no evidence that any of the officials mentioned are implicated in any irregular altering of students' marks.

Their names appear on a list of which City Press has a copy, but the officials apparently were only required to verify some students' marks – and did so satisfactorily.

City Press retracts all references to the mentioned officials. We regret that their names were mentioned in the report and we apologise to them for any inconvenience caused by the report.

# How to abolish matric

South Africa's exam system is inefficient, ineffective, meaningless and unnecessary, argues Dr MICHAEL RICE (52)

BT 24/11/96

THE matric crisis has become a political football. Accusations and counter-accusations make for good copy but do little to solve the problem.

The solution is both elegant and simple. Abolish the public exam. Once that is done all the logistical problems, all the anxiety, all the obsessions with standards and security will cease.

Getting rid of the exam can be justified on educational, economic, administrative and political grounds.

It is widely accepted that one-off examinations place undue stress on candidates who may suffer from performance anxiety and therefore not do themselves justice. They then carry the burden of their poor performance with them for the rest of their lives. In addition, it is educationally unsound to make the culmination of 12 years of schooling hang on the results of one exam.

One of the consequences has been the emergence of cram colleges where the emphasis is on exam results to the exclusion of everything else. Education is associated with memorising facts and passing in order to gain entrance to some sort of professional training. The cultivation of values, critical

thought, cultural sensitivity, and the variety of opportunities that exist for personal intellectual and moral development become irrelevant to the pursuit of marks.

If this sounds too fanciful it is worth considering how the previous government succeeded in controlling education to create docile (white) citizens who continued to believe what it told them, and a (black) underclass which was undermined to the point that it provided a steady supply of submissive workers to keep the state ticking over.

The examination system is at odds with the government's objectives of education based on outcomes, skills and competencies.

Certificates are only as valuable as the faith society places in them. For many years now universities have discounted matric symbols because they have been such inaccurate predictors of academic success. Why, then, continue with a system that is rapidly losing credibility?

The economic justifications for getting rid of the matric system are perhaps even more telling. The public examination system costs the taxpayer anything between R250-million and R300-million a year. In other words, the taxpayer is subsidi-

dising all those bodies and institutions that rely on certificates for admission to courses or as a sifting mechanism in job recruitment.

Why should the taxpayer have to pay for anyone in the job market or for institutions of higher education that set minimum requirements? Why should the taxpayer subsidise the private sector?

The matric exam has long been politicised. In the past points were scored by comparing which (language) group scored the most distinctions and which (racial) group produced the worst results. In the new democratic South Africa the race or language of candidates will not be published. But this does not mean the political element has been laid to rest. Politicians will find ways of interpreting the results to support their prejudices.

If the exam is abolished there will be less pressure on pupils to bring the system to its knees as they try to avoid facing the inevitable. Much student protest is associated with the fear of failure.

What are the alternatives? Institutions of higher learning such as universities and technikons should set their own entrance examinations. Candidates wishing to apply would have to pay an exam-

ination fee which could be used to cover the cost of administration. It would eliminate a serious problem of multiple applications by many individuals to a range of institutions in the hope that they will be accepted by one of them. Institutions in the tertiary sector spend an enormous amount of time sifting through applications each year, the vast majority of which are rejected.

Other organisations, such as banks and the insurance industry, that require specific educational standards from their applicants should set and administer their own entrance requirements. Certainly, it is illogical to expect one exam to serve the entry requirements and needs of business, commerce, industry and higher education.

If, however, such a strategy is regarded as too costly, standardised tests based on the American model administered to all foreign students wishing to enter an American university could be used. They are cost-effective, flexible, efficient, corruption proof and involve the minimum of administration.

If the private sector needs such instruments it should pay for them.

● Rice is an education consultant

*S. D. ...*

# Matric examination markers' strike 'over'

Kevin O'Grady

A STRIKE by about 1 000 teachers who are marking matric examination papers in North West had ended after their grievances were resolved, the provincial education department said yesterday.

Curriculum and examinations director Koot Myburgh said additional accommodation for markers had been provided after complaints of overcrowding were received, and an additional caterer had been brought in to improve the delivery of meals.

Myburgh said the strike started on Monday after the department realised at the weekend that there were about 200 more teachers than it had provided accommodation for.

A "small, up-and-coming" caterer, awarded the contract to provide meals for the teach-

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ers, "did not realise the magnitude" of feeding so many people and meals initially were substandard and delivery slow.

Although the quality of meals improved, teachers were unhappy at having to queue.

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"They wanted to mark papers, not stand in queues," Myburgh said.

The accommodation problem had resulted from the fact that reply slips — on which markers had to indicate whether they needed ac-

commodation — had not been returned on time, possibly because of postal delays.

He said that the department was confident marking would be completed by the December 4 deadline.

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# Education authorities close in on matric exam cheats

By Adam Cooke

Gauteng education authorities claim they are closing in on matric exam cheats, and scores of matriculants from up to 22 schools are likely to be called in to explain themselves.

Sources at the Gauteng department of education (GDE) and people involved in marking have told The Star that many matriculants suspected of matric exam irregularities had been identified and would be called in for questioning before an "irregularities panel" at the GDE.

The sources, who wished to remain anonymous, said the GDE had established a list of 22 schools in the province where irregularities were suspected - including in their ranks a number of top northern suburbs schools. Four of the suspects on the list are believed to be from Mayfair and Lenasia, south of

Johannesburg.

The GDE's "irregularities panel" is said to be swinging into action as it becomes clear to exam markers which pupils have cheated.

The GDE was unable to verify the reports of obvious cheating found in the English first-language paper, but a source in the department said a number of schools and individuals had been identified as being party to irregularities and would be receiving letters calling them before officials shortly.

The GDE source also confirmed that individual schools that had been brought into question would be investigated.

The "irregularities panel" is said to have met yesterday to decide on how to deal with the possible culprits.

Marking sources said that in all cases where it was obvious that pupils had cheated, they

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would be disqualified and called before the panel with their parents.

They would be questioned and the information, it was hoped, would help with the investigation into the source of the leaks.

Subethri Naidoo, spokesman for education MEC Mary Metcalfe, said that in cases where there was a clear indication of cheating, the department would intervene.

She said the department had a number of options open to it on how best to deal with the problem.

Naidoo pointed to special moderation procedures and said each case would be looked into.

English exam markers alerted The Star to this information when they claimed to have discovered cases of blatant cheating in Johannesburg and Pretoria schools.

One marker said that of about 50 papers she had marked at the weekend, two had been perfect replicas of the memorandum provided to markers to help them mark papers.

"Word for word, the answers were the same as in the memo. The pupils either had the exam memorandum in their hands as they wrote or had memorised everything perfectly," said one marker, who added that one of the pupils had achieved 97%.

The marker said this pointed to the involvement of senior department officials as very few people had access to the memorandum.

Another marker said the situation was more widespread than initially thought: "There was one batch of 45 exam papers where 35 of them had obviously been cribbed," said the marker.

# Exam markers dig their heels in as govt promises no delay

By ROCKY MOKOENA

MATRIC results in the Northern Province may be delayed as 6 500 dismissed markers threaten to continue with their sit-in at the marking centre at the University of the North.

The markers have threatened to block all university entrances to ensure no new markers are recruited.

They demand that their grievances be addressed and that they be paid for the papers they have marked.

Markers' Interim Committee spokesperson Lantabule Mamabolo said the markers felt the government had failed to negotiate with them - and their only option was to continue with their work stoppage, adding that the markers were opposed to a 47 per cent taxation rate and demanded a 25 per cent rate.

Few markers left the campus yesterday, with heavy police and SANDF members patrolling.

Provincial government spokesperson Junior Ramusu said the police

would remain at the campus until all dismissed markers left the campus and other new markers were recruited today.

"There is no way we will allow the results to be delayed by irresponsible people. This type of behaviour will not be allowed - and the government will ensure that matric results are not delayed," said Ramusu.

Ramusu said the recruitment of new markers would start at the University of the North's campus early today.

# Cheating craze uncovered in Gauteng

By DERRICK LUTHAYI

A WHIZZ-KID craze that was going to see matric students obtaining distinctions has been thwarted by vigilant markers who discovered blatant cases of cheating.

The cheats are said to be from 22 schools in Gauteng.

Markers have disclosed that many matriculants suspected of matric examination irregularities have been identified and their names and the names of their schools have been forwarded to the education authorities.

Some of the suspected cheats are from top northern suburbs schools and four of the suspects are said to

CP 8/12/96  
be from Mayfair and Lenasia.

Gauteng Department of Education media liaison officer Subethri Naidoo told City Press that a number of students had been sent letters and that the department was not going to release further details. But people being investigated would be dealt with according to the law.

"I could not verify if the number of schools mentioned is accurate - it is likely to be so, though. There is some difficulty legally in this regard as many of the accused are minors. The investigation team will decide on when and how to deal with the issue and when such information can be made public," said Naidoo.

Naidoo added they would check the suspects' progress for the year to

ensure deserving students were not denied their marks.

Police this week announced they had arrested three people found in possession of stolen matric papers.

Those arrested were a private school teacher, Sonnyboy Nyikoralane (30) of Pretoria, Zunaid Daya (19) of Actonville and Mirriam Lungu (27) of Mamelodi. They are all out on bail and will appear in court on January 9 next year.

□ Meanwhile the commission of inquiry set up by MEC for education Mary Metcalfe, which is headed by Bongani Khumalo, started investigation on November 30 and is expected to complete its work at the end of the month.

# 'Cheats will not find a place at Wits'

BY PRISCILLA SIMON

Wits University will accept the 1996 matric examination results subject to a screening process — a move that is sure to take a load off the matriculants' shoulders and ease post-exam stress.

The university will accept the results as a major indicator of who should be admitted to its degree courses, as it has done in previous years, but will employ special measures to identify any potential student who cheated in the matric exams.

Wits spokesman David Williams said yesterday that the university was aware of the concern caused by reports of leaked question papers and had consulted the Gauteng Department of Education when the first leaks were reported.

Potential students and their parents were understandably worried that deserving candidates for university places

might be kept out by others who had cheated, and that genuine high achievement in the exams would be devalued, Williams said.

So far, more than 12 000 matriculants have applied to Wits and only about 4 000 will be accepted. However, late applications could push the number of applicants to nearly

## 'The harm done by leaks was limited'

15 000.

"The university is taking the issue very seriously in view of these shortcomings during the 1996 matric exam.

"Wits always subjects the results of matric examinations to scrutiny and this year we will take additional precau-

tions," he said.

This will involve comparative analysis with previous years' matric results and the investigation of any glaring anomalies within an individual's set of marks.

Furthermore, Williams said that in faculties such as Health Sciences, admission also depended on other procedures, such as an aptitude test, and personal interviews.

Wits had consulted the relevant education authorities, and was informed that the leaks affected a limited number of question papers in some areas, Williams said. The education departments also indicated that the integrity of the examination as a whole had been preserved.

"We have been assured that the harm done by leaks was limited by prompt action and increased security."

He said Wits always took great care to ensure that admission procedures were fair.

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# Wits to weed out matric cheats

Kevin O'Grady

(52)  
13/12/96

WITS University has taken special measures to weed out matric exam cheats from those applying for courses at the institution next year.

Wits spokesman David Williams said the measures would enable the university to continue to accept the matric exam results as the major indicator of who should be admitted to the institution.

The university was taking the issue of leaked exam question papers "very seriously indeed" as potential students and their parents were "understandably worried" that deserving candidates for university places might be kept out by others who had cheated.

While Wits always submitted matric exam results to scrutiny, it would take additional precautions this year, such as comparative analysis with previous years' results and the investigation of glaring anomalies within an individual's marks, Williams said.

The examining authorities would also use various statistical methods to detect abnormal results from a particular school or region. "In addition, in some subjects dishonest candidates usually reveal themselves immediately in the way they present their answers," Williams said.

Wits had always taken care to ensure that admission procedures were fair "and this year will be no different", Williams said.



## Exam paper

### 'chaos' slated

PIETERSBURG: The Northern Province Education Department has been criticised for its "chaotic" handling of the marking of matric examination papers which led to the dismissal of more than 6 000 enumerators.

Principals in the province expressed doubt yesterday about the credibility of marking and the upcoming results. They said the results could jeopardise career prospects of thousands of matriculants who sat for this year's examination.

Marking was disrupted in its first week when thousands of enumerators went on strike to protest against allowances and tax deductions.

Education MEC Dr Aaron Mokoaleli dismissed all markers and re-employed new enumerators, which held up the marking of papers for a week.

The SA Democratic Teachers' Union also criticised the department this week for the problems. — Sapa

## DEPARTMENT 'AWARE' OF CORRUPTION

# School's a breeze when

# you can buy a pass at R30

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**EAST LONDON:** The Eastern Cape Education Department has not yet acted against those teachers and pupils who sell and buy passes at various schools in this city.

It was quite unnecessary for Eastern Cape pupils to study for and pass their end-of-year examinations as they can buy a "pass" for as little as R30.

The Eastern Cape Education Department said it was "very much aware" of the corruption, but no action has yet been taken against the perpetrators.

A survey this week revealed a widespread racket involving school teachers who will "sell" pupils a successful examination report. The scam is particularly prevalent at the end of each year when pupils want to progress to the next standard or move to a new school.

Two schoolgirls, who did not want to be named, said parents were in cahoots

with corrupt teachers by providing the money to buy false school reports. Others (pupils) get money from their boyfriends. Prices range from R30 to R40, depending on the greed of the teacher.

"Normally, if one fails at a particular school, all he or she has to do is buy a report and get a transfer to another school," said one of the girls.

In a survey among adults in East London townships and in the CBD, almost all of them acknowledged that the buying of false school reports was rampant, especially at the end of each year.

Std 9 pupil Rachel Mlotwa blamed teachers who offered pupils the temptation of false school reports. She branded them

as being "unfit in a profession that demands a lot of discipline".

"I know of at least two teachers who are involved in this racket, but I cannot name them because they will be fired and some have big families to support," she said.

Education Department spokesman Mr Phaphama Mfenyana said they were looking at ways to combat the corruption.

"Admissions should be handled by a selection committee responsible for setting norms for each admission. We have investigated a number of schools that were alleged to be involved in the racket.

"We have also received reports of students who either tamper with their reports or use another pupil's report to gain admission and then revert to their own names once they reach matric," he said.

No action had been taken against corrupt teachers or pupils who bought their school passes. — Own Correspondent

# Cheating matric schools exposed

ST22/12/96

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By CAROL PATON

**EDUCATION officials have identified 99 schools of shame where pupils cheated in this year's matric exams.**

Instead of getting their exam results on Friday, more than 1 400 pupils in Johannesburg and Pretoria will be summonsed to appear before a panel of educators to hear charges against them.

If they are found guilty their results will be declared null and void, and they could be barred from writing matric for the next two years.

Private schools found guilty of irregularities could be barred from administering matric exams and lose government subsidies.

A task team appointed to probe cheats after exam papers were leaked has found that the leakages were confined to specific schools and exam centres in Johannesburg's northern and southern suburbs and Pretoria. Two areas where leaked papers were widely available were Lenasia, south of Johannesburg, and Laudium in Pretoria. Investigations in other provinces are continuing.

With about 700 schools in Gauteng, the figures suggest that one in every seven schools in Gauteng was involved in irregularities.

In some schools only one or two pupils are suspected, while in others entire classes may have cheated.

The investigators believe that in some inner-city private schools in Johannesburg teachers wrote answers to stolen papers on the board or read them out in class.

The 1 413 pupils suspected of cheating will receive letters from the Gauteng education department ordering them and their parents to appear at a hearing.

James Maseko, the superintendent general of education in Gauteng, said the action would protect the credibility of the exam and prevent leaks in the future.

"We want to send a very clear message that cheating in examinations is not acceptable," he said.

Mary Metcalfe, the provincial minister of education, praised the steps taken by the department.

"I am pleased that firm action will be taken. Those who allowed themselves to be tempted will pay dearly for their dishonesty. The matrics of 1997 and their families are warned not to make the same mistake," she said.

Offences identified by the department include the buying of stolen exam papers and model-answer memorandums by some 336 candidates, and copying from smuggled crib notes by 1 077 others.

"Groups of students had given the same correct answers, the same incorrect answers and had made the same mistakes. Someone was either writing the answers on the board or had read them out," said Maseko.

Some students who had obtained the marking memorandums had parroted the answers, writing down not just one correct answer but other possible options too.

Some who had not managed to dispose of their crib notes in time had submitted them with their scripts. In

some cases, these included pages torn from textbooks.

Maseko said it appeared that only 3,5 percent of candidates cheated.

The SA Certification Council, the body responsible for ensuring that the exam meets the right standard, has approved the Gauteng exam.

Two Pretoria students and a teacher at a Pretoria inner-city college have been charged with fraud.

Inner-city colleges where teachers took part in irregularities, or where exams were not administered properly, stand to lose the right to run matric exams and could also lose their government subsidies.

In Durban, where exam papers were for sale on the streets, two students, one of them a pupil at Overport Secondary, and an Umlazi circuit inspector have been charged.

Morgan Naidoo, the director of exam services in Kwazulu Natal, said students who cheated would have their results cancelled and could be barred from writing the exam for two years.

Maseko said that pupils who had helped the department's investigation could face softer penalties.

He said he hoped that the co-operation of students would lead to the sources within the department responsible for the theft of papers.

The schools will only be named once investigations are complete.

Gauteng and the Cape province will release their results on Friday, with most other provinces following within a few days. In Kwazulu Natal the deadline is January 6, although results may be announced earlier.

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# Private schools to face the music

By DERRICK LUTHAYI

**THIRTY private schools in Gauteng face closure at the beginning of the new school term next year.**

This bombshell follows intensive investigations which revealed that most of the pupils who cheated in the matriculation examinations came from registered private schools.

A teacher in a private school in Pretoria was recently arrested and charged with being in possession of 100 stolen exam papers. He is to appear in court together with two other people on January 9, 1997.

GDE superintendent general James Maseko said the department had decided to close the private schools examination centres and the future of the private schools would be determined by further investigations into exam irregularities.

Maseko said that if investigations proved that private centres administered the exams improperly, those schools would not be permitted to operate as exam centres in future.

Maseko also made the shock announcement that because of the irregularities, hundreds of matric students would not receive their results on December 27.

"We are withholding the examination results of 336 candidates from 44 schools where we believe we have sufficient evidence to prove prior access to examination material," said Maseko.

Maseko added that the results of 1 077 candidates from 55 schools would be kept back as a result of copying and lack of proper administrative control.

He said 30 of these schools were private examination centres.

"In many cases, there is evidence that the management of these institutions may have been grossly negligent in their invigilation responsibilities. Some candidates in public schools fall into this category, and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any department official or employee involved in such irregularities," said Maseko.

Maseko disclosed that candidates whose scripts indicated strongly that they had seen the question paper before writing the exam would be informed on Thursday that their marks were being withheld until the investigation was completed.

These candidates will be brought before a panel to answer the allegations against them.

They will be given letters informing them of the procedure for the formal hearing.

In cases where candidates are found guilty of having unauthorised prior access to any exam material, their results will be declared null and void. These candidates will be prohibited for two years from writing another GDE examination and their names may be forwarded to the police for criminal investigation.

After investigations are completed, the GDE will publish a list of all the affected schools.

During the past six weeks, the GDE has been investigating leads on possible irregularities. Several arrests have been made.

Investigation findings are that a total of 1 413 candidates from 99 schools are suspected of being involved in exam irregularities, and that there are two categories of irregularities - copying and lack of proper administrative controls.

Maseko said reports of widespread leakage were not confirmed by the findings of the investigating team. Only a very small percentage of candidates had been identified as having been involved in any form of exam irregularity.

He said the vast majority of candidates had behaved with responsibility and honesty in a highly pressured situation, and that a very small number had access to leaked papers.

These leakages, he said, were confined to specific areas and exam centres which were known to the department.

There are, however, other cases where the marking process has identified schools whose management may have been grossly negligent in their invigilation responsibilities.

Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe yesterday said she congratulated the Gauteng department of education (GDE) for responding so quickly and efficiently to the theft of some matric papers.

"While there have been some who have done their best to shake public confidence in the new department, the way the GDE team handled what could have been a crisis and have taken every step necessary to ensure the integrity of the exam, must strengthen the confidence of our people in our new department," Metcalfe said.

"I am in full support of the firm action that would be taken against all persons whose dishonesty is proved. Those who allowed themselves to be tempted and supported the theft by buying stolen papers will pay dearly for their dishonesty."

Matric backlog bars

# Class of '96 scores 57 percent

Matric results due out only on Friday, but Afrikaans newspaper breaks embargo and may face legal action

Alan

(52)

all/1a/96

# pass

STAFF REPORTER AND SAPA

The Gauteng matriculation exam pass rate is 57,16%, with 55 439 of the 97 309 pupils who wrote this year's finals making the grade, and 41 686 failing. The results are about 2% down on last year's success rate. Official results are due out on Friday, but an embargo which editors had agreed on was broken today by an Afrikaans morning newspaper. Gauteng education superintendent-general James Maseko said he was considering legal action against the newspaper. Maseko said 99 schools in the 630 examination centres in the province were being investigated for either cribbing, lack of administrative control, or having prior access to examination material. A total of 1 413 candidates were suspected of being involved in irregularities. Yesterday the education department maintained that reports of widespread leakage had not been confirmed by the findings of

## 99 schools

### are being probed for cheating

a special investigation team. "Only a very small percentage (3,6%) of candidates has been involved in any form of examination irregularity," it said. Most of the schools where the irregularities occurred were inner-city private schools, Maseko confirmed. Steps against the schools could include withdrawal of registration certificates and a possible end to government subsidies. Maseko added that private schools gave students illegal assistance to attract more students. He refused to name the schools involved, saying a list would be released after investigations. Schools affected included several in Lenasia, at least five in Soweto and seven in Pretoria. Next year there may be only one central examination centre for private schools, to maintain control. But Maseko added: "The vast majority of our students behaved with responsibility and honesty in a highly pressured situation." When results were made public on Friday, those who were found guilty of any irregularities would receive letters telling them to appear before a panel of education officials between January 6 and February 6.

Their results would be declared null and void if they were guilty and criminal charges could be laid. The cheats would be prohibited from writing for the next two years. A reward of R50 000 has been offered for information leading to the arrest of any person guilty of irregularities. Regarding the validity of the final certificate for this year's examination, Maseko said the SA Certification Council had confirmed that the Gauteng examinations met the standards and requirements set by the council. The department would be explaining all tertiary institutions to explain that the results had been sanctioned by the council.

# Matric joy - and blunders

STAFF REPORTERS

Western Cape matrics will be out celebrating in force today, with the news that 80,7 percent of candidates passed in the first year that all Standard 10 pupils have written a single Senior Certificate examination.

But a row erupted as soon as results were released today, with some schools saying results were missing, incomplete or wrong. Entire groups of pupils who wrote were listed as "not attended".

Bishops pupils excelled, with two of the top three matric pupils. Top of the list was Tobias Brandt of Tokai and third was Jan van Zyl Smit of Rondebosch.

In second place was Daniel Smit, a Paul

Roos Gimnasium pupil from Stellenbosch.

Others on the list of the province's top 20 pupils are, from fourth place downward, Francelle Laubscher (Bloemhof Hoër Meisieskool), Tamara Stummer (Fairbairn College), Mareli Claassens (Stellenbosch Hoërskool), Ellen Louw (DF Malan Hoërskool), Anel Kemp (Swarthland Hoërskool), Lindie Cloete (Bloemhof Hoër Meisieskool), Lindi-May Collins (Milner-ton High School), Gavin Cooper (Fairbairn College), Brian McMillan (Jan van Riebeck Hoërskool), Elana Louw (Hottentots Holland Hoërskool), Lisbe Ferreira (Brackenfell Hoërskool), Frederick Calitz (Stellenberg Hoërskool), Paulus van der Merwe (Durbanville Hoërskool), Koensraad Greyling (Jan van Riebeck

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Hoërskool), Leigh Johnson (Westerford High School), Matthew Wild (Bergvliet High School) and Adriaan Botha (Strand Hoërskool).

Top pupil Tobias Brandt was out of town, but third-placed Jan van Zyl Smit attributed his success to his choice of "non-study" subjects - such as French and Latin - "these are subjects you just become able to do".

Bishops headmaster Clive Watson said: "Two pupils out of the top 20 - it's not bad".

But Malcolm Law, head of Abbott's College in Claremont, said there were "serious errors and omissions" in the results which would impact "very negatively" on

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## Matric joy - and a row - as results released

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his students. "For example, all my history students have been given 'not attended' results, while more than 100 who wrote the physiology exam have all been given 'nought'."

"Of course this affects their overall aggregate and their chances of passing or failing."

Mr Law said he knew of another school where all the pupils who had written the Afrikaans exam had been marked as not having attended.

"Technically this means that they've all failed," he said.

Mr Law said he had contacted the

education department, which was "working on it".

Matric pupils at Settlers High in Bellville also had their spirits dampened, when only one of the 200 candidates got a full set of matric results. All the other pupils were missing their English results.

At Herzlia High several pupils were still waiting for their business economics results more than an hour after the education department released all the matric results.

Provincial Education Minister Martha Olickers said after the release of the results that this year's results would establish the norms for future examinations.

She said she was disappointed that

pupils from former department of education and culture and department of education and training schools had not featured in the top 20. This was part of the future challenge her department faced.

A total of 53 000, including part-time pupils, wrote the Senior Certificate exam and 80,7 percent of the 32 376 full-time candidates passed. A total 8 370 pupils (25,9 percent) passed with exemption.

The Education Department could not be contacted to comment on the complaints from some schools.

■ Pupils in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and North-West have been told they will get their results only on Monday or Tuesday, Sapa reports.

# Matric results still reflect the ills of apartheid education, says

Jacqui Pile

GAUTENG's first matric exams under a single nonracial education department failed to produce improved results this year.

Two percent fewer candidates passed compared with the number who passed last year. The provincial education department said it was too early to see an improvement.

Results will be available today. Education superintendent-general James Maseko said yesterday that

57,16% of the 75 061 full-time candidates passed, 38,95% obtained senior certificates and 18,2% passed with exemption. The department was not surprised by the low pass rate, which was "not significantly different" from previous results, and did not believe comparisons with previous years were particularly meaningful, he said.

Pupils who wrote matric this year had received up to 11 years' schooling in education systems characterised by unequal resources and infrastructures with varied pupil-teacher ratios and

environments of varying suitability for teaching and learning.

"Moreover, many of our schools were racked by ... instability and conflict which, we are happy to report, has largely disappeared with the establishment of a democratic system of government," Maseko said.

The process of reorganising teaching and learning could "hardly be accomplished in this year alone and will require considerable further attention and planning in the years to come". Changes to the curriculum, gover-

nance structures and funding policy in education would require a great deal of work by the department this year.

Other changes that were likely to enhance pupils' performance and would get under way this year included building new schools to relieve overcrowding, provision of basic amenities such as running water, electricity, toilets and fencing, and changes to pupil-teacher ratios.

The department was also examining new forms of assessment "because we are aware of the deficiencies of the

## Matric

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Continued from Page 1

Provincial education department spokesman Nagoor Bissety said the markers had protested against tax deductions from the payment of about R2 400 for their services. The department had pointed out that the markers had signed contracts agreeing to the deductions and they eventually returned to work.

The work stoppage meant that results would be submitted to the examinations certification council today. They were to have been submitted on Monday, Bissety said.

He expected results to be available on January 3 because the "sheer numbers involved makes it more than a mammoth task". A total of 141 000 pupils wrote matric in KwaZulu-Natal, more than in any other province. Bissety said the examinations had been credible. Papers had been replaced at the "slightest hint" of leaks.

examination system", Maseko said.

The theft of exam papers and other irregularities did not play a significant role in the overall results, with just 1 413 candidates suspected of involvement in cheating, he said.

Meanwhile, Farouk Chothia reports from Durban that the release of matric results in KwaZulu-Natal might be delayed from December 31 to January 3 by a markers' work stoppage in Maritzburg.

Continued on Page 2

Gauteng

# Chaos as computer bungles matric results

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ARG 28/12/96

## *Sometimes things go wrong, says official*

JERMAINE CRAIG AND DENNIS CAVERNELLS  
STAFF REPORTERS

A mysterious glitch in both the Gauteng and Western Cape Education Departments' computer systems has upset thousands of matrics - who were led to believe that they had failed the most important exam in their young lives.

In the Western Cape matrics from at least 25 schools were affected, while the situation in Gauteng was also described as chaotic.

Officials in both provinces were working frantically to resolve the problems, while furious parents and matriculants tried in vain to establish what had happened.

Western Cape education chief Brian O'Connell said last night that the cause of the problem had still not been established.

"We don't yet know the cause of the problem, right now our focus is to try and correct the matter," he said.

The result of the "glitch" was that "the computer indicated that some people were absent (and did not write certain exams)".

He said this meant that the names of

***All the matric results for the Western Cape appear in a special supplement inside today's paper***

certain pupils - who had in fact passed their matric exams - were not listed in the results sent to their schools.

"These results are wrong," admitted Mr O'Connell.

The Gauteng Department of Education experienced similar problems and has promised to rectify the problem as soon as possible. But the problems will nevertheless be a serious blot on the outcome of the much-trumpeted, first country-wide matric exams held under single education departments. The results from the other provinces are only expected for publication next week.

Mr O'Connell said the computer programme used by the department was "complicated and sometimes things go wrong". He said he hoped errors would be rectified by this morning.

Part of the problem was that the department had been working under a great deal of pressure, he said.

"There's too much pressure on getting the results out as soon as possible.

"We did not have time to check and double check", he admitted.

He apologised to pupils who had been affected and yesterday said his staff would be working through the night to correct the errors. The department would attempt to inform matrics, via radio broadcasts, of the errors.

As soon as the correct results were



Top student: Rondebosch pupil Jan van Zyl Smit is hoisted high by his classmates after hearing he attained third overall position among his year's Western Cape matriculants. Top of the list was Tobias Brandt of Tokai while second place went to Daniel Smit of Paul Roos Gimnasium

HANNES THART

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P.T.O.

Serious problems reported in five other provinces

# Fury as Gauteng pupils are forced to wait for matric results again

BY AURELLA DYANTYI,  
OWN CORRESPONDENT and SAPA

Thousands of angry Gauteng matric students and their parents waited in vain for marks yesterday as a computer glitch led to a results shambles.

There was chaos at scores of schools where pupils were given incomplete marks or no marks at all for some subjects because they had been marked absent even though they sat the examinations. In some cases, whole classes - such as the entire matric entry from Danelin College - were omitted from published results.

Teachers and principals from some schools in Mamelodi and Soshanguve, near Pretoria, failed to collect results in time to put them up on noticeboards.

The delays may affect matriculants applying for jobs or trying to get into university, and will add to the stress of pupils already shell-shocked by allegations of cheating.

"If some distressed child commits suicide because of this, it will be on (Gauteng Education MEC) Mary Metcalfe's head," said one angry parent.

The education department promised to rectify the problems by January 3, saying anyone who believed he had been disadvantaged could apply for a re-mark.

## 4 000 affected

Acknowledging there had been a problem, provincial education superintendent-general James Masako apologised to pupils inconvenienced by the errors, saying incorrect results constituted just 5% of the total - fewer errors than in previous years.

Given that 75 218 full-time pupils wrote the exams, almost 4 000 were affected by late and incorrect results. The pass rate in Gauteng was 16% and incorrect results was "not aware" of any "incomplete" results.

The problems will neverthe-  
outcome of the first matric ex-  
a single education department  
with results were also reported  
results for KwaZulu Natal, Eastern  
and North West are expected next week.

The exams have been tainted by all-  
and paper leaks. Gauteng education officials have handed out 350 letters to pupils suspected of cheating, asking them to report to the department to obtain their results.

The letters make it clear that pupils will not be able to get their results if they do not co-operate in the investigation of exam irregularities.

TO PAGE 2

wide spread of schools was affected, including Roodepoort High School, Danelin College, Crawford College, Nigel High, Benoni High, Wordsworth High, the National School of Arts in Bramfontein, Alberton High, King David High, Greenside High, Sandringham High, Southview High in Lenasia South, and Ferndale High.

A spokesman for Wordsworth High in Benoni said the school had picked up 65 mistakes in the results for its 130 matrics. The mistakes were spotted on Tuesday and reported immediately, but there were still errors yesterday and the school was told to return on Monday.

Parent Jean Goodchild said: "When I saw Mary Metcalfe and James Masako on television on Thursday talking about how hard the education department would come down on those who had cheated, I praised them for being effective, but I was shocked when our kids got to school to find their results messed up."

Pupils affected by the delayed or distorted results said the situation worsened a very stressful year, raising questions about the validity of the final results. Bongani Khumalo, chairman of the commission set up to investigate the problem, said there was no question about the validity and credibility of the results.

Gauteng exam fraud investigators said some pupils might have bought fakes. "We had reports of people selling Gauteng matric papers and when we got hold of these papers and checked them, they were not our exams," said the team's Dr Pine Penaar. Parents had already made appointments to see him to discuss the letters relating to alleged cheating. "I'll be seeing about 10 to 12 candidates a day in early January."

Gauteng Democratic Party leader Jack Bloom labelled the results "disappointing" and said they showed a "painful lack of real progress in township schools. A likely estimate is that more than two-thirds of matric pupils at these schools continue to fail and less than 10% achieve a university pass. This is miserably low and a real challenge to our education system."

The SA Democratic Teachers' Union, while welcoming common exams for all matriculants, criticised provincial education departments which said they could not release results on schedule. The excuses were "totally unacceptable because of the inconvenience to the graduates, who are expected to have started making preparations for placement at institutions of higher learning or applying for jobs."

Noting the 57% pass rate in Gauteng, the union said it would be incorrect to "project a perception that all is well in our schools". The situation "that prevailed last year has not changed substantially ... results still reflect the racial and class imbalances inherited from the previous system."

The IFP Youth Brigade said: "No short-term solutions were provided to prevent irregularities. In other words, the education department is responsible for the poor results."

The national Department of Education has invited people with information about matric exam paper leaks to contact Marie, Gloria or Nalasha at (011) 800-5105 or to send submissions to The Inquiry, Box 8910, Johannesburg 2000. Evidence will be heard at Eskom Centre, 204 Smit Street, Bramfontein, from January 2-8 between 9am and 6pm.





FULL OF SMILES . . . amid the controversy about cheating, Crawford College's Taryn Balkind (seven distinctions), Lisa Cagnacci (nine) and Anne Livingstone (seven) are pleased with their results  
Picture: JULANI VAN DER WESTHUIZEN

# Disbelief and heartache as Gauteng names the cribbers

By ELIAS MALULEKE and CAROL PATON

GAUTENG'S education department has taken action only against pupils it is certain had access to stolen papers, the province's education minister, Mary Metcalfe, has said.

She was reacting to an outcry from parents of students whose results were withheld for subjects in which they were suspected of cheating.

Metcalfe said the department had given students the benefit of the doubt and had taken action only where the department felt it had a strong case.

"It is tragic that some of the top students also cheated. It is because of the huge competition to get into medical school. It is so tempting," she said.

Parents interviewed on Friday questioned the method used by the department to identify cheats. Some threatened to take legal action against the department.

In Lenasia on the West Rand, the disqualification of the top pupil at Nirvana Secondary School has prompted teachers to question how pupils were identified.

Shakira Moosa, 18, obtained three As and two Bs, but was disqualified for English — yet her class teacher, Nazim Adams, and

the principal, Rashid Mohammed, said she had consistently excelled in that subject.

Adams said Moosa's disqualification was baseless: "The criteria to identify the cheats was unfair to exemplary pupils who worked hard to obtain top marks without cheating. She has been top of the class in English throughout the year and her disqualification will do her a lot of harm."

Mohammed said: "She is a hard-working pupil and topped the school this year. Her disqualification was based on unfounded and malicious assumption."

Although exam papers had been available to pupils at the school, Mohammed said most matriculants — including Moosa — had not used them.

The disappointed student wept and covered her face when she found that she was disqualified. Her father, who had accompanied her to the school, said his daughter had achieved her results through hard work and not by cheating.

"I will stand by my girl because she is no cheat," he said. He said her disqualification was a major blow to her as she had planned to study medicine next year.

Another 21 pupils at Nirvana and 56 pupils at the nearby Topaz Secondary School were disqualified for cheating. Several pupils

from schools in Azaadville, near Pretoria, were also disqualified.

Most of the pupils were disqualified for cheating in the English, maths and science papers.

Instead of receiving symbols in subjects where they were suspected of cheating, pupils were credited with "zz".

Suspected cheats and their parents will be questioned by a special committee that will review pupils' marks.

"The scripts upon which the decisions were made will be shown to the pupils and their parents, and people will be faced with the evidence," a spokesman for the department said.

He said that "if they were reasonable", the department was optimistic that it would be able to sort out the problem.

On Friday unhappy pupils and their parents demanded explanations from the school heads.

Some pupils milled around school grounds in disbelief, others wept when told they would have to appear before the committee.

The principal of Topaz, Yoganathan Changeroyen, said the department had asked the school not to comment about the disqualification of the pupils.

"What I can say is that the situation is not favourable to many pupils who have to face the com-

mittee because of some cheats," he said.

"But the problem was not with the school, it originated from the department itself. The pupils who were caught with the papers have themselves to blame."

Metcalfe said that the manner in which students and their parents dealt with the problem was important.

"The child might have made a serious mistake but it is not the end of their academic career. They will still have an opportunity to write the exam," she said.

"Children who come clean, admit their mistake and co-operate with the department in saying how they got the paper will have the chance to put it behind them."

Meanwhile, the department's Edcent Williams said there were errors in the results of only about five percent of Gauteng's matric pupils. The mistakes should be corrected by Monday and most students would be able to get new statements from their schools, he said.

The errors, which caused an outcry among parents, had arisen mostly where there had been two papers in a subject but the mark for only one of the papers had been entered into the computer, reflecting a failure.

The results for speech and drama, art and business economics for schools in the Vaal triangle, which had been outstanding, were also now available, he said.

About five percent of candidates were affected by the errors and the department was working through each case brought to their attention, he said.

"The bulk will be ready by Monday and probably reach schools by 11am," Williams said. All errors would be corrected by January 6 and matric certificates would be printed in the middle of January. Matric results are due out in the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, the North West Province and Kwazulu Natal tomorrow or on Tuesday.

# Matric row: corrected (52) results out today

STAFF REPORTER

ARC 30/12/96

Western Cape matriculation pupils left in suspense about their exams after a computing error caused inaccurate results to be released will receive their complete results today.

The complete, corrected list is being released by the Western Cape Education Department late today and pupils can contact their schools for results.

Many distraught candidates were given incomplete results on Friday, leading them to believe they had failed.

Some were marked absent for certain exams they had written and others received zero marks for particular subjects.

For six schools no results at all were available.

Peter Choritz, father of Herzlia head boy Samuel Choritz, who had eight higher-grade As, said he was disappointed at the department's bungling. Samuel's name had not been on the top 20 list, even though his calculations showed he should have been near the top.

Education Department spokeswoman Nomkhita Makosana said there was no change so far to the list of the top 20 pupils. "We are still tying everything up. If there is a change we will release a new list."

At least 35 schools were thought to have received incomplete results when they were released on Friday.

Provincial education chief Brian O'Connell said human error was probably to blame for the problem, which he said had not been picked up because of the rush to get the results out by 10am on Friday.

Department officials had been under enormous pressure to release results. "They were spot-checked but there was no time to do multiple checks," Mr O'Connell said.

"In many cases pupil were given a 999 (a non-mark) as their mark, even though they were present for the papers and orals which made up the exam.

"We have a team checking the marks of these pupils. Where necessary they will go back to the mark sheet, the invigilator sheet or even the exam script to see if a pupil was really absent," he said.



OVER THE MOON: Twins Thembele and Thembele Nqonji are congratulated by their grandfather Mr. Richard Nqonji after they both passed matric.

OF SOUTH AFRICA  
PICTURE: DENZIL MARENGELE

# University not just a dream

EDUCATION WRITER

XOLANI David Koyo, 20, a pupil at Luhlaza Secondary School in Khayelitsha did not score the highest marks in the Western Cape in the recent matric exams but he studied hard and he passed.

His parents Thomas, a driver, and Rosema Koyo, a domestic worker, left the town of Alice in the Ciskei in 1984 to look for work in Cape Town and to give their four sons and daughter a better life.

"My brothers all have their matric and my sister Princess is still at school. Next year I want to go to the Peninsula Technikon."

Xolani is not certain what he

will study because he is the first of his siblings who will make an attempt at acquiring a tertiary education.

The government will try to help thousands of students like Xolani achieve their ambitions by making available student loans of which 40% converts to a bursary if they pass.

Last year R300 million was set aside for the national student bursary and loan scheme but pending budget cuts could mean this figure will drop to R250m in 1997.

Thembele Nqonji, who wrote matric at Luhlaza with his twin sister Thembele, is adamant nothing will stop him from going to the

University of Cape Town to study for his undergraduate degree in the social sciences and later an LLB.

"I got my exemption, I got my exemption," the excited teenager shouted to his grandfather Mr. Richard Nqonji who had accompanied the twins to school on Friday to get their results.

Thembele also kissed the old man's cheeks saying: "I passed Daddy, I passed."

"They were both so worried last night I am glad they have done well," Mr. Nqonji said.

There was much laughter when Thembele admitted that, despite his university exemption, he scored "GG" for Afrikaans.



DREAM ACHIEVED: Xolani Koyo

INCOMPLETE RESULTS RAISE FEARS OF FAILURE

# Matric bungle 'unforgivable'

ET 30/12/96 (52)

A LIST of the top 100 matrics may be issued to make up for "unfair" disappointment caused by a computer bungling of the results. Education Writer **CAROL CAMPBELL** reports.

THE names of the top 20 matrics in the Western Cape could change today as the Western Cape Education Department tries to correct a computer bungle that gave many matrics incomplete results on Friday.

Yesterday provincial education head Mr. Brian O'Connell said one name on the top 20 list would probably change. There could be more as other mistakes were discovered.

To ensure that no pupil was "unfairly" disappointed because of the mistake, the department was considering releasing the names of the top 30 or even the top 100 matrics.

The "computer error" marred an almost perfect matric exam in the Western Cape — one of only a few parts of the country where no exam papers were leaked.

At least 35 schools and colleges were not given their full results on Friday, and many pupils thought they had failed when they were not given any marks for crucial subjects like English and Afrikaans — even though they had studied for and written the exams.

Yesterday Mr. Percy Choritz, whose son Samuel achieved eight distinctions at Herzlia School in Highlands East but who was not among the top 20, said the way the list was worked out seemed inconsistent.

"I have used the department's formula to see where Samuel fell short, but he does not — he should be among the top 20," Choritz said he was "deeply dis-



MAZEL TOV: Celebrating their matric success are Herzlia School's top scorers (from left) Rael Codron (seven distinctions), Amanda Welman (seven distinctions) and Samuel Choritz (eight distinctions).

tressed" at the department's apparent bungling of the matric results.

"These marks determine our children's future. What has happened is unforgivable."

On hearing about his remarkable matric success last Friday, Samuel Choritz said he hoped to study medicine at the University of Cape Town or aim for a place at the University of Pennsylvania in the United States.

The teenager, who was on his

way back to a holiday camp in Kleinmond, where he was looking after younger children, described his success as "groovy."

Herzlia school girl Amanda Welman, who achieved seven distinctions, was planning to enroll at UCT for a BSc degree.

"I haven't really decided what I'll do after that, but I am more interested in science than commerce."

A move by the national educa-

tion department to shift the focus of exams would be "good for some", she said, but could destroy pupils'.

Rael Codron, who also achieved seven distinctions at Herzlia, hopes to go to UCT medical school.

The high-flying pupil took time out from his waiting job to dash to his school in Highlands East to find out his results.

"I am so pleased because I only expected four distinctions."

# Townships' lack of 'culture of learning' blamed

ERIC NTABAZALILA

52  
ET 30/12/96

IT will be some time before schools in townships are on a par with those in other areas because teachers and pupils need to embrace a "culture of learning", says the acting principal of Langa High School, Mr Zolile Khasana.

Only 28% of the school's matrics passed and four achieved a matric exemption.

"I am not satisfied with these results. The attitude of teachers and pupils must change," Khasana said.

Social and economic problems had also contributed to the poor performance of pupils, many of whom had to travel long distances by train and often arrived late for classes.

Langa High School is to celebrate its 60th anniversary next year and is the oldest black high school in Cape Town.

During the apartheid years, the school became known for turning out matrics who became church ministers — a career choice encouraged by the then-headmaster Mr "ID" Mkhize as it would teach pupils about equality and respect.

Khasana said he intended to return to the classroom in the new year. If made principal, he would make a concerted effort to involve parents in the running of the school.

Commitment and motivation had been the chief factors behind the matric pass rate of at least 80% at Fezeka Secondary, Guguletu, said school secretary Miss Zukiswa Maka. Twenty-four pupils achieved matric exemptions.

"It is possible for the percentage to increase as other results are still pending," Maka said. "Without a doubt the extra classes we ran on Saturdays played a role."

Mr Brian Isaacs, principal of the South Peninsula High, Diep River, said only one of the school's 131 matric pupils had failed. The school's top pupil, Malaiz Faiker, earned four distinctions.

"I am pleased with the result," Isaacs said.

"With more teachers, it is possible to achieve a higher pass rate. Teacher retrenchments will inevitably lead to poor results."

## Gauteng apology for delay in results

PRETORIA: Gauteng Education Department chief Mr James Maseko has apologised to matriculants for the delay in the release of their results due to technical problems.

The computer programme used by the department threw out certain marks, resulting in hundreds of pupils being incorrectly listed as having failed their matric.

Hundreds of pupils with missing marks were incorrectly listed as being absent for their exams.

Parent Mrs Lydia Els said her child's whole history class did not receive their marks.

A parent whose child wrote matric at the New Hope High School said only two of the 32 matric pupils at the school were listed as having passed according to the results in newspapers.

Maseko said the department is updating the results and all the marks released so far are still subject to confirmation.

About 80% of the outstanding results have been captured and the department is rechecking them, he said.

Subjects affected are mainly those which are practically orientated, including typing, fitting and turning, Gujarati, German, Business economics, speech and drama, and music.

But the education department has pointed out that there has been a dramatic improvement in the running of this year's matric exams compared to last year.

Last year 12% of the marks were outstanding, Maseko said. — Own Correspondent

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'HUMAN ERROR LIKELY CAUSE OF BUNGLE'

# List of top 20 matrics may have to be revised

**WESTERN CAPE** Premier Hermus Kriel said yesterday he was pleased with the "excellent" matric results achieved in the province despite the computer bungle. **CAROL CAMPBELL** and **CHRIS BATEMAN** report.

**E**DUCATION Department officials were battling last night to solve the computer bungle which left at least 1 000 matric pupils in the province with incomplete results and which could lead to a change in the list of the top 20 matrics.

At least 35 schools and colleges received incomplete results on Friday.

Provincial education chief Mr Brian O'Connell said yesterday it was likely human error had caused the mistake, which was not picked up because of the rush to get the results out by 10am last Friday.

"The results were spot-checked, but there was no time to do multiple checks."

Department officials were under "enormous pressure" to release results — mainly to end weeks of suspense for pupils.

"In many cases, pupils were given a 999 (a non-mark) as their mark, even though they were present for the different papers and orals which made up the exam."

"We have a team checking the marks of these pupils. Where necessary, they will go back to the mark sheet, the invigilator sheet or even the exam script to see if a pupil was really absent."

O'Connell said a revised and corrected list of the matric results would be released to the Cape Times today for publication tomorrow.

Solving the computer problem could also lead to a change in the names of the top 20 matrics.

To prevent disappointment for pupils who were initially told they were in the top 20, the list is likely to be expanded to include the top 30 or even the top 100 matrics.

Premier Mr Hermus Kriel said yesterday that the "excellent"

## CAPE MATRIC RESULTS

THE Cape Times will be the first newspaper to list the full and correct matric results in tomorrow's edition. We have held back on listing the results to ensure their accuracy at the request of the Department of Education, after the publication at the weekend of incomplete results. We apologise for any inconvenience caused to readers.

matric results in the Western Cape were an example to be followed by the rest of the country and the province should not be "punished" with budget cuts by the ANC government for doing well.

Despite the computer bungle, Kriel was still satisfied with the outcome of the exams, which 80,7% of matric pupils had passed.

Gauteng, which was wracked with allegations of exam leaks and

cheating, achieved the next highest matric pass rate of 57%. Most other provinces are still to release their results.

Referring to the success of Western Cape matrics, Kriel said: "Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu must regain his sanity and see where competence lies. To be part of the new SA, it seems one needs to make a mess of things."

He congratulated Education

CF 30/12/96

MEC Mrs Martha Olckers and O'Connell, for the pass rate achieved in the exams.

Responding to this year's matric results, the general secretary of the SA Democratic Teachers' Union, Mr Thulas Nxesi, said it was clear the results still reflected the racial and class imbalances of the apartheid education system.

He called on the government to stop treating education as a liability, but rather as an asset.

"There is an urgent need for the national government to allocate more financial resources for the building of schools and classrooms to alleviate overcrowding, for curriculum innovation and the employment of more teachers and teacher upgrading."

NP education spokesman Mr Renier Schoeman said SA owed its teachers "a debt of gratitude" for what they had achieved this year.

"Despite continuing uncertainty and tension regarding their careers, they have played a key role in maintaining and improving standards," said Schoeman.

● See Pages 5, 8

# Commission to investigate

## big matric results bungle

### Department releases amended pass list

STAFF REPORTER

A commission to inquire into the bungling of matriculation results will be appointed early in the new year, Western Cape Minister of Education Martha Olckers has announced.

An amended matric pass list has been released by the Education Department, with only a few results still outstanding.

Results for pupils who wrote Portuguese, Spanish, Zulu and Venda are still not available as the papers are not set by the department. Results for pupils who studied agricultural science at Punt High School in Mossel Bay have also not been finalised.

The department said no pupil had been given incorrect results.

"All queries followed up reveal that

correct results have been awarded," it added. The list of the top 20 pupils had been checked and there were no errors. But Percy Choritz, whose son Sam got As for all eight of his matric subjects, is still unhappy that his son's name is not on the list of the province's top 20 pupils.

"It's unfair and undemocratic that matric pupils who do more than six subjects are not given recognition for their extra work," he said.

"Pupils' final marks are calculated on their two language marks and four other top marks. If they do both languages as first languages, they are given an extra 100 points.

"If they give an extra 100 for languages, surely they should also recognise the boy who goes beyond the usual six subjects. "There should be some incentive."

There was chaos at Port Elizabeth schools yesterday when matriculants eagerly awaiting their results found they had "failed", as they had been marked absent for exams they had in fact written.

Many were told their marks were still pending.

What should have been one of the happiest days of their lives had a tearful beginning for many, while the Eastern Cape Department of Education promised to sort things out as quickly as possible.

Department spokesman Henk Franzsen said problems had been experienced in all provinces, but 98 percent of the Eastern Cape results had been finalised. In a letter to Eastern Cape schools, he said it did not mean that all pupils with pending results had failed, but that their marks were not yet available.

# Cape educators meet over matric results bungling

(52) Star 31/12/96

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town - Western Cape Education Department officials met yesterday to discuss the computer bungle which left many matric pupils unsure of their results.

Many pupils were given incomplete results on Friday and the list of the top 20 pupils may have to be changed to accommodate the new results. Officials hope a revised and corrected list will be published today.

Gauteng also experienced computer problems and thousands of pupils were given incomplete or incorrect marks. Results for some subjects had not been entered into the database.

The education department has promised to rectify its mistake by Friday.

The error which led to the

incorrect Cape results was not spotted initially because of the pressure to get them out by 10am on Friday and end weeks of suspense for pupils.

It is likely that human error was responsible for the mistake. Peter Choritz, father of Herzlia School's Samuel Choritz who obtained eight higher-grade As, said he was disappointed at the department's "bungling".

"It's total chaos. They've absolutely messed up the results and, apart from the traumatic effect it has on the kids, it's their future that's being affected."

He said Samuel's name had not been published in the top-20 list even though his calculations had shown that he should have been near the top.

Education department officials were not available for comment yesterday.

JW

# KwaZulu-Natal matric pass rate falls 13,07%

BD 31/12/96 (52)

Nicola Jenvey

ULUNDI — The KwaZulu-Natal matriculation pass rate for this year fell 13,07% to 63,57% compared with last year, but education and culture MEC Vincent Zulu said he believed the first jointly written matriculation examinations provided "a sound base" for the future of education in the province.

Meanwhile, in North West, matric pupils had posted a 69% pass rate, Sapa reports.

In the Northern Province matric results due to be released yesterday were being withheld until at least Thursday because they were incomplete, education MEC Aaron Motsoaledi said.

Zulu said that in KwaZulu-Natal irregularities had been found in 1 300 scripts submitted by full-time candidates and 1 668 submitted by part-time candidates.

The results pertaining to these students would be withheld pending further investigations.

Findings were expected to be released in February and appropriate action taken against any pupil found guilty of cheating in the examinations.

More than 64 000 candidates wrote the 1996 senior certificate examination with 40 731 passing six subjects or more. Only 23,15% achieved university exemption.

Fourteen pupils obtained seven distinctions or higher, 67 achieved six distinctions, 105 got five distinctions, and 210 achieved four distinctions.

The spokesman for North West premier Popo Molefe said he was delighted with the results. Molefe said a major thrust of education policy in the coming year was to have as many North West pupils in classrooms as possible.

In Northern Province, Motsoaledi said he believed it would have been unfair to categorise certain pupils and schools as top performers while some results were outstanding. Officials were hard at work, he said.

Our Port Elizabeth correspondent reported that thousands of Eastern Cape pupils were told they had "failed" matric or received incomplete results because of a huge official bungle. Anxious pupils have had to put celebrations on ice as they wait for the results of about 46 000 papers to be finalised.

The education department's computer team is working around the clock to correct the error, which they say has affected 2% of the 1,3-million papers written.

Education officials said the faulty results could mainly be blamed on glitches in the computer programme which captured and processed matric results countrywide.

But angry Q Data education project manager Jonathan Greengrass said yesterday the problem had absolutely nothing to do with the programme.

"There is no glitch. There is no error at all. What has happened has nothing to do with Q Data, it is an administrative glitch. The system has been running perfectly for 10 years."

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Happiness is ... getting three distinctions in the matriculation examinations. Mphokho Malahleha (17) of Umkomaas High School and her mother Audrey are all smiles after learning through *Sowetan* that she achieved distinctions in accountancy, English and history. Mphokho said her family had been very supportive and had given her more than enough time to study.

# Matrics get better passes

52  
Sowetan 31/12/96

By Sipho Khumalo and Victor Mecoamere

**M**ATRIC PUPILS from Northern Cape, North West and KwaZulu-Natal achieved good passes when their results were released yesterday.

Northern Cape matriculants achieved a 74 percent pass rate, while North West got 69,4, which is three percent higher than last year's results.

KwaZulu-Natal matriculants achieved a 63,57 percent pass rate.

Northern Cape premier Mr Manne Dipico was excited over the 74 percent pass rate in his province, which makes them the second best in South Africa after the Western Cape's 80 percent.

"The province is indeed proud to have achieved a 74 percent pass rate," said Dipico, who then heaped praise on the provincial education department, headed by MEC Miss Tina Joemat.

Dipico said the Northern Cape's most improved school was the Emang

Mmogo High School, which had "managed to overcome a history of neglect", and the Diamantveld High School, which had produced the best pupil in the province, Lindy Sinclair, who obtained "several" distinctions.

Mr Thabo Mohapi, Dipico's spokesman, said: "It is possible that some of the top 20 pupils, especially those from disadvantaged communities, would get assistance to further their studies from the Premier's Trust Fund".

KwaZulu-Natal education MEC Dr Vincent Zulu said this year's results had created a sound base for improving the quality of education in the province. Announcing the results in Ulundi yesterday, Zulu said the results had been achieved despite many disruptions during the year.

He said these included the leaking of papers, which had impacted negatively on many candidates.

"I am pleased that the province has obtained an overall pass rate of over 63 percent," he said.

Zulu said despite the leaks, representatives of the South African Certification Council were satisfied

that the integrity of the examinations had been maintained.

Zulu announced that 2 968 full-time and parttime candidates had reportedly committed some form of irregularity during examinations.

Results of these pupils would be withheld until an investigation was completed in February.

A total of 1 223 scripts from Durban North were reported to contain irregularities, 833 in Durban South, 342 in Ladysmith, 224 in Empangeni, 216 in Ulundi, 208 in Maritzburg, 149 in Port Shepstone and 31 in Vryheid. Out of 64 066 full-time candidates who wrote examinations in six or more subjects, 40 731 passed. However, only 14 835 of them obtained exemptions. A total of 25 896 candidates obtained senior certificates, while as many as 23 335 fulltime candidates failed.

John Andrew of Hillcrest High School, near Durban, was the top matriculant with seven distinctions.

Fourteen other pupils obtained seven distinctions each, with a further 67 pupils getting six distinctions, 105

gaining five distinctions, 210 with four distinctions each, 352 obtaining three distinctions, 700 getting two, and 2 849 one.

However, a closer look at the results shows that performance at the previously disadvantaged schools has not improved. For instance, out of eight regions, only one region, Ulundi, had a top black pupil, Sithembile Zulu of Mlokothwa High School in Nongoma.

"It is clear that inadequately resourced schools have performed poorly," Zulu said. "This will be targeted in the new year with the view to improving their ability to achieve."

North West achieved a 69,4 percent pass rate, "about three percent more than the 65,57 pass rate of last year", said curriculum and examinations director Dr Koot Myburgh yesterday. He said out of the 45 255 pupils who sat for the examinations, 31 425 passed, "with 16,3 percent getting university endorsements (exemptions), 53,1 percent achieving senior certificates and 13 candidates getting six or more distinctions".

EDUCATION — SECONDARY SCHOOLS

1997

# Tough action promised

## Against corrupt teachers

### Bengu vows to 'eliminate' cheating

(52)

WILLIAM-MERVYN GUMEDÉ  
POLITICAL STAFF

Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu has vowed tough action against teachers and officials in provincial education departments blamed for most of the recent matriculation exam cheating.

Professor Bengu said in Cape Town yesterday that people had been thriving on leaking matric papers for many years.

He praised the provincial education departments for "acting swiftly and decisively in dealing with matric exam corruption".

Their prompt action had sent a message that the Government would not turn a blind eye to corruption of whatever sort.

He said the mentality had to be changed of some people who believed examination paper leakages were normal.

Professor Bengu pleaded for sympathy for pupils who had been implicated in exam cheating, saying: "They have become victims of the corruption of a few officials and teachers who are bad potatoes."

He added that provincial education authorities had to make examples of guilty teachers

and officials to discourage future corruption.

"The 1996 examinations have seen the exposure and, in some cases, the punishment of people who have for many years been thriving on corruption around matric exams. Such open and transparent action will do us good in the years to come," he said.

Professor Bengu said the Education Ministry was studying the recommendations of Public Protector Selby Bagwa's investigation into the matric exam scam.

He expressed satisfaction with the integrity of the matric exams.

He pointed out they had been the first written on a non-racial and decentralised basis.

Although the results had yet to be finalised, the overall pass rate was 52,2 per cent, with 14 percent endorsed for university entrance. This was an improvement on 1995.

He said 13 364 results were outstanding.

"Some of the problems that have led to this are cases of candidates registering for subjects on higher grade and then sitting for standard-grade exams."

In some cases incorrect exam numbers had been entered, or pupils had written exams in centres other than where they registered.

Professor Bengu lamented the low pass rate in mathematics, physical science, biology (higher grade) and accounting (higher grade), with most provinces recording a pass rate of less than 40 percent.

"There is still a lot of work to be done to improve the quality of performance in these key areas needed in our economy," he said.

He said his ministry would look at transforming the curriculum, beefing up teacher support and providing resources to assist the teaching of these subjects.

From Port Elizabeth it is reported that attorney Dawfred Ferreira has threatened legal action if the Eastern Cape matric results chaos is not resolved by January 14.

His daughter, Inge, is one of many candidates affected by the confusion in the Eastern Cape capital Bisho, which has resulted in her being marked as a "failure".

Mr Ferreira said his daughter had been incorrectly marked absent for her English examination.

Eastern Cape Education Department deputy secretary Henk Franzen said he could not comment as he was not aware of all the details of the case.

# Cheats to be strilled

## Only half of matrics passed nationally - Bengu

(52) *Sowetan* 3/1/97

By Muzi Mkhwanazi  
and Victor Mcoamere

**M**INISTER of Education Professor Sibusiso Bengu has vowed to put an end to the theft and sale of matric examination papers.

Speaking at a media briefing in Cape Town yesterday, where he gave an overall assessment of the 1996 matric examinations and results, Bengu said the exams were historic because they were written on a "non-racial and decentralised basis".

Investigations into irregularities had also exposed and led to the punishment of people who had for many years thrived on corruption.

"I call upon my colleagues who are still dealing with these matters to act with some sympathy towards students who have become victims of the corruption of a few officials and teachers who are bad eggs," Bengu said.

### Pupils' disdain

He added that pupils' disdain of this behaviour must be felt heavily by the adults who "encouraged such practices in our system".

Gauteng and Kwazulu-Natal were worst hit by leaked exam papers. In Gauteng 1 413 pupils in 44 schools, 30 of them inner-city private schools situated in Johannesburg, were found to have had "prior access to question papers", or to have copied from smuggled papers.

Their results have been withheld pending the findings of a commission of inquiry into the practice.

The inquiry involves the individual questioning of pupils, which began in Johannesburg yesterday. It will end in February.

Guilty pupils in both Gauteng and Kwazulu-Natal will be barred from writing matric examinations for the next two years.

Both provinces fared better than Mpumalanga and Northern Province. Gauteng's pass rate was 57 percent, 6.57 percent lower than Kwazulu-Natal's 63.57 percent, while Mpumalanga achieved 39 percent, two percent higher than the 37 percent of Northern Province.

Western Cape got 80 percent. It was followed by Northern Cape with 74 percent. North West achieved 69.4 percent and Kwazulu-Natal got 63.57 percent.

### Low pass rate

Bengu said the 52.2 percent national pass rate, with 14 percent obtaining university entrance, was an improvement on last year's average.

"There is still a very low pass rate in mathematics and physical science, with most provinces recording less than a 40 percent pass rate in these subjects," said Bengu.

A similar percentage was scored by most provinces in biology, geography, history, accounting and biblical studies, Bengu said.

He said the more rural provinces seemed to have lower pass rates.

"The issue of race is also still predominant in the outcome, with provinces that have more black candidates having lower percentages than others."

Bengu said the Education Ministry would "continue in 1997 with its drive to improve the quality of learning and teaching and ensure that all institutions are properly governed in terms of the Schools Act".

The new curriculum is among a number of priorities for 1997, he said.



Northern Province MEC for education Dr Aaron Motsosaledi congratulates Dorothy Kaaka of Motse Maria Girls' High School, outside Pietersburg. She obtained three distinctions in the 1996 matric examinations. Her distinctions were in Northern Sotho, mathematics and accountancy.

PICTURE BY KHATHU MAMAILA

# Matric cheating suspects to be grilled to find the leaks

BY ADAM COOKE

(52)

Star 3/12/97

Pupils suspected of being involved in matric exam irregularities will begin accounting for their behaviour at hearings that start in the Gauteng Department of Education on Monday.

A spokesman for the department, Aubrey Matshiqi, said the 1 413 students who had been sent letters calling for them to appear before the irregularities panel would assist the department in rooting out bad elements within the department.

"We appreciate that some pupils might have been lured into cheating, and we hope their information will help in dealing with our suspicion that officials and employees of the department were involved," he said.

Pupils may be accompanied by either their parents or legal advisers or both, and the department has stressed that these are not court cases but hearings.

At the hearings the department will present its evidence - which has proved thus far that just 336 students had prior access

to exam papers - after which the pupils will be asked to respond.

"We are working on the premise that the students are innocent ... if there is reasonable doubt then they will be given the benefit of the doubt," he said.

The maximum penalty facing pupils is disqualification from writing matric for two years.

The individual's name will be forwarded to the national and all provincial departments.

Those who do not co-operate will have their names given to the police for criminal investigations. But those who are found guilty and agree to disclose names and details of suppliers will be allowed to rewrite exams.

Police are still investigating department officials and teachers who appeared to assist pupils. Matshiqi said any such suspects who are found guilty will be dismissed with immediate effect.

The panels, which are to be held in the central, northern and southern districts, will be made up of the relevant district director, chief marker or examiner, and the department's legal adviser.

## Northern Province still trails in passes

Star 31/1/97

(52)

Pietersburg - Northern Province matriculants obtained the lowest pass rate in the country for the ninth year running.

The pass rate was 37%, Education MEC Aaron Motsoaledi said yesterday.

Addressing a media conference in Pietersburg, he said: "With 16% of the results still outstanding, the pass rate will most probably settle at not more than 38%."

He attributed the delay of the results to the large number of matriculants (129 312), disruptions during the marking process and the inheritance of a "poisonous" Bantu education system.

Motsoaledi said a limited budgetary allocation of 41% of the provincial education needs had affected his department's efforts to improve facilities.

"Not all is bleak in the province as there are silver linings accompanying these results."

Seven high schools, including St Brendans, Thohoyandou Technical and Motse-Maria, scored

100% pass rates.

Nylstroom's Hoërskool Frikie Meyer and Louis Trichardt Secondary School obtained 97% pass rates.

Motsoaledi paid a special tribute to the Lillydale finishing centre for its 96% rate.

"This is a clear indication that the so-called matric dropouts or marginalised youth, if given a chance, can prove themselves to be among the best in the land."

The transport MEC's daughter, Margaretha Mildred Kriek of Pietersburg Secondary School, obtained eight distinctions, making her the only pupil in the province with such an achievement.

The other top achievers are: Maria Susanna van Tonder of Piet Potgieter School with seven distinctions; Maria Elizabeth Bornman and Annelize Folkus, also from Piet Potgieter, with six distinctions; and Melisa Kruger, Susan Fourie and Leslie Coetzee, who all obtained six distinctions.  
-Sapa.

# Matric pass rate 10% higher than 1995

CAROL CAMPBELL  
EDUCATION WRITER

(52)

ET 3/1/97

THE national matric pass rate for 1996 was nearly 10% higher than it was in 1995 — with 52,2% of all matrics passing their exam, Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu announced yesterday.

Of the matrics who passed their exam, 14% are eligible to go to university.

The head of the parliamentary standing committee on education, Dr Blade Nzimande, said the pass rate was an "improvement" on previous years, especially for black pupils.

"We must accept this is where South Africa is at — 52,2% — and it is a challenge to the whole nation to improve this figure," Nzimande said.

Bengu said the pass rates in mathematics and physical science were still low with most provinces recording less than a 40% pass in these subjects.

Other subjects which also recorded less than 40% pass rates in most of the provinces were biology (HG), geography (HG), history (HG), accounting (HG) and Biblical studies.

"Let the matric class of 1997 start on day one to work hard and with dedication to take our national average well into the '60s and '70s.

"Let us move closer to the day when all schools in all provinces will register more than 80% passes in matric," Bengu said.

Provinces with vast rural populations and where many black children went to school were still performing badly and education spending on these areas would have to be increased, he said.

Dr Ihron Rensburg, the official who is co-ordinating the introduction of the new school curriculum, said that in future pupils would be trained to be "responsible citizens" capable of shifting with the needs of the economy.

He emphasised the new curriculum would not churn out artisans but would give schoolchildren a "platform of



**IMPROVEMENT:** Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu gives his view on the 1996 matric exam pass rate which was 10% higher than last year. **PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR**

expertise" to work with.

The changed curriculum would be introduced to schools in Grade 1 and Std 5 in 1998 and would be carried from year to year with these children until it was fully implemented.

Bengu said subjects like mathematics would be made more relevant and probably easier. There would be a move

away from rote learning.

Despite widespread computer problems and allegations of cheating, Bengu said the exam was a success.

Of the 450 000 who wrote matric in the country fewer than 5 000 cheated. Most of these were in KwaZulu-Natal (about 3 000) and Gauteng (about 1 500).

He appealed to the officials dealing with cheats to be sympathetic towards pupils who were the "victims of corruption" of a few officials and teachers who were "bad potatoes".

"Their disdain at this kind of behaviour must be felt heavily by the adults who encourage such practices in our system, the officials, the teachers and whoever else is found to be involved in such a scam."

The computer "gremlins" which marred the releasing of results in many provinces were not a major issue and needed to be seen in perspective.

Nzimande said the fact that the provincial education departments had achieved the level of organisation they did for the country's first united exam was "historic".

There had always been chaos in African schools during matric exams and, in many cases, these exams had sorted the problems out. The old white matric exam had been run in a "super efficient" manner to the detriment of other races, he said.

"South Africa has turned around educationally but it was inevitable there would be hiccups," he said.

# Bengu announces curricula changes after disappointing pass rates

Wynndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Changes to the maths and science matric curricula were in the pipeline following poor pass rates in these subjects in the recently completed examinations, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

Bengu said in spite of an improvement in the overall pass rate — to 52,2% compared with 40% previously, much work still had to be done to improve performances in maths and science — “Key areas needed by our econ-

omy”. Most provinces recorded pass rates of less than 40% in the subjects.

The changes in curricula would be designed to make them more relevant and “in a sense” will make these subjects easier to learn. “The process of transforming the curriculum may be one of the key steps the ministry will take in dealing with the situation.”

Bengu said in spite of much corruption during the writing of exams, he was satisfied with the integrity of the “historic first nonracial matric examination”. No accurate statistics existed

yet as to the exact amount of corruption because investigations, particularly in Gauteng, were still under way.

Education director-general Thron Rensburg said less than 5 000 pupils were involved and that as a percentage of the 450 000 candidates who sat the exam, it was negligible.

Bengu said: “The mentality that seems to have settled in the minds of some people that examination paper leakages are a normal event must be changed.” He also called on education officials to show some sympathy for

pupils who had become victims of “the corruption of a few officials and teachers who are bad potatoes”.

There was still a correlation between race, poor resources and poor performance, Bengu said. Provinces with more black candidates had lower percentage pass rates than the others. There was also a correlation between provinces with less funding and higher pupil:teacher ratios and poor results. The lack of resources, particularly in rural areas, had to be sorted out and as a result he was opposed to any budget

(52) R53 1197  
cuts for education.

## Bengu

Continued from Page 1

new curriculum, to be phased in from 1998, was aimed at producing the kind of citizens that created the Asian Tiger economies.

He said it would sweep away the emphasis on rote learning. “It’s a clearly established international trend, particularly in the most dynamic of the East Asian Tigers, that the focus is

much less on narrow skills than on a broader set of competencies that lay the platform for lifelong learning.”

The aim of the new system would be to prepare people for adjustments they might have to make during their working lives as the economy was restructuring. “Part of the reason for our unemployment scenario is precisely because of narrow skilling,” he said, describing the phenomenon as a threat to the stability of society.

See Page 3

Parliament’s education committee chairman Blade Nzimande acknowledged that there had been problems with the exam but pointed out that it was the first time all SA matrics had written at the same time. In the past the “super efficient” release of matric results before Christmas had been only for the minority of whites, while the results for blacks were chaotic each year. Renter reports Rensburg said SA’s

Continued on Page 2



# Probe to pinpoint root of W Cape exam results error

(52)

JENNY WALL

STAFF REPORTER

ARG 4/11/97

There will be a full investigation into the computer problems which left many Western Cape matric pupils with incomplete exam results, says the Deputy Director of Education in the Western Cape, Brian Gilbert.

However it would be inappropriate to comment or speculate on what went wrong before the investigation, he said.

"We are committed to isolating the problems and looking at how they can be avoided next year. At this stage we don't know the nature of the inquiry or who will conduct it."

Provincial Education Minister Martha Olckers called for the investigation after an incomplete list of matric results was released by the department last Friday, apparently because of a computer error.

Mr Gilbert said his department was pleased with the 80,7 percent pass rate for the Western Cape in the first exam written by all pupils. Nearly 26 percent of matrics obtained a university pass.

The national pass rate was 52,2 percent with 14 percent eligible to go to university.

■ The education department has revised its top 20 exam candidates list and added an extra name to it: F J Calitz of Stellenberg High School moves from 15th to joint 13th place and Neil van Rensburg, also of Stellenberg High School, joins the list in 16th place.

P J van der Merwe of Durbanville High School moves from 16th to 15th place.



**EXAMINATION BLUES . . .** 'The mentality that seems to have settled in the minds of some people, that exam paper leakages are a normal event, must be changed,' says Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu.

# Examining the exams

**T**HE endemic stealing of exam papers has once again underlined the question: is writing matric exams the only way to determine how students enter institutions of higher learning?

In the wake of the latest matric exam scandal and the admission by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu that this problem has been around for years - which implies it may be very difficult to root out - the question of whether writing this exam is still useful is gaining currency.

In the past a number of academics have expressed individual views either for or against retaining the status quo. But for the first time a powerful lobby group has come out strongly to question the present system.

The South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) said it was not enough to assess candidates by using only the matric examination.

Sadtu's general secretary, Thulas Nxesi, suggested that a continuous assessment system to assess candidates throughout their educational life from Sub A to matric should be considered.

This system would help avoid dishonest practices by students such as cheating, stealing exam papers and the problematic procedures of selecting and remunerating markers.

He said the stealing of exam papers and other forms of cheating were a direct result of the high premium placed on the final exams and certificates which did not necessarily prove what learners were able to do.

Sadtu was not totally against examinations but felt that a continuous assessment system would be more reflective of what the pupil had learned.

Nxesi said the performance of a candidate in an examination depended on many factors such as the candidate's mood on the exam day.

Nxesi said the 1996 matric results reflected past imbalances in the country's educational system.

Candidates from former House of Delegates schools performed far better than their counterparts from former DET schools.

Sadtu had serious concerns regarding some provincial departments of education who had failed to release matric exams results on time, said Nxesi.

He said their failure to deliver the results on time was a clear reflection of the chaotic state of affairs resulting from the lack of national co-

## Isn't there a better way to test students' true abilities?

**WHILE THE** theft of matric exam papers is being probed, some educationists are asking whether matric exams should really be the acid test of what students have learned. **SIFELANI MLAMBO and Sapa** report.

ordination and proper planning of the examinations.

The government should stop viewing education as a cost or liability and rather view it as an asset, said Nxesi.

There was an urgent need for the government to allocate more financial resources to education to alleviate overcrowding in classrooms and to upgrade teachers.

Nxesi suggested it would be better to redeploy teachers rather than re-trench them.

□ In a statement on the 1996 matric results, Bengu said the exams had been the first written and conducted on a non-racial and decentralised basis.

Saying he was satisfied with the integrity of the exams, Bengu went on:

"I would be failing in my duty if I did not commend my provincial colleagues for the decisiveness with which they dealt with irregularities during this examination.

"Their prompt action sent a clear message to everybody that this government is not going to turn a blind eye to corruption of whatever sort.

"The mentality that seems to have settled in the minds of some people, that exam paper leakages are a normal event, must be changed. I call upon my colleagues, who are still going to deal with these matters, to act with some sympathy (towards) students who have become victims of the corruption of a few officials and teachers who are bad potatoes.

Although the results still had to be finalised, Bengu said the overall pass rate now stood at 52,2 percent with 14 percent endorsed for university entrance, which was an im-

provement over last year.

"Clearly, if we continue this trend of improvement, we are on the road to a level that will indeed catapult us into the new millennium," said Bengu.

He said 13 364 results were still outstanding nationwide.

"Some of the problems that have led to this are cases of candidates registering for subjects at Higher Grade and then sitting for a Standard Grade exam," he added.

There were also, Bengu said, cases where the incorrect exam number had been entered or where candidates had written exams in different centres from the ones where they had registered.

Bengu said he had received a report that indicated a very low pass rate in mathematics and physical science, with most provinces recording a pass rate of less than 40 percent.

Other subjects with a similar pass rate were: biology HG, geography HG, history HG, accounting HG and biblical studies.

"There is still a lot of work to be done to improve the quality of performance in these key areas needed by our economy," said Bengu.

He said the ministry would look at transforming the curriculum, further support to teachers and providing equipment and necessary resources for the successful teaching and learning of these subjects.

Bengu added there would be an acceleration of the school building programme this year.

During the latter period of 1997 there will be a preparation drive for implementing the new curriculum in 1988.

Bengu said: "The implementation of this new outcomes-based curriculum will inevitably be accompanied by new approaches to assessment. This will impact on the nature of the matric exam in a drastic manner."

□ Given the serious problems facing education authorities, a commission of inquiry into matric examinations has been hastily set up to investigate the preparation of the 1996 matriculation examinations with a special focus on security arrangements for future examinations.

It will also examine the adequacy of the steps taken to protect the integrity of the examination once the

theft of examination papers had been discovered or once any problems with logistical arrangements had become apparent.

The Commission will recommend the necessary action to ensure that such a situation does not arise again. The Commission will submit its findings next week.

□ The PAC has blamed the poor matric examination results and the poor handling of the examinations on the absence of efficient educational management control mechanisms.

The PAC's secretary for education, Vusi Nkumane, said most schools in the townships had hardly been visited by government education inspectors to assess whether pupils were being taught the proper syllabus.

Government education inspectors were the watchdogs of teachers and headmasters and therefore their failure to monitor schools had resulted in pupils not being prepared adequately for examinations, Nkumane said.

He said research at matric examination marking centers had revealed that most pupils had not been adequately and didactically taught and prepared for the examination.

Candidates had not been prepared well for the examination, he said.

Nkumane said he had marked some examination scripts and was satisfied that the majority of candidates in fact had not been taught anything.

He contended that this could have been avoided if education inspectors had done their job of evaluating teachers during the year.

Failure to monitor teachers resulted in some pupils getting poor year marks, he said.

Nkumane said the government should also appoint a national commission of inquiry to investigate the matric failure-rate.

□ But one big question still remains: even if all the measures suggested by Nkumane and the government appointed commission are implemented, will it help root out the cheating?

Some people think not - and suggest a more radical approach to the whole question of matric examination as we know it may not be of order.

(52) CP 5/1/97

# Matric begins to beat the race barriers of the past

(52) STS 1197

**THE country's matric pass rate jumped 21 percent last year but overall results are still skewed by race.**

The provisional national pass rate of 52,2 percent was hailed by Minister of Education Professor Sibusiso Bengu, who said: "Clearly, if we continue this trend, we are on the road to a level that will indeed catapult us into the new millennium."

Bhengu conceded, however, that race was still affecting results.

The "whiter" the province, the better the results — a trend which placed the Western Cape top of the provinces with a 80,7 percent pass rate.

Gauteng's top 2 000 students did not include anyone who attended a former DET school — although some such schools attained high pass rates. Reasoma in Protea, Soweto, for example, saw a 92 percent pass rate, Reitumetse in Soshanguve 83 percent and Seepakitso in Kagiso 72 percent.

Northern Province's results were even more revealing. One quarter of the country's 450 000 matriculants wrote their exams there yet this province fared the worst, with a pass rate of 37 percent.

Aaron Motsaedi, the education MEC, said: "We were poisoned three times by Bantu education as we inherited schools from three bantustans: Venda, Gazankulu and Lebowa. As a result, we have 99 percent black schools.

"It is going to take us about five to eight years to get this province on the same level as the others. We have the highest number of underqualified teachers, and we need half the total of the 60 000 classrooms required countrywide."

Mary Metcalfe, Gauteng's MEC for education, said the condition of school buildings made a huge difference.

"It makes an incalculable difference to the climate of teaching and learning — schools with the worst pass rates have the worst facilities, while schools with a relatively higher pass rate have better facilities."

She said less than 20 percent of ex-DET schools achieved more than the provincial average. "So the picture for the province is still skewed by our apartheid history. The majority of students who have spent their school life under inadequate material conditions and morally undermined by resentment of Bantu education performed way below their potential."

Isolated examples of formerly disadvantaged schools achieved success. Emmangmogo Senior Secondary in Kimberley got a 74 percent pass rate. Dr Zodwa Dlamini, deputy director general for education in the Northern Cape, said this was a jump of about 20 percent. Phakamisani in De Aar also improved considerably.

Qingqolo Senior Secondary in the Eastern Cape achieved a 100 percent pass rate as did Thohoyandou, Khanyisa and Bokamoso secondaries, among others, in the Northern Province.

Metcalfe cited the Gauteng example of Emshukantambo in Pimville, Soweto, which attained a 53 percent pass rate even though it has no building, occupying premises at three other schools.

She said the factors which contributed to these exceptional successes included high levels of co-operation between

Reports by GILLIAN ANSTEY, BABALWA SHOTA, BARENG-BATHO KORTJAAS, ALAN DUGGAN and CRAIG DOONAN

parents, principals, teachers and students; disciplined determination and confidence; and pride in the school.

Former white schools did better than former black schools in Mpumalanga, which attained a provisional pass rate of 39 percent. Pat Zwane, a spokesman for the department of education, said: "It is logical for the former white schools to perform better.

"They have an advantage in that they are better resourced. Most of the black schools run without facilities like libraries and laboratories. They are overcrowded with high teacher-pupil ratios."

The North West Province, which attained the third highest national pass rate of 69,4 percent, showed a combination of schools among those achieving 100 percent passes, such as Tsogo Secondary and Potchefstroom Boys High.

The province's MEC for education, Mamokoena Gaoretelelwe, said the success could be attributed to committed teachers, fewer strikes and disruptions last year and a policy of consultation, started in 1994, which "cultivated a culture of teaching and learning".

Other provinces were less forthcoming about analysing their results.

The Western Cape's deputy director for education, Brian Gilbert, said a decision had been taken not to list the top 10 schools. "We have asked each school to analyse results with its circuit inspectors and subject advisers," Gilbert said.

He said the list of the province's top 20 students released by the department was no indication of performances at individual schools.

The Free State's acting head of education, Luki Nkonka, said an assessment of results was not yet available.

An education spokesman for Kwazulu Natal, Nagoor Bissetty, said it was not possible to establish how formerly racially based schools or departments had fared compared with last year. Five departments had been integrated into one and the province was split into eight regions.

"A meaningful comparison can come only at the end of 1997 when apples can rightfully be compared with apples."

Education MEC Vincent Zulu said he was pleased with the pass rate of 63 percent, 13 percentage points down on the previous year, despite disruptions at schools and the leaking of exam papers.

"It is clear that inadequately resourced schools performed poorly."

Ndaba Gcwabaza, the provincial secretary of the South African Democratic Teachers Union, said the union was disappointed with the pass rate.

"But we are not surprised because we did warn the department that if it did not take heed of problems we highlighted during the year, things were going to be bad," he said.

These problems included no syllabuses at many schools in the first quarter and a shortage of textbooks, particularly in rural schools.

"The blame must be put at the door of the education department," he declared.

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# Uproar <sup>(52)</sup> *Sametam 6/11/97* over exam cheating

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**By Themba Sepotokele**

THRONGS of irate parents, teachers and pupils – mainly from Indian high schools in and around Gauteng – yesterday lashed out at the Gauteng department of education for singling out their children as being the only group that had had access to leaked papers.

In an emotional meeting at the Johannesburg Senior Secondary School yesterday, parents and teachers said 336 Indian pupils had had their results frozen because they were suspected of cheating during the examinations.

Headmaster of Roshnee Islamic School Mr Abdul Samad Nana alleged that the GDE had “picked out a certain sector of the society, the Indians” as being the only ones who had prior access to question papers or copied in last year’s examinations.

“The leak is limited by picking Indians only. Why is such a number of Indian schools affected?” asked Nana.

## **Department’s mistakes**

His sentiments were shared by most of those at the meeting who said the GDE had sacrificed the Indians for the department’s mistakes. Scores of parents were angry saying the GDE was responsible for the exam paper leaks.

“The department knows how the papers were leaked and who was responsible for leaking them,” a parent told the meeting.

Mr Moosa Laher, who chaired the meeting, said their children were the “victims of the department’s inefficiency and incompetence”.

He alleged that the department had victimised the 336 pupils and said the credibility of the GDE needed to be questioned about the entire examination process.

Late yesterday parents, teachers and pupils drew up a memorandum which they intended to hand to education MEC Mrs Mary Metcalfe today. A report-back meeting is scheduled at the JSS at 7.30 tonight.

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# Pupils are scapegoats in leaks probe, parents say

*(52) Star 6/1/97*  
**BY BONGWE MLANGENI**

The parents of 336 students suspected of cheating in matric exams will meet the Gauteng Department of Education today in a bid to stop officials from questioning their children about exam irregularities.

A total of 1 413 pupils suspected of being involved in the leaking of matric exam papers are expected to appear today before an irregularities panel appointed by the department.

However, parents from Johannesburg's Indian community said yesterday they would not allow their children to appear at the hearings because they were being used as "sacrificial lambs" and were being blamed for the department's incompetence.

Speaking at a meeting held at the Johannesburg Secondary School in Mayfair, parents said the department was targeting the Indian community and turning a blind eye to areas such as Soweto and Johannesburg's northern suburbs.

In a memorandum to be submitted to the department today, parents have asked for the release of their children's matric results and the re-marking of some papers. They have demanded the suspension of the hearings and an investigation into department staff responsible for matric exams.



What now? ... Aboo Shaik and hundreds of parents are worried about the fate of pupils who are suspected of being involved in the leaking of matric exam papers. This problem affects every pupil who wrote matric last year," he said.

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## Metcalfe: Indians not targeted in matric probe

CT 7/11/97 (52)

JOHANNESBURG: Hearings into matric exam irregularities were not directed against Indians, Gauteng education MEC Mrs Mary Metcalfe said yesterday, after meeting concerned parents who claimed their children were being made scapegoats.

She said those who wished to use ethnicity or religion as a smokescreen in the matter were playing a dangerous game, adding that affected pupils came from across the province and from every community.

The provincial education department is holding the hearings to investigate irregularities in some matric results after the much-publicised leaking of exam papers last year.

"The interviews are simply an opportunity for the children, supported by their parents, to respond to the evidence of the irregularities," Metcalfe said.

She said pupils who believed they had been wrongly accused would be asked to explain irregularities in their scripts. "Other students may choose to admit their mistake and put the matter behind them."

The department would make a decision on the basis of the information before it if pupils chose not to attend the hearings.

Metcalfe said if the department had enough evidence of an irregularity to warrant cancelling a pupil's exam result, it could either allow the pupil to write a supplementary exam or withhold permission to rewrite matric for two years.

She said the hearings, which are not part of the department's investigations with the police, were being conducted by educationists who were sympathetic to the anxieties of the pupils and their families.

No evidence had been found of senior department officials being involved in the theft of exam material. — Sapa

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# MATRIC EXAM RESULTS

	Wrote	Passed	Percentage
• <b>Gauteng</b> <small>(A few results are still outstanding, but the Department believes that the final pass rate will not be affected)</small>	75 218	*56 534	75,16%
• <b>Northern Province</b> <small>(With 16% of results outstanding, the final projection of the pass rate is between 38% and 39%)</small>	129 312	47 000	37%
• <b>Mpumalanga</b> <small>(37% of marks still not known)</small>	40 921	19 377	47,4%
<b>Free State</b>	35 336	18 984	50,8%
<b>North West</b>	45 255	31 425	69,4%
<b>Kwazulu/Natal</b>	140 000	*88 200	63%
<b>Northern Cape</b>	7292	*5411	74,2%
<b>Western Cape</b>	34 789	27 901	80,2%
<b>Eastern Cape</b>	112 94	*5647	50%

(\* indicates approximate figures)

## Lid on first exam-scam details to be lifted today

Star 8/1/97

(52)

### Many pupils have been called to give evidence

BY ADAM COOKE

Some of the findings made since the hearings into matric examination irregularities began yesterday will be revealed later today by the Gauteng Education Department.

MEC for education Mary Metcalfe said the department would make public some submissions to the hearings at a press conference.

She would not divulge any details, saying testimonies made during the sittings in Johannesburg and Pretoria would be revealed.

Nervous families arrived at the start of hearings yesterday, most of them pointing fingers at the Gauteng Department of Education for lax security measures.

Some matriculants fidgeted with exam papers outside the closed hearings, which were held at the Johannesburg College of

Education, and at Pretoria and Alberton. Others sat silently, waiting to give evidence. Many brought exam marks from previous years, while others brought study material to support their innocence.

Few were willing to talk to reporters, fearing that they would be identified and victimised. "The public is baying for our blood ... we are the cheats," said one pupil at the Alberton hearing.

One parent said: "The department is at fault here - it is not a matter simply of these children being cheats. Something or someone who could break the security of the exams tempted them."

Not all 1413 pupils summoned to the hearings were involved in irregularities; many of them were called to provide information on fellow pupils or department officials.

One pupil from Topaz Secondary School, Lenasia, said

classmates had asked that pupil to add R300 to the kitty to buy a geography paper.

The pupil refused, and at the start of the geography exam it was clear from the signals of triumph by a number of classmates that they had managed to get hold of the leaked paper.

The pupil then blew the whistle on classmates, citing the many hours of study trying to achieve good results.

Other pupils and parents, most of whom arrived with both parents and some with lawyers, said the panel members conducting the hearings were "civil".

"It seemed as if they were trying hard not to find the children guilty," said one of the parents. It appeared the panel - made up of the district director, chief examiner and a legal representative from the department - was not out "to get" the pupils.



# 15 pupils confess

By Victor Mecoamere  
and Mokgadi Pela

**A**BOUT 15 pupils have confessed that they cheated during the matric examinations last year, Gauteng Department of Education superintendent-general Mr James Maseko announced yesterday.

Maseko told a media briefing at the GDE's Johannesburg offices that in a few cases the parents of some of the 1 413 pupils suspected of having had prior access to question papers or of having copied from smuggled papers, made "full confessions of their children's errors".

Both the parents and pupils "asked for forgiveness from the department", said Maseko. "But their actions cannot be condoned," he said.

Maseko said pupils who satisfied the GDE that they did not play a role in the "theft, sale and dissemination of papers" would be allowed to sit for supplementary examinations which start on February 10. They would also be allowed to sit for this year's matric examinations.

The results of innocent pupils would be released within hours or days if their explanations are genuine and accepted.

He added that investigators may also have participated in the matric

exam irregularities.

Maseko said a number of teachers and principals were suspected of having played a role in the irregularities.

"There have been cases of pupils having copied from notes written on the blackboards by teachers and principals," said Maseko.

Hearings into irregularities in the matric examinations started at Alberton, Johannesburg and Pretoria on Tuesday.

The hearings involve questioning of suspected individual pupils by the panels which comprise education experts who have been commissioned by the GDE.

So far 985 pupils have responded

to invitations to appear before the three panels and 28 were interviewed on Tuesday.

Out of 1 413 pupils from 44 schools, 336 have been accused of having had prior access to question papers.

The remaining 1 077 pupils are suspected of having copied from smuggled papers.

Thirty of these 44 schools were private schools in Johannesburg's inner city, Maseko said.

"We are currently building up cases against these individuals and institutions (from the hearings), and we may subsequently withhold their subsidies or suspend their status as

examination centres," said Maseko.

Guilty pupils face a two-year ban from writing examinations anywhere in South Africa.

Pupils who fail to attend the hearings will automatically be punished accordingly".

Meanwhile, a number of Soweto parents yesterday appealed to the authorities not to ruin the future of the children involved.

"Banning them from furthering their studies for two years is likely to drive them to hoodliganism. Adults involved in the scam are the ones who deserve severe punishment," said one parent, Mr Dusty Nkoana.

(52)

Sowetan 9/1/97

# Gauteng Education staff implicated in irregularities

(52)

More pupils give evidence on exam-paper leaks

AMW 9/1/97

By ADAM COOKE

The Gauteng Department of Education now has "substantial evidence" implicating some of its employees in matriculation examination irregularities, it emerged after the first day of hearings into last year's exam debacle.

GDE superintendent-general James Maseko said at a press conference in Johannesburg yesterday that 985 pupils suspected of being involved in irregularities in the exams had made appointments and 28 had been interviewed yesterday.

He said the information received thus far had confirmed the need to look at particular schools where individual invigilators and, in some cases, school principals had been involved in irregularities.

Maseko said that during yesterday's hearings about 15 pupils had made "full submissions" about their involvement in irregu-

larities and had requested the forgiveness of the department. He congratulated the pupils for having "grappled with their conscience" and added that the positive mood of the hearings would probably see more pupils coming forward.

"The department now has what we consider to be substantial information relating to our employees which will be fed to our investigations team."

Maseko said there would be further investigations into suspicions about particular exam centres and people who had worked there during the exams.

No pupils had come forward and confessed to being part of a larger syndicate group operating in stolen exam papers, nor had any confessed to disseminating stolen papers, Maseko said. But he said a number of pupils had confessed to having had the answer memo before the exam.

"There are already cases of

candidates who have come forward and whose explanations we believe to be legitimate. In those cases we hope to be able to clear their results in a matter of days," said Maseko, adding that these candidates would receive an apology from his department.

Pupils who did not play a role in distributing stolen papers or memos and who co-operated with the GDE would be allowed to write supplementary exams which start on February 10.

■ The South African Certification Council, which was established to ensure that certificates were issued on the basis of the same standards across the board, said there was no evidence of widespread or large-scale irregularities.

Its executive officer, Dr Fred Calitz, said the alleged leakages of question papers had been effectively countered. The 1996 exams were on standard, and the results were as valid as those of any previous examination.

## Department apologises for late matric results

STAFF REPORTER

The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) has apologised to matric exam candidates and their families who have still not received their results after a number of distribution errors.

GDE superintendent-general James Maseko said yesterday the department was conducting an "in-depth review of the processes, ... and administrative arrange-

ments" in place last year to ensure it never happened again.

The latest updated list of queries had been collected by district offices on Monday for dissemination to schools as part of the "mopping up" process of the 5% of outstanding results.

Maseko said one of the reasons for the delays was that principals had still not collected the results from district offices.

Other reasons for delays in-

cluded the fact that students had not written their exams on grades for which they had registered.

Students had also written their exams in different centres from which they were registered, as happened with a number of matrics in KwaThema following violence between rival student organisations in the area.

Human error in entering marks into the computer was given as another reason.

Kevin O'Grady

# Matric cheaters 'admit guilt'

60911/97

52

MOST matric pupils whose exam results were withheld on suspicion of cheating have agreed to appear at hearings held by the Gauteng education department, says superintendent-general James Maseko.

About 985 of 1 413 candidates had made appointments to appear before panels investigating charges of irregularities, and 28 appeared on the first day of the hearings on Tuesday, Maseko said yesterday.

Of the 28, about 15 had admitted their in-

volvement in irregularities, which ranged from copying in the exams to having access to stolen exam questions and answers and being involved in the acquisition and distribution of exam material.

"We congratulate these students for their honesty, but their actions cannot be condoned and any papers written with the assistance of stolen material or cribbing cannot be considered valid," Maseko said.

Although figures were not yet available, "quite a few" of the suspected cheats had been cleared of wrongdoing and it was hoped their results would be cleared in a matter of days.

Innocent candidates and their parents would receive an apology from the department for the inconvenience and embarrassment of having been wrongly suspected of cheating.

Maseko said the punishment meted out to

candidates found guilty of cheating would vary according to their level of involvement and how co-operative they had been at the hearings.

Pupils not involved in the dissemination of stolen exam material and who were co-operative would be allowed to write supplementary exams, starting on February 10. Others were likely to face the maximum two-year ban on rewriting the exams.

Maseko said panels

had received "substantial information" implicating department officials in the theft of exam papers and answers. This would be passed on to department and police investigators.

□ Our Port Elizabeth correspondent reports that the Eastern Cape education department said yesterday full and finalised matric results would be available on Monday.

# Paso pours scorn on matric inquiry

*52*  
*Sametani 10/11/97*  
By Victor Mecoamere

**O**NGOING INVESTIGATIONS into irregularities in the Gauteng matric examinations are "just a mere public relations exercise" by the Gauteng department of education, Pan Africanist Students Organisation general secretary Mr Clarence Hadebe said yesterday.

Hadebe said the irregularities, which include the theft, sale and dissemination of question papers, were a stain on the integrity of the South African education system.

"The Government has yet to demonstrate its ability to run a uniform education system efficiently. It has demonstrated its inability to control the matric examinations," said Hadebe.

On the other hand, the African National Congress has supported the hearings into the irregularities. These

PAC student wing says the matric fiasco shows GDE's incompetence

involve the questioning of individual pupils suspected of having had prior access to question papers or of having copied from smuggled notes.

The ANC said the hearings were a "necessary step to ensure that justice is done, both in terms of pupils cleaning their names and preventing such activities in the future".

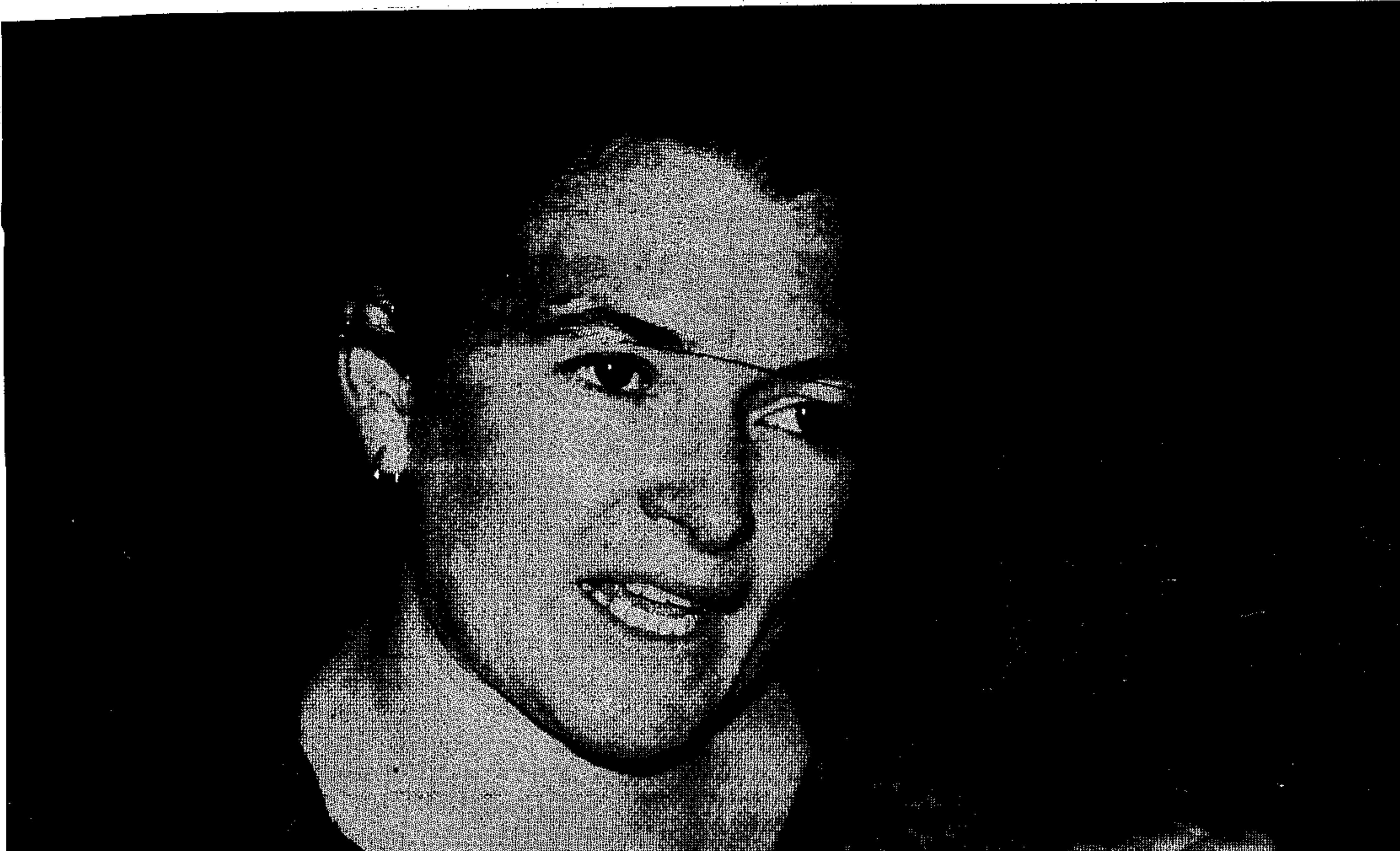
"The ANC congratulates all those students who have gone to the hearings and also the students who have made full admissions of their mistakes."

Hearings into irregularities in the matric examinations began on Tuesday this week. So far 15 of the 28 pupils interviewed have confessed their involvement in the irregularities.

The GDE accuses 336 pupils of having had prior access to question papers, while 1 077 are suspected of cribbing. Those who are found innocent will be given their results, allowed to write supplementary examinations starting on February 10, or to sit for the November 1997 examinations.

Guilty pupils face a two-year ban from writing matric examinations. Legal action will also be taken against guilty teachers, principals and GDE employees.

Pan Africanist Congress education secretary Mr Vusi Nkumane said the two-year ban "will do the country no good without convicting those who stole those papers".



Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe: Evidence that examiners aided cheating was 'unanticipated but not entirely unexpected' PHOTO: THEMBA HADEBE

# Exam cheats finger examiners

Gauteng throws its investigation nets wider after shocking revelations from matric cheats, reports **Andy Duffy**

**C**ONFESSIONS from Gauteng's matric cheats this week have prompted the province to widen its investigation to include the elite academics who drew up the exam papers.

Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe told the *Mail & Guardian* that statements from several accused pupils suggest examiners in at least two subjects could be implicated in the cheating.

The province's examiners are drawn from its top state and independent schools, and universities. So far 28 of the 1 413 matric candidates under investigation for alleged irregularities have appeared before the two panels (one in Johannesburg and one in Pretoria) probing the accusations — 15 of these have confessed.

Metcalfe says the links to examiners were an "unanticipated but not entirely unexpected" outcome of the hearings.

"For years people working within white education have known of a culture of hints and this is what we are uncovering. It is being investigated for the first time," she says.

"This is the worst symptom of that culture, and the motive is symptomatic of the moral decay that exists where schools are driven by the glory of pass rates."

Eyebrows have also been raised within teaching circles about similarities between the matric papers and mock exams

students took just weeks before at several top performing schools.

Metcalfe says she has no evidence so far to support such suspicions, but the investigation will widen as further cases are uncovered.

She adds that the provincial education department remains confident

of the integrity of its examiners. "There is an acknowledgment that to be appointed as an examiner is a professional honour," she says. "They are expected to abide by a professional code of conduct."

Police are already investigating the theft of exam papers — three people

have been arrested. Metcalfe says any examiner found to have passed on matric information prior to the exams will be professionally censured — and probably banned from future involvement.

This week's hearings are the first time the cheating has been clearly linked to the top echelons of the academic world, completing a chain of corruption that rings the province's education system.

Alongside the pupils, teachers and principals have been accused, investigators have been fingered and employees of the education department have also been drawn into the net. Metcalfe says, however, that no se-

nior department officials have been implicated.

The leak of exam papers amounted more to petty pilfering than a grand conspiracy, she adds. The majority of cheating cases involved pupils smuggling notes into the exam hall.

Independent school Crawford College denied this week that there was any link between its staff's involvement in the matric process and the performance of its Johannesburg and Pretoria campuses — the first-best and second-best performers in the province.

Director Graeme Crawford says 10 staff members were invited to take part in the 1996 matric — including examiners, markers and moderators.

But he adds that the school had also led the province in 1995, when its staff were not involved in the matric set-up.

He attributes the performance to the schools' mode of teaching, which he says encourages pupils to think for themselves rather than to memorise facts long enough to reproduce them on exam day.

(52) M+G 10-16/1/97

**The hearings are the first time the cheating has been clearly linked to the top echelons of the academic world**

# 'Cheating' pupils get legal advice

**SHONEEZ BULBULLA**

OWN CORRESPONDENT

"Humiliated" pupils, called to account for their exam answers by the Gauteng Department of Education, have sought legal advice as the hearings into alleged cheating by matric pupils got underway.

About 20 of the 1 413 candidates whose results were withheld pending the inquiry faced Gauteng education authorities at the Johannesburg College of Education at set appointments this week.

About 99 Gauteng schools are also being investigated for either cribbing, lack of administrative control, or having prior access to examination material.

GDE spokesman Billy Motala said the process was running smoothly.

"We are getting the co-operation of the parents. Many pupils have come clean and have admitted their guilt. As the supervisor James Maseko has mentioned, we will be dealing leniently with the offenders."

Mr Motala also said that further meetings would be conducted until next week.

A GDE committee met lawyer Mohammed Ameen Mayet - who represents parents and pupils from specific schools in Lenasia, Fordsburg, Johannesburg and Laudium who are allegedly involved in the exam irregularities - at the JCE this week.

"A meeting was held to ascertain whether the pupils accused of committing

any offences had any access to the exam papers," said Mr Mayet.

"We are still busy negotiating and further meetings will be held. I am convinced the Gauteng department will deal with the matter leniently and may come to a favourable decision."

The committee also met many individual parents and pupils as well as school principals to hear explanations on alleged cheating in the examinations.

The minimum punishment for those found guilty of cheating is an exam rewrite, and pupils can also be barred from writing the exams for up to two years.

This week, as frustrated pupils and disappointed parents gathered at the JCE, the atmosphere was tense. One parent, who

did not want to be named, said: "I have two other children who completed their matric a while back but this is the worst year ever."

"After all the trials and tribulations that the kids endure during their years at school, I think that they deserve better than this. But the department really has messed this up and it is a very sad situation."

One Johannesburg pupil admitted briefly seeing the English grammar paper after the incorrect paper was handed out at his English composition examination.

He said: "The school had given out an English paper which we were only going to write the following day, so many pupils had a look at it as it took a while before they could be recollected."

ART 11/1/99

(52)

# Pupils seek legal advice as cheating hearings get under way

BY SHONEEZ BULBULLA

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very sad situation."

One Johannesburg pupil admitted briefly seeing the English grammar paper after the incorrect paper was handed out at his English composition examination.

Two pupils pleaded they were innocent and were now suffering because of other pupils' wrongdoings: "This situation is totally unfair as we are dedicated pupils who sacrificed our time in studying and must now rewrite an exam when we should be preparing for the future."

(52)

Star 11/1/97

# 'You allowed our kids to crib'

By SIFELANI MLAMBO

OUTRAGED PARENTS of matric exam pupils this week attacked the Gauteng Department of Education for the leaks in the exam papers.

They claim the department was negligent by leaving the storeroom where the exam papers were kept unlocked.

The room at the department's head office in Market Street was supposed to be secured at all times, but was left unlocked for three days, they said.

Angry parents accused the department of refusing to take the blame for the leak of matric exam papers.

They said their children were being used as "sacrificial lambs" to mask the provincial education department's incompetence.

They also blamed the department for recruiting invigilators who allowed candidates to smuggle papers into the examination rooms.

Parents confronted the department with these charges this week when a delegation went to see Gauteng education officials to protest against their children being summoned to appear before the commission investigating matric exam cheats.

When City Press approached Gauteng MEC for Education Mary

(52) CP 12/1/97  
Metcalf she said this was the first time she had heard the allegation, but accused the parents of making false allegations to vindicate their children.

She said it was not normal practice for exam papers to be stored at head office for as long as three days, but the commission would investigate the allegation.

She said one of the tasks of the commission of inquiry would be to recommend ways of strengthening security for examination papers.

She said anyone with information regarding the incident should provide it to the commission.

The Gauteng Department of Education is offering a R50 000 reward for information leading to the prosecution of culprits for the theft of the matric papers.

Gauteng Department of Education Superintendent-General James Maseko said there had been cases where pupils had copied from notes written on blackboards by teachers and pupils.

He said a number of teachers and principals were suspected of having played a role in the irregularities.

Three people, including a school teacher, last week appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrates' Court for allegedly stealing and selling matric exam papers in November last year. A spokesman for the Depart-

ment of Education said more arrests were imminent following information supplied by pupils.

The department suspects that of the 1 413 pupils from 44 schools who had been summoned to give evidence before the commission, 336 had seen the question papers before the exams.

The others were suspected of having smuggled in notes.

Parents also criticised the fact that no inspectors were employed to monitor the 700 schools where the examinations were written.

However, Metcalf said that this task was delegated to the principals of the schools who acted as chief examiners.

Thirty-three of the 44 schools being investigated are private schools.

Several parents told City Press they believed the threat to ban cheating pupils from writing exams for two years was too harsh.

However, the Department of Education said punishment for matric cheats may not be that severe for pupils who admitted to cheating.

In cases where pupils did not play a role in the dissemination of stolen material and have co-operated fully with the department, it was likely that they will be permitted to write the supplementary examinations in February and November.



# Calls for a probe into poor results

Sowetan 13/12/97

(52)

## Naptosa slates administrative bungles which led to exam leaks

By Victor Mecoamere

**A**DMINISTRATIVE inefficiencies which led to the leaks and bungling in the matric examinations, coupled with deplorable results, could not be condoned, said educationist Mr Leepile Taunyane at the weekend.

Taunyane's attack in his capacity as the president of the National Professional Teachers Organisation of South Africa comes in the wake of investigations into irregularities during last year's matric exams and a poor showing in the overall pass rate.

Just over half of South Africa's matric pupils passed, a poor showing, according to many educationists, but an improvement from last year's average, according to Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu.

"The most tragic aspect of the 1996 matriculation results is the fact that no-one really knows exactly what the real situation is regarding the factors

that were responsible for the poor results and the bad administration," said Taunyane.

He said a thorough analysis should be conducted to determine "areas of progress, deterioration and stagnation," and to ascertain the "the root cause of the poor results".

### Poor administration

The latest claims of poor administration against the Gauteng Department of Education were made by irate parents who said that a storeroom had been left open for three days, which could have led to the leakage of the matric papers.

Education MEC Mrs Mary Metcalfe has denied this, and said it was a false allegation by the parents aimed at vindicating their children.

An earlier charge was made by the parents of 51 children from a Mayfair, Johannesburg, high school that the GDE's two ongoing investigations into examination irregularities was biased against Indians.

More than 2 000 pupils in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal have been accused of the theft, sale and dissemination of question papers and cribbing.

Both provinces have threatened to slap guilty pupils with a two-year ban on writing matric examinations.

A number of people have been arrested. These include education department employees, principals and teachers. More arrests are expected.

● Schools reopen tomorrow in Gauteng, Northern Province, Mpumalanga, North West, Western Cape, Northern Cape and the Free State.

# Matric results 'not a good yardstick'

Kevin O'Grady

HIGHER education institutions should not refuse admission to students on the basis of their matric results as these were not necessarily a true reflection of their potential, the SA Students' Congress (Sasco) said yesterday.

Sasco secretary-general Blessing Manale said results obtained by pupils at formerly black and white schools were still skewed "as a result of the apartheid legacy" and institutions should develop alternative admission criteria.

Manale said Sasco had decided to continue its "right to learn campaign" which was launched last year in an attempt to gain greater access to tertiary institutions by black students.

"(The) campaign is still relevant and therefore major battles will be fought in line with our declaration that ... 1997 is a year for a decisive breakthrough in higher education transformation."

BD 15/1/97

(52)

The campaign involved calling on institutions, particularly Afrikaans institutions, to stop using language as a prerequisite for admission, to set affordable upfront payments for students and to declare a moratorium on financial and academic exclusions.

Manale said innovative ways should be found to "ensure that all financially incapacitated students are not barred from registration on purely financial grounds". Institutions' subsidy cuts that were likely to emerge in the budget should also not be used by institutions to "harass and intimidate poor and disadvantaged students", he said.

Sasco called on government and the finance ministry to redirect funds allocated for the building of prisons in the correctional services budget towards "the social needs of society as a whole, including education, housing and health".

Sasco's Gauteng branch would meet the heads of institutions at Wits University today to discuss issues relating to access to institutions this year.

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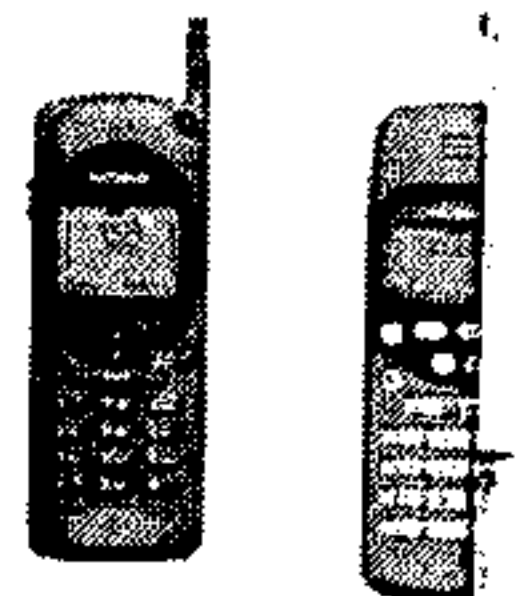
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## New Year, N



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# Cheating schools to face the music

(12) May 21/1997

Independent institutions that helped their matriculants with answers in exams will be punished or even shut down

BY ADAM COOKE

Any independent or private schools that are found to have aided students in their matric exams last year will be dealt with harshly, even closed down, the Gauteng Department of Education has warned.

The warning comes after 30 such schools in the inner city were fingered in the GDE's ongoing investigation into exam irregularities.

The Association of Inner City Schools (AICS) has thrown its weight behind the department's tough stance, saying schools should be severely punished for any transgression of exam codes.

GDE spokesman Aubrey Matshiqi said the department had three options in dealing with those schools allegedly involved in the irregularities.

The guilty schools would either have their registration with the education department as a school withdrawn; their subsidy from the provincial government removed; or their exam licences taken away.

"Removing exam licences means that pupils will be able to write exams, but those schools will not be used as exam centres," said Matshiqi.

David Harrison, chairman of the AICS, said it was important to "weed out" the "fly-by-nights"

from the genuine inner-city schools which provided a good education at reasonable fees.

He said it appeared that four of the association's 32 members were involved in irregularities.

"We cannot condone such schools or any cheating and they must face the consequences, even to the point of closure," said Harrison. He said schools wishing to join the association had to meet the stiff criteria which put them in line for a 50% subsidy from the GDE. Schools are allocated government funds according to a subsidy scale that is worked out following reports from school inspectors.

A number of markers called The Star last year identifying inner-city schools as the prime centres of exam irregularities.

Marker Kathy Walker said it was clear that, in a number of cases, teachers had dictated answers, many of them incorrect, during the matric exam.

"It becomes very obvious in marking when you find 30 answers that are exactly the same. But slower students have left gaps in their answers when they get left behind during the dictation," she said.

The markers have started a support group to aid teachers battling in difficult teaching situations and students genuinely interested in passing matric.

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# Judge to head probe into matric debacle in W. Cape

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STAFF REPORTER

ARG 21/1/97

Judge Leonora van den Heever has been appointed head of a commission of inquiry into the Western Cape matric debacle

The commission will also look into the integrity of the examinations.

The inquiry follows the issuing of incomplete results to schools which resulted in days of delay before many pupils knew whether they had passed.

It also threatened some pupils' admission to university, according to parents.

In announcing Judge Van den Heever's appointment today, Western Cape premier Hérnus Kriel said the other commissioners would be former ambassador to Denmark and journalist Conrad Sidego and Anne-Marie Bruwer.

Mr Kriel said the commission would look into the Western Cape's education department processing of last year's matric results, the notices to schools and candidates of the results and the integrity of the exams.

The commission will also be asked to make recommendations on how to eliminate future problems.

Anyone wanting to make a submission about any aspect of the exams is asked to send it to Dr Bruwer at the Provincial Administration, PO Box 2078, Cape Town, 8000 or fax 483 4004 by February 11.

# Olckers urged matric exam debacle inquiry - official

STAFF REPORTER

Western Cape Education Minister Martha Olckers urged Premier Hrnus Kriel to appoint the commission of inquiry into the matriculation results debacle, says education ministry public relations officer Johan de Wet.

An advertisement would be placed in newspapers soon so that interested parties could make submissions, Mr De Wet said.

Mr Kriel has appointed Miss Justice Leonora van den Heever to head the commission, which is expected to finish its work by the end of February. The other commissioners are former ambassador to Denmark and journal-

(52) ARU 22/1/97  
ist Conrad Sidego and Anne-Marie Bruwer, Western Cape provincial service commissioner.

Mr Kriel said the commission would look into the Western Cape Education Department's processing of matric results, notices to schools and candidates of the results and the integrity of the examinations.

The inquiry comes after the issuing of incomplete results to schools. The commission will also be asked to make recommendations on how to eliminate problems in future.

Anyone wanting to make a submission should send it to Dr Bruwer at the Provincial Administration, PO Box 2078, Cape Town 8000, or fax 483 4004 by February 11.

# Pupil faces a hard lesson about honesty

## Matric witness in leaked exam paper case may be kicked out of school

(62) ST 13/7/97

A MATRIC pupil whose evidence helped convict a Pretoria teacher charged with selling exam papers could be expelled when she returns to school after the holidays.

Penelope Mokoena, 18, faces a probe into why her matric results were not suspended and she was issued with a school-leaving certificate. Unaware that she was implicated in the scandal, her school, Greenwood College, also accepted her back to try for higher marks this year.

Testifying in the Johannesburg magistrate's court this week, Mokoena said she and an unidentified friend had bought the 1996 matric maths and biology papers for R100 each from the teacher, Sonnyboy Rahlane, in October or November last year.

Rahlane, 30, who taught Tsonga and biblical studies at Perseverance College, an inner-city school in Pretoria, was sentenced to 12 months in prison for his role in a crime that magistrate Vincent Pienaar said he hoped would "never happen again, for the sake of our pupils and our country".

Rahlane is the first person found guilty since the exposure late last year of the widespread sale of matric exam papers that shocked South Africa and cost education departments hundreds of thousands of rands when leaked papers had to be reset and exams rescheduled.

Evidence presented to the court was that he had sold copies of the maths, biology and accounting papers to pupils at

Greenwood College, another Pretoria inner-city school.

Rahlane said the papers had been given to him by his principal, Georgina Makamu.

But Makamu, interviewed this week, denied any knowledge of the scheme, and said she had been shocked to learn that one of her best teachers had "done such a wrong thing".

But it is perhaps the head of Greenwood College, Mary Moerane, who has suffered the greatest shock after Mokoena's admission that she had bought the papers.

Although Mokoena was one of five or six pupils questioned by the police and Gauteng education department officials in the early stages of their inquiry, she was never a suspect, as far as Moerane knew.

"Her matric results were not among those flagged by the department for suspension while

the investigation was going on ... Penelope got her results along with all our other pupils.

"Now I learn, by reading about her evidence in the newspapers, that she was one of the chief culprits. This is a matter of grave concern, and I will be taking it up immediately with everyone concerned," the principal said.

Mokoena, whose parents live in Bushbuckridge, passed matric last year at her second attempt, but enrolled again in January in the hope of improving her grades so she could get an exemption.

Ironically, although she admitted in court that she had bought last year's biology paper, she is not repeating this subject.

The Gauteng education department's director general, Tom Waspe, said the "most likely" explanation for her results being released was that she had sat for exams based on papers reset after it was discovered they had

been leaked. "We did not withhold the results of pupils thought to have had access to papers that were scrapped," he said.

Mokoena will be called before Moerane when she returns to school next week.

"I am already talking to the school directors and the department, and as soon as school reopens on July 22, Penelope and her parents will have to be called in," said Moerane.

"If she has done what she says, I'm afraid she will have to be made an example of, but I really need to hear her side of things myself before I act.

"I cannot tolerate this kind of behaviour in my school. It's not fair to the honest, hard-working pupils, or to their teachers."

Mokoena, who is spending part of the holidays on an educational tour, could not be reached for comment.

Gauteng education officials have hailed Rahlane's prison sentence, without the option of a fine, as an important message for would-be cheaters.

"If you get caught, you go to jail," said Waspe.

He likened the sale of examination papers to drug dealing. "It is a highly immoral practice by unscrupulous people in pursuit of financial gain, with no regard for the serious consequences on the lives and future of young people."

The head of the Gauteng education department, James Maseko, said: "This is just the beginning. We will not rest until the real culprits, the officials who supplied the Sonnyboy Rahlanes of the land with the papers to sell, have been caught."

No departmental officials have been charged in connection with exam paper leaks, but investigations into their possible involvement are continuing.

Whether Rahlane acted on his own initiative is not yet clear. Investigating officers said this week his case could be linked to that of another Pretoria teacher, Miriam Lungu of Mamelodi, who goes on trial in the Johannesburg magistrate's court on July 31 on similar charges.

Some of the witnesses against Rahlane could be called to testify against Lungu, which suggests a syndicate may have been operating in the Pretoria area, sources said.

And Rahlane, who conducted his own defence, had a word of advice for fellow teachers and pupils before being transported to Johannesburg's Diepkloof Prison on Tuesday afternoon: "Do not follow in my footsteps.

"This is a drawback... it lets you down and tarnishes your good image. And it turns you into the talk of the town."

# Matric exam

Star 9/8/97 (52)

The matric class of 1996 will for ever be known as "the year of the cheats" - no matter what anyone writes or preaches.

Of the 518 000 pupils who wrote last year's matric exams, 5 280 were charged with cheating, after nine different papers had been confirmed leaked or stolen.

Officials, teachers, lecturers at private colleges, and pupils themselves created a roaring trade buying and selling the papers and answer memoranda.

Urban legends about pupils becoming hysterical in examination rooms when they realised they had been conned into buying a fake paper were rife, and for a few brief moments, dinner-party conversations moved from crime to education.

Once the dust had settled after the Khumalo Commission, the probe into the examination fiasco, the scene was one of a devastated Gauteng education department.

Apart from corrupt officials and lax security measures, critical posts in the examination planning process had not been filled, resources were scarce and planning periods were unrealistically tight.

Structures began to crumble, leaks were revealed and public outcry reached fever pitch - all a great catalyst for change.

## Dismissals

The man put in place to sort out the mess was Ian Moll, the recently appointed director of the department's examinations and certification directorate.

Moll inherited few of the previous team members, after numerous dismissals and retirements, so he had to set about creating a new team.

Initially, he formed part of a task team established to restructure the examination division, which took office in the first week of March.

Moll immediately proposed the expansion of the staff complement from 35 to 60. With interviews and appointments under way, the task team soon began to fall into the shadows, while the new directorate took shape.

In the past, education departments have begun preparations for the coming matric examinations 18 months in advance, Moll's team had eight months, five of which have already past.

"We all knew what we were coming into, so we acted decisively and adopted a management process that operates efficiently, and under intense pressure," Moll said.

The process culminating in a nerve-racking wait for matric pupils and their parents at the end of each year starts with the selection of examiners. Working in consultation with various curriculum boards, the selected examiners begin to draft an exam.

In previous years, exam papers were printed and packaged mainly in Pretoria, in three different buildings between which the scripts had to be delivered. This ongoing transport proved a major security risk.

This year's examinations will, however, see a very different system in place, in the form of a permanent and high-security venue, something like an "administrative Alcatraz".

Wary of security breaches, Moll preferred not to reveal the location of the venue but said it had been specially renovated and fitted for its protective purposes.

Internal moderation, as well as external moderation by the South African Certification Council, which determines the national minimum standards with particular reference to university entry, is followed by changes to the papers.



After the many problems in the 1996 matriculation examinations, the Gauteng education department has been put under pressure to ensure there are no hitches this year, reports **JACQUI REEVES**

A phase of intense preparatory editing by language and subject experts follows. For language papers, correlatory editing is necessary where, for example, English and Afrikaans papers are compared to assure the same meaning is expressed in both languages.

The papers are then typed and laid out, and presented to the internal moderators and examiners for final checking.

While many hands have already touched the paper, it will from now on all take place at "Admin Alcatraz", cutting out the transporting, faxing and lying around that draft papers endured under the old system.

The papers then go to the building's printing section. State-of-the-art printing equipment has been brought in this year and has been upgraded to improve security.

From this year, each paper will receive a barcode that will allow officials to track the course of the paper from the moment it is printed. Regular scanning will ensure individual papers stay on the correct path and in the correct bundle throughout the process.

"We have tried to eliminate the

At the completion of this process, which began on July 1 and will end in the middle of October, the Gauteng education department will have printed no fewer than 30 million sheets of paper. If the printers work consistently, for five days a week and 10 hours a day, the target will be met.

"We do, however, realise it is ridiculous to think nothing will go wrong. The printers will need maintenance, and hitches do occur, so we have made contingency plans for weekend printing should it be necessary," Moll said.

His team has also been responsible for planning and structuring supplementary examination - another thorn in the department's side.

Last year, angry pupils who had been barred from supplementary examinations rioted and disrupted the examinations in Soshanguve, north of Pretoria.

Their anger came from a decision to limit those eligible for a second chance only to those who had achieved more than 25% in their original sitting.

"In the past, the supplementary exam was simply a second bite at the cherry, and any pupil could write one. The numbers were huge and it was a waste of money and manpower," Moll said.

## Crisis

Even the new streamlined system appears to need tightening up. Of the 20 000 pupils who applied for supplementary examinations last year, about half were eligible to write, and only half of that number actually arrived to write the paper. Of that number, only 20% benefited from the examination, Moll estimates.

This year, only pupils who are ill, have a family crisis, a prior national sporting engagement, the necessary requirement to try for a pass or who wish to attempt a university endorsement pass will qualify for a supplementary exam.

Negotiations for a minimum fee for supplementary exams are currently being discussed and are expected to be in place by 1998.

Last year's examination debacle did, on occasion, resemble a cheap and nasty made-for-TV movie. Corrupt officials were being exposed, desperate teenagers were being caught red-handed and education department managers were seen looking tired and frustrated, doing frantic damage control on the 8 o'clock news.

Unfortunately, when the marking was completed in Gauteng, only one day behind schedule, Moll's problems were far from over.

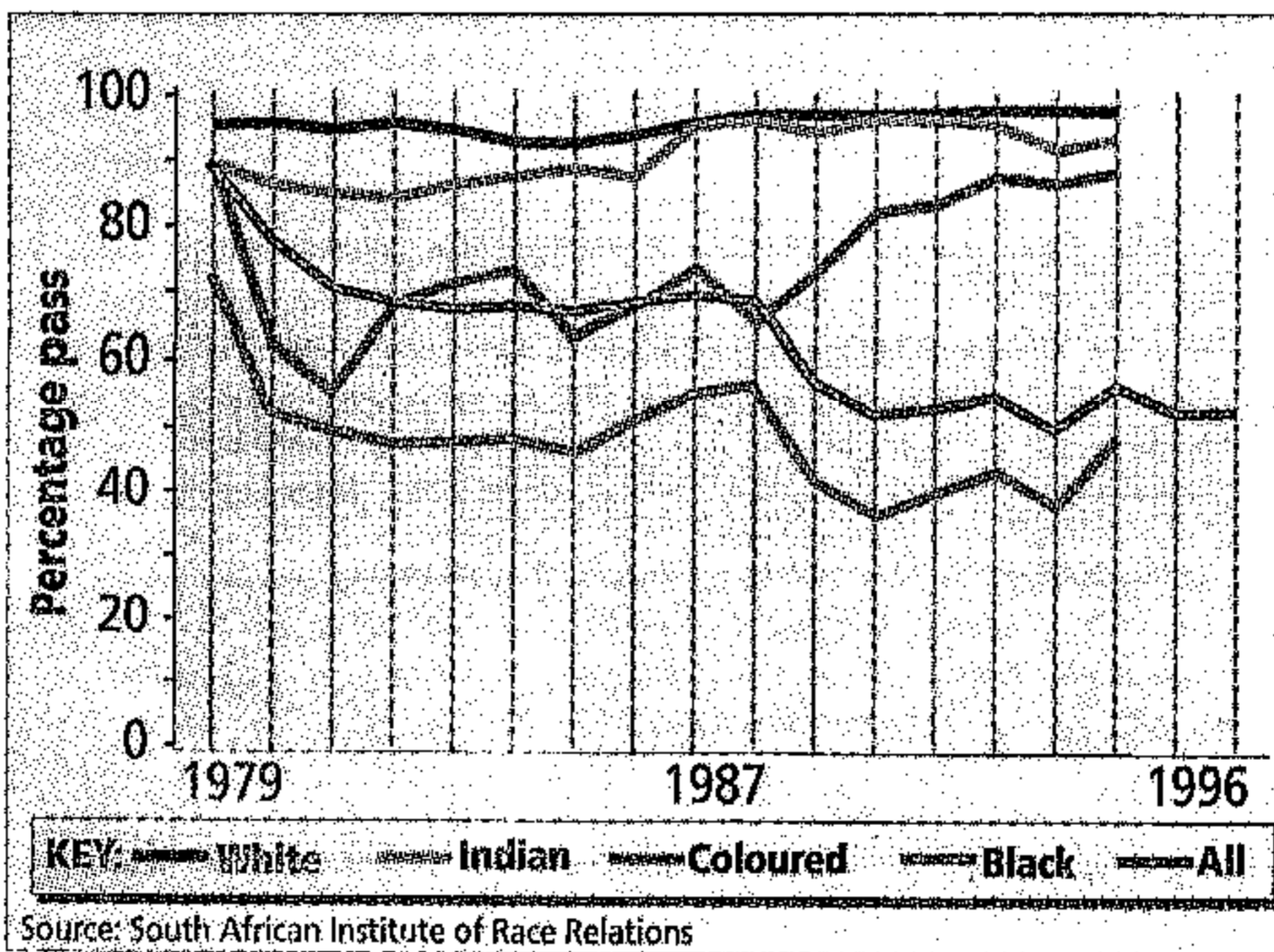
Many of last year's markers have yet to see any money for their efforts, although all the cheques have been sent out.

"At this stage we have issued all the cheques but a very large number have gone missing or are lying in the wrong department. We are still trying to solve the problem, and are hoping to avoid this happening again by paying all of this year's markers electronically, straight into their bank accounts," Moll said.

Supremely confident of his team's efforts, Moll said they were keen to show the province what they could do and how they had made the system work.

Among all the tension, fear and anxiety that accompanies a matric examination, there is one certainty. This year, to change the minds of the parents, pupils and teachers who had their fingers burnt in "the year of the cheats", it will take nothing less than a system that works.

Matric pass rates (overall): 1979-96



human-error element that always comes up when you have people stuffing envelopes," Moll said.

Another first for the department are security seals on the bundles of exam papers. Not wishing to elaborate on the seals, Moll said he was confident the new mechanisms would be effective.

This year, bundles of papers are being weighed with highly sensitive scales that will indicate whether a bundle has been over or under-packed.

Confusion is also being avoided by printing only one paper at a time - so avoiding heart failure during an examination when a matric pupil is handed a biology paper when he has been preparing to write mathematics all week.

Bundles are then scanned and placed in "school specific" boxes that will be handed to the school for a particular exam session.

'he cheats' but this time the whole process will be very different

# body faces acid test



**DETERMINED:** The teachers' strike didn't mean a day off this week for Vuwani High School matriculation pupils Livu Mbengeni and Ellen Sambo. They simply took up the challenge on their own  
PHOTOGRAPHS: JOHN ROBINSON

## Two sides of the coin as pupils in Soweto and those in Sandton aim for the top

By JACQUI REEVES

**T**he wintry sun was doing little to warm Ellen Sambo as she sat outside her classroom on Wednesday afternoon.

Flipping through her biology textbook, she sighed heavily, focused on a page thick with text and began reading.

Livu Mbengeni, one of Ellen's classmates, sat next to her friend and quietly scanned the chapter. Chatting occasionally to clear up points of confusion or complicated terms, the two teenagers worked consistently, making slow but certain progress.

When we arrived at Vuwani Secondary in Tshiawelo, Soweto, the school was deserted. Pupils had been given a mid-week break because of the two-day teachers' strike, but more than 15 matrics from the school decided not to take up the offer.

"I still have lots of work to do. I cannot take this time off," said 20-year-old Language Mudau. Attempting matric for the second time, Language said obtaining his matric certificate was "worth a try" and that he was not willing to fail again.

### Strategy

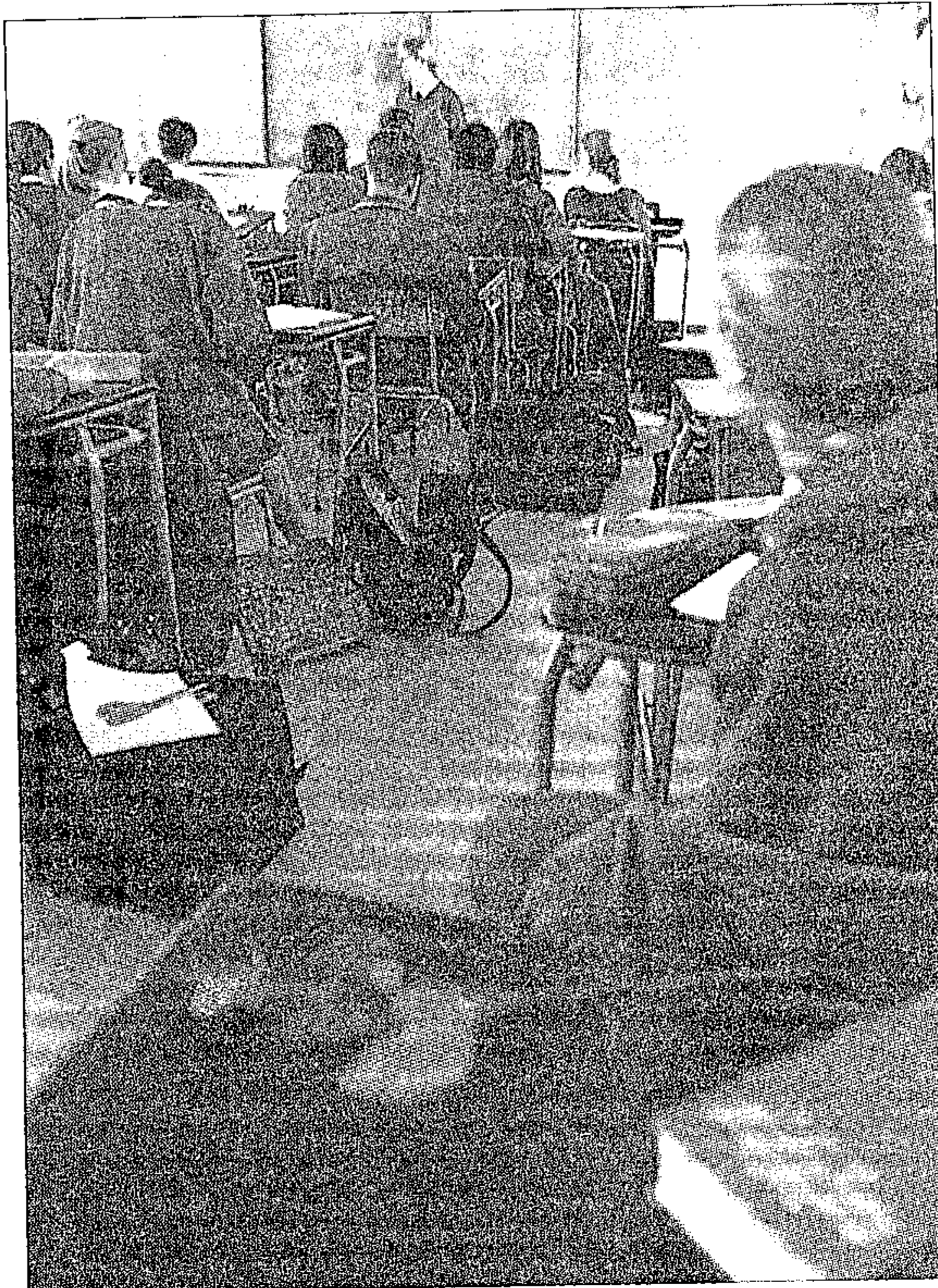
"I know that you have to study to pass. You cannot expect a good mark without reading," he said.

In an icy classroom at the centre of the school, Isaac Nethononda, Patrick Mavhungu and David Nengobela had squeezed into a two-seater desk, spreading their algebra books across the work surface.

Their strategy is to spend their days working through the textbook of mathematical problems, practising the sums until they become second nature.

"Did your teachers tell you to do this?" I asked in amazement. "No, I don't think they know we are here," Ellen said.

Vuwani business economics teacher Norman Matebula explained why the pupils had arrived



**NEXT IN LINE:** With just 15 months to go until their crunch time, the Std 9 pupils at Bryanston High are keen to see how this year's exams are handled

had a lot of 'struggle pupils' who were 23 or 24 years old. They caused trouble with the younger pupils and made it difficult for them to study," he said.

In stark contrast to Vuwani Secondary is Bryanston High School.

Sandton, is large and comfortable. Polite pupils, wearing bright blue uniforms, offer directions to the principal's office. Bryanston High's matric pupils were, however, nowhere to be seen on Wednesday. They were at

which began the next day.

Undaunted by the drama that was the 1996 matric exams, Bryanston High principal Deon Visser remains optimistic about this year's matric finals.

"The attitude from the regional office has been very supportive. The administration have admitted the faults that were made last year and have been working to deal with those mistakes in the best way possible," he said.

Bryanston's matric pupils have all but wrapped up their syllabus for the year and are now spending most of their classes revising the year's material. Special attention is given to what Visser calls border-line cases.

Pupils who are currently achieving, say, 78, 68 or 58% are encouraged to achieve one symbol higher, while pupils with very low marks are given additional classes.

### Prestige

For many years, the largely white schools in Johannesburg's northern suburbs have competed for the honour and prestige of being the school with the highest number of distinctions. Visser said that although perceptions of a school's academic standards were often set in the minds of the public by the number of As or Bs, distinctions, should not be overstated.

"The number of As has never become an overriding factor at Bryanston. We are here to prepare pupils for tertiary education - that is where the proof of the pudding really lies," he said.

With a 99% success rate for Bryanston graduates at universities across the country, the school appears to be getting the balance right.

Back in Tshiawelo, however, Language Mudau is keeping his mind firmly focused on learning his South African history section, and plans to worry about university later.

He is considering Wits and pursuing a career as a lawyer - "but first, these exams", he smiled, turning back



# KwaZulu-Natal education bosses dig in their heels

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

52

**Durban – The KwaZulu-Natal education department will vigorously oppose any more court applications seeking to force it to hand over matriculation scripts for remarking.**

Education department spokesman Nagoor Bissetty said the department did not regard such an order obtained last week as a blanket ruling, and had complied with it because it had nothing to hide.

The cash-strapped department faces legal bills of millions of rands if hundreds of aggrieved 1996 matriculants clog the courts with actions against provincial Education Minister Vincent Zulu. In the end, the taxpayer will have to foot the bill.

Dr Zulu already has to pay legal fees for a four-member legal team, running into tens of thousands of rands, for fighting a Supreme Court application won by eight matriculants on Friday.

The unprecedented temporary order stipulated that the department provide the eight with either their originals or copies of the examination scripts, for remarking by independent experts.

Mr Bissetty reiterated that the department would not provide scripts to all 1996 matriculants but only the eight applicants. Those pupils who were aggrieved had until Friday to apply for a re-mark, and if their symbols improved they would get a refund. Many pupils had already applied.

Durban attorney Sivan Samuels, acting for some of the pupils, said today he hoped the department would "come to its senses" and release all the scripts written by KwaZulu-Natal matriculants last year.

"It is taxpayers' money that is being wasted if the department refuses to budge," he said.

After a march by pupils to the Durban city hall, education officials were asked by legal counsel to set up mechanisms to address grievances.

"But they could not even commit themselves to meet us," Mr Samuels said. If the department refused to change its stance, almost 1 000 affected matriculants would be urged to lodge court actions.

# Metcalfe launches plan for improvement in matric results

Kevin O'Grady

BD 12/12/97

(52)

A PLAN intended to achieve a 5% improvement on last year's matric results by offering financial incentives and other assistance to Gauteng secondary schools was launched by education MEC Mary Metcalfe yesterday.

She said the plan would help schools develop diagnostic and planning skills, improve methods of instruction used by teachers, principals and parents and deepen project management skills at school level.

"Although the overall transformation of education in the province must be viewed as a long-term process, it is imperative to develop a short-term strategy to begin the process of visible improvement," Metcalfe said.

The "5% plan", as it is known, was based on the assumption that in this school year the most viable strategy for improvement of matric results would be a school-based approach.

As a result of this it was decided

that public secondary schools should be eligible for financial support. This was as an incentive to develop meaningful matric preparation plans so as to reach realistic improvement targets.

All schools which applied for funding under the plan would be required to identify an improvement strategy, focusing either on improving results in specific subjects, overall pass rates or the number of university exemptions, Metcalfe said.

Schools could also choose to focus on increasing the percentage of distinctions among pupils.

Once schools had developed their strategy they would be required to develop and submit for approval a business plan. This business plan would include a budget specifying expected expenditure up to R5 000.

In January next year, once results had been analysed, schools which achieved the 5% improvement would be eligible for funding once again, Metcalfe said.

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# Gauteng matric re-mark no better than original debacle

(52) Star 21/2/97

BY ADAM COOKE

The Gauteng matric examination fiasco appears to have no end, with a "senseless mistake" in the printouts of re-marked exam papers leaving the majority of pupils with incorrect results.

Louis Botha, from the Gauteng Department of Education's (GDE) team handling the administration of the re-marked results, admitted yesterday that "a number of factors" had contributed to the incorrect printouts.

He said the marks would have to be "rerun and updated" before being distributed "by Monday".

A number of schools called by The Star yesterday said pupils who had applied for re-marks had experienced both delays and clear errors in their new results.

The results were initially scheduled to come out on Monday this week but were delayed until yes-

terday after being distributed to district offices only on Tuesday.

Spokesman for the GDE, Aubrey Matshiqi, said officials were investigating the problem, and corrections would be made.

Botha said one of the problems was that results for some subjects which had been re-marked had still not been finalised.

Many students re-marked results were worse than their original marks, something the GDE said earlier could not happen - at worst, their results would remain the same.

But one pupil, Matthew Roberts from Marian College, had a particularly confusing result. He wrote physical science on the higher grade in November, but on the re-marked printout he received yesterday, the level appeared as standard grade.

The Star has been flooded with calls from angry parents.

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# Exam inquiry calls for action against officials

(52) BD 26/2/97

## Nomavenda Mathiane

AN INQUIRY set up by Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe to investigate irregularities in last year's matric exams issued a damning report yesterday on the provincial education department's handling of the exams, and recommended stern action against senior officials.

The Khumalo inquiry, headed by Eskom human resources manager Bongani Khumalo, found that deputy director-general Enver Motala and chief director Nokuzola Moilola displayed "leadership apathy, disinterest and aloofness".

The inquiry recommended a disciplinary investigation be launched into their conduct and that of other officials, including teachers, implicated by a departmental investigations team.

It also recommended criminal investigations be instituted against officials implicated in the theft and sale of exam materials.

The inquiry found Motala had "no clear management plan to deal with the staffing crisis within the various components under his jurisdiction, including Moilola's chief directorship".

The largest part of the inquiry's findings was devoted to the leadership and management shortcomings of Motala and Moilola. As a line manager, Motala was unaware of crucial deficiencies within his area of competence, the inquiry found.

With regard to Moilola, the inquiry found although she displayed commitment, "she was not equipped with either the managerial or the professional competence for running the examinations process".

Khumalo recommended a dedicated matric examinations directorate and a statutory examinations board be set up in the department but that Motala, Moilola and Moilola's deputy be excluded from positions on either body.

The inquiry said one of its findings was the preparation process for the exams was "poorly managed" and that security arrangements in particular were inadequate.

Metcalfe said disciplinary action was likely to be taken against officials who did not discharge their duties in a satisfactory manner. She also said her department had appointed an examinations management team to manage this year's exams. The team was currently investigating the establishment of a high-security examinations building which would house all the necessary functions.

She also said her department would be looking into upgrading technology, improving organisational systems and setting up statutory exam structures.

The Gauteng National Party and Democratic Party called yesterday for Metcalfe's resignation, saying that if accountability was to have any meaning in SA, then she should share part of the blame.

# Education officials to be disciplined for matric-exam chaos

BY LEE-ANN ALFREDS

Seven Gauteng Education Department officials, including the province's third and fourth-highest ranked, are to be disciplined for the chaos surrounding last year's matric examinations.

This follows the publication of a document condemning the exams as "poorly managed and inadequate".

Deputy director-general in charge of administration and policy, Enver Motala, and chief director in charge of policy and provisioning, Nokuzola Molloa, were among those slated. Another official named was

Prem Govender, a Complex School educator seconded to Molloa's office to co-ordinate the 1996 exams.

The commission, under the chairmanship of Eskom executive director Bongani Khumalo, was appointed by Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe in November last year to investigate irregularities and make recommendations for improvements.

The commission reported to Metcalfe last week before the document was made public yesterday.

In its report, the commission highlighted three causes for the examination chaos - poor prepa-

ration, inadequate security and a lack of management.

The commission also warned that it was concerned about preparations for the supplementary exams, which are under way, and the 1997 examinations.

According to the report, a severe shortage of staff in the Directorate Examinations and Certification had contributed to an atmosphere of "uncertainty, insecurity, resentment and low morale" among officials seconded to the department to help with the examinations.

This atmosphere was exacerbated by "leadership apathy, disinterest and aloofness" by Motala

and Molloa and the lack of a clear management plan, the report said.

But the commission said that the integrity of the examinations had been maintained by the adequate measures which were put in place once the irregularities and problems were discovered.

In response, Metcalfe announced the department was already acting on the commission's recommendations to ensure the fit-asco of 1996 was not repeated.

She said that an examinations management team, which would submit regular reports, had been appointed to manage the 1997 exams.

Metcalfe said disciplinary action would be taken against the seven who had been identified as having failed in their duties.

The DP and NP, however, both said the report was a severe indictment of the administrative failings of the education department. Both parties insisted Metcalfe should share the blame for the debacle.

"She should resign if accountability is to have any meaning in our political system," DP spokesman Jack Bloom said.

NP education spokesman Juli Killian said her party endorsed the recommendations, but also had suggestions to make.

Alan (52)

26/2/97

EDUCATION MEC DENIES RESPONSIBILITY

# Exams fiasco: Gauteng to discipline 7 officials

(52) CT 26/2/97

**JOHANNESBURG:** Gauteng Education MEC Mrs Mary Metcalfe denied yesterday that she bore ultimate responsibility for last year's matric exam fiasco in the province.

**S**EVEN Gauteng Education Department officials — including the province's third and fourth-ranked education officials — are to be disciplined for the chaos of last year's matric examinations.

This follows the publication of a hard-hitting document slamming the exams as "poorly managed and inadequate".

The deputy director-general in charge of administration and policy, Mr Enver Motala, and the chief director in charge of policy and provisioning, Ms Nokuzola Moilola, were among officials slated for their ineptness in supervising the examinations.

Another official named was Mr Prem Govender, a complex school educator seconded to Moilola's office to co-ordinate the exams.

A commission — under the chairmanship of Eskom executive director Mr Bongani Khumalo — was appointed by Gauteng Education MEC Mrs Mary Metcalfe in November last year to investigate irregularities in the matric examinations and recommend improvements.

The commission reported to Metcalfe last week. The document was made public yesterday.

In the report, based on interviews, inspections and reports, the commission highlighted three causes for the chaos of the exams — poor preparation, inadequate security arrangements and a lack in "various aspects of management".

The commission also warned that it was concerned about preparations for the supplementary examinations, which are under way, and examinations this year.

The report said a severe staff

shortage in the Directorate of Examinations and Certification had contributed to an atmosphere of "uncertainty, insecurity, resentment and low morale" among officials seconded to the department to help with the exams.

This atmosphere was exacerbated by "leadership apathy, disinterest and aloofness" by Motala and Moilola and the lack of a clear management plan, the report said.

"Motala also displayed inept line function management. He exhibited a lack of appreciation of his responsibility and accountability for the running of the examinations, which fall directly under his control," the report read.

The commission reserved even stronger sanction for Moilola who, although said to be committed, "was not equipped with either the managerial, or the professional competence for running the examinations process".

The commission also accused her of deliberately withholding information from Metcalfe, saying: "the MEC, superintendent-general (James Maseko) and education department senior management were continually misled by inaccurate reports and emphatic assurances from Moilola regarding the progress in preparing for the 1996 Matric Examinations."

Systems used in the preparation were also said to be "fundamentally inadequate" and staff employed in junior positions were "expected to perform functions way beyond their level of competence without any induction", the report said.

The commission criticised security arrangements, which it said fell far short of what was to be expected: "It was found that security was

so weak that it was possible for the examination papers and other materials to be removed without a great effort."

It also found that the technology used in the matric examinations was obsolete.

But the commission concluded that the integrity of the examinations had been maintained by the adequate measures taken once the irregularities and problems were revealed.

In response, Metcalfe announced yesterday that the department was already acting on the commission's recommendations to ensure the fiasco of last year was not repeated.

She said an examinations management team, which would submit regular reports, had been appointed to manage the exams this year; investigations into the establishment of a high-security examinations centre was under way; technology would be upgraded; regular and detailed reports would be issued to schools; staff would be appointed to the examinations directorate and a statutory examinations board would be established.

Metcalfe denied she bore ultimate responsibility for the debacle, saying the job descriptions and line functions of the officials implicated had been clear.

Motala said he would study the report before making a statement. Attempts to contact Moilola and Govender were unsuccessful.

The DP and NP said the report was a severe indictment of the administrative efficiency of the education department.

Both parties insisted that Metcalfe should share the blame for the debacle: "She should resign if accountability is to have any meaning in our political system," DP spokesman Mr Jack Bloom said.

— Own Correspondent

# Heads to roll as matric-bungling officials named

(52)

Disciplining and prosecutions to follow commission's hard-hitting report

Star 27/2/97

BY LEE-ANN ALFREDS

Several Gauteng Education Department officials are to be prosecuted for stealing or selling 1996 matric examinations, the department said yesterday.

And thousands of pupils accused of cheating are soon to discover their fate, following the completion of a report into matric irregularities.

These disclosures came yesterday, a day after a hard-hitting report accused seven senior education officials, including the third- and fourth-ranked officials, of gross incompetence and ineptness in supervising the matric examinations.

Administrative bungling contributed largely to the debacle, according to the Khumalo Commission which was appointed by Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe.

The implicated officials - deputy director-general in charge of administration and policy Enver Motala, chief director in charge of policy and provisioning Nokuzola Moiloa, and five other education officials - are to be disciplined according to the procedures laid down by the Public Service Staff Code.

The Education Department is

set to hand over to police the names of several other officials who the commission identified as having either stolen or sold examinations papers.

Education Department spokesman Aubrey Matshiqi said the officials - whom he would not name - were part of a "small group of people" implicated in criminal activity.

So far, four people have been arrested and three have appeared in court in connection with the selling of matric papers. The sus-

## Those who sold, stole papers identified

pects include a teacher, two pupils and a community leader.

In a lengthy statement which he said would provide a "more objective picture", Motala

yesterday said matric examinations were not his direct responsibility. He said the examinations were meant to be headed by a director - a position which was not filled last year - who would report to the chief director, who would in turn report to him.

"Reportage concerning the preparation and management of the final-year examinations were to be made directly to the head of the department (James Maseko) and not to me".

Moiloa could not be contacted for comment.

## Matric fiasco: two education officials slated

By SIFELANI MLAMBO

MORE THAN a hundred 1996 matric students are sitting idle as a result of the incompetence of the Gauteng department of education's chief director in charge of matric examinations and her deputy.

The Khumalo Commission of inquiry appointed by Gauteng MEC for Education, Mary Metcalfe, to probe the 1996 matric fiasco found that the chief director, Nokuzola Moila and her deputy, Enver Motala, were directly responsible for the 1996 matric fiasco.

Motala and Moila's inability to perform their duties was compounded by a serious shortage of staff and the departments' incapacity. The commission found that of the 35 posts required for the examinations directorate, only 22 had been filled.

Motala and Moila were also accused of giving misleading and inaccurate reports to Metcalfe.

Sources in the Department of Education told City Press that the provinces' superintendent-general for education, James Maseko, could not be exonerated by his subordinates' shortcomings.

The commission recommended that a task team be appointed to run this year's matric examinations as Moila and Motala do not have adequate experience to oversee examinations. Metcalfe has complied with the recommendation and has appointed an examinations management team to manage this year's matric examinations.

(S2)

CP 2/3/97



# Unpaid matric markers threaten to walk out

ARGUS 21/3/97 (52)

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

**Johannesburg – The Public Protector has been called on to investigate the plight of 300 irate Gauteng teachers on the brink of walking out because they have not been paid for marking last year's matriculation papers.**

Depending on detailed information from teacher organisations, public investigator Tinus Schutte confirmed he would be launching an inquiry.

The Democratic Party said it had turned to Public Protector Selby Baqwa in "sheer frustration" over 300 teachers who still had not been paid for marking despite promises by Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe.

The DP has called for all teachers' salary payments to be handled by a private agency.

These events followed a threat by the teachers, most of whom are owed around R4 000 and have long experience, to walk out of their jobs.

The teachers complained that repeated inquiries about the money had been "fobbed off and ignored".

Many said they were in dire straits because they were not able to meet financial commitments that were to have been covered by the December cheques. Other teachers complained of incorrect payments, some had only received money for subsistence and travelling expenses, while others had been credited with enormous sums.

DP spokesman Jack Bloom said it simply was not credible for the Gauteng Education Department to blame computer errors.

The danger was that experienced markers had now refused to mark matric papers and many more would follow suit if they could not be guaranteed payment, thereby further degrading the integrity of the exams.

The Education Department apologised to teachers and said a management team had been told to explain the "computer non-functioning" by today.

# Public protector urged to help in teachers' dispute over pay for marking exams

BY TROYE LUND  
AND EDWIN NAIDU

Public Protector Selby Baqwa has been asked to intervene in a dispute between 300 schoolteachers, who have not been paid for marking last year's matric exam papers, and the Gauteng Education Department.

The Democratic Party confirmed it had placed the matter in the hands of Baqwa.

And Public Investigator Tinus Schutte said yesterday he would be launching a full-scale inquiry into the issue.

The DP has also called for all payments of teachers to be out-

sourced to a private agency.

Most of the 300 involved are owed around R4 000. They complained that repeated inquiries about the money had been "fobbed off and ignored" by Gauteng's Education MEC Mary Metcalfe's staff.

Meanwhile, religious groups have come out in support of Metcalfe's decision to uphold the expulsion of Jeppe Boys High School pupil Thato Mokoena for being in possession of dagga.

The leaders of various denominational groups praised her for taking a tough stand against crime at schools and hoped her stance would contribute to pro-

moting a culture of learning.

The director of the South African Bishops Conference Group, Sir Biddy Rose Tiernan, said Metcalfe's decision should be seen as a test for discipline under the new legislation.

"There is no room for lawlessness in South Africa as the country embarks on restoring a culture of learning and teaching."

Tulsiram Maharaj, spokesman for the South African Hindu Maha Sabha, said while the organisation was opposed to the abuse or peddling of drugs, it felt the Education Department appeared not to have done enough to help the child in overcoming

any future dealings with dagga. However, the organisation backed Metcalfe's decision to expel the boy.

Moulana Ahmed Kathrada, spokesman for the Council of Muslim Theologians, said that in confirming the expulsion, Metcalfe had delivered a powerful signal that should scare off others who brought drugs into schools.

Rhema Church's the Rev Ron Steele said it was sad that a "young" child could receive such a harsh punishment.

However, circumstances in South Africa were currently such that there was enormous abuse of the law.

Star 21/3/97

(52)

# Matric exam controls to be in place

BY JOVIAL RANTAO  
Political Correspondent

Star 26/3/97

(52)

Cape Town – The Department of Education has put measures in place to ensure that this year's matric examinations will not be as chaotic as last year's. Parliament's portfolio committee on education heard yesterday.

Education Department deputy director-general Dr Ihron Rensburg said that before May this year, the department would release policy and guidelines for matric examinations that would include criteria for admission, grades, exam fees, language medium, the setting of exam papers, the appointment of examiners, and the typing and printing of question papers.

"This is a radical move, from the department playing a watchdog role to a much more active role in ensuring that management plans are in place and that they're implemented," he said.

Rensburg said a national task team had been established to investigate particular needs of provinces to ensure they

would be adequately prepared for this year's exams. He said the national department would monitor the exam process.

He added there were recommendations that marking centres should be decentralised on subject areas rather than on geographic jurisdiction. The markers' conditions of service and their workload were being reviewed in the Education Labour Relations Council.

In reviewing last year's exams, Rensburg said a total of 518 000 pupils had sat for exams in the nine provinces. There were 5 280 reported cases of cheating or fraud. He said most of the cases involved smuggling of notes into examination centres and, to a smaller extent, the purchase of exam papers.

Regarding the late arrival of results, Rensburg said computer test-runs would be done this year to ensure the results would be out on time.

He said it was expected that matric classes would be replaced by a Grade 12 in 2003, in line with the newly launched Curriculum 2005.

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# Bid to halt matric chaos

CT 26/3/97

POLITICAL STAFF

(52)

THE Department of Education had put measures in place to ensure that this year's matric examinations would not be as chaotic as last year's, Parliament's portfolio committee on education heard yesterday.

Education Department deputy director-general Dr Ithron van Rensburg said before May this year the department would release a policy paper and guidelines for matric examinations which would include criteria for admission, grades, exam fees, language medium, the setting of exam papers, the appointment of examiners and the typing and printing of question papers.

"This is a radical move from the department playing a watchdog role to a much more active role in ensuring that management plans are in place," he said.

Van Rensburg said a national task team had been established to investigate the needs of provinces to ensure that they would be adequately prepared for this year's exams. He said the national department would monitor the exam process closely.

He added that there were recommendations that marking centres should be decentralised according to subject areas rather than geographic jurisdiction. The conditions of service of the markers and their workload were being reviewed in the Education Labour Relations Council.

Reviewing last year's results, Van Rensburg said computer test runs would be done this year to ensure that the results would be out on time. "All nine provinces had to deal with a high number of learners and the situation that results should be out before December 25 placed stress on provincial officials."

On teachers' voluntarily severance packages, the department's acting director-general, Mr Roelf du Preez, said 19 308 applications had been received, and 15 541 had been approved.

# Exam cheat suspects number over 5 000

CT 26/3/97

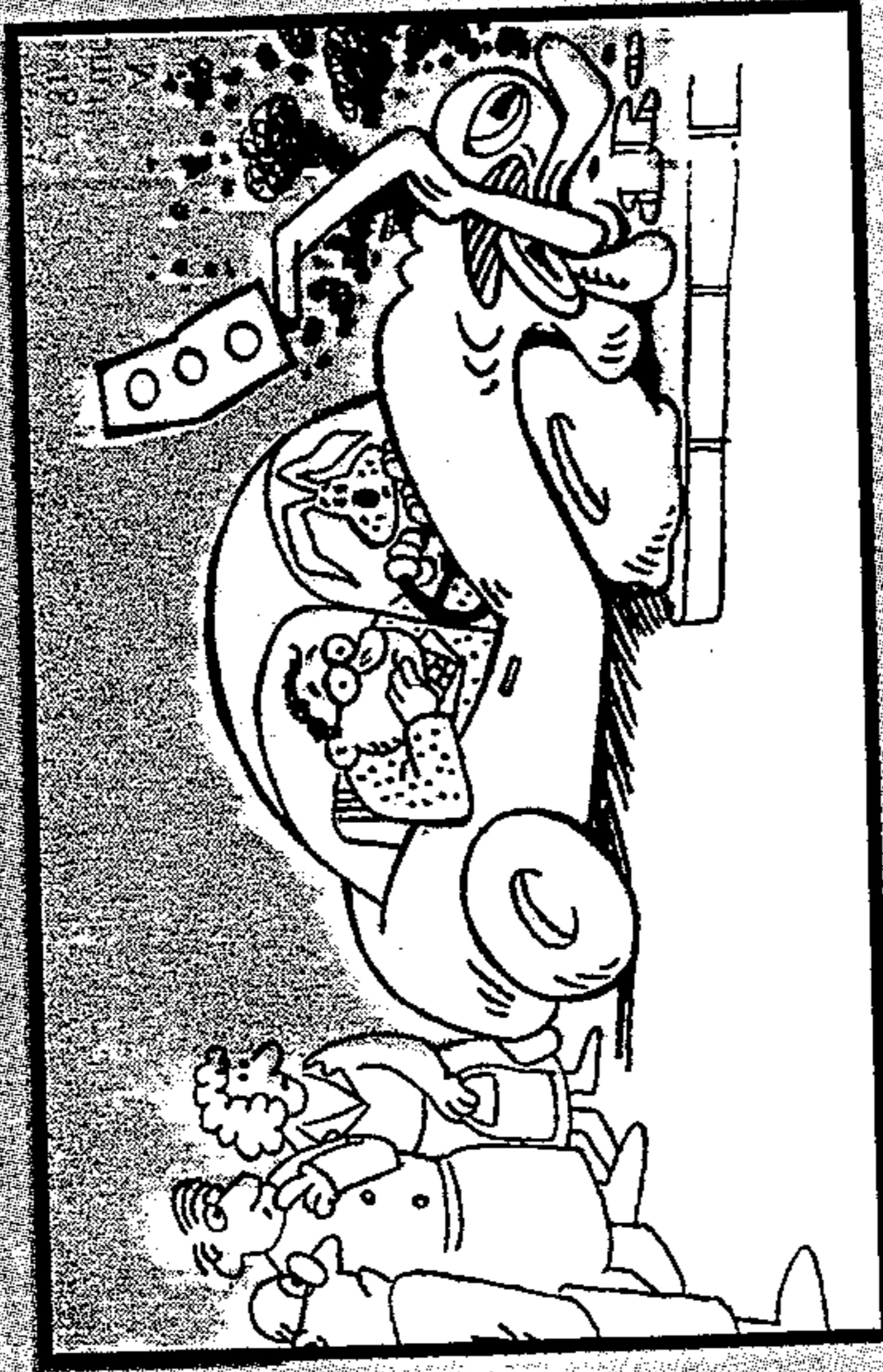
OF the 518 000 pupils who wrote last year's matric exams, 5 280 had been charged with cheating, Education Department deputy director-general Dr Ithron van Rensburg said yesterday.

He told Parliament's portfolio committee on education that most of the cases involved the smuggling of notes into exam centres and, to a less-

er extent, the buying of exam papers. About 1 800 exam papers had been set. It had been verified that nine of these had been leaked or stolen, while there were unconfirmed reports that another 12 had been stolen.

The situation was now under control, Van Rensburg told the education committee. — Sapa

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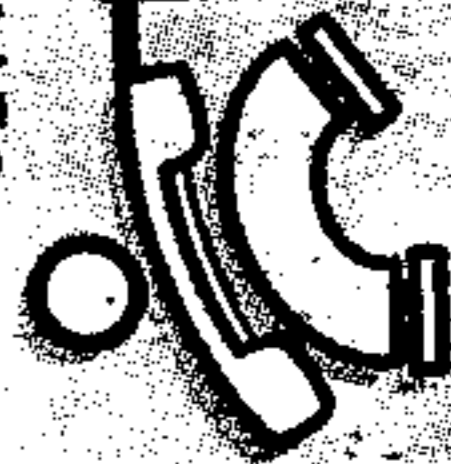


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Guardian



27/5/97

# Exams markers, still waiting to be paid, take legal action

(52)

'Administration problems' leave scores waiting for money for work done last year

By ADAM COOKE

The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) may face court action from teacher organisations, who have referred the problem of unpaid matric markers to their lawyers.

Scores of matric markers are still awaiting payment for work done during last year's exams, a problem which the Government has blamed on administrative difficulties.

Both the Association of Professional Teachers (APT) and the Transvaalse Onderwysersvereniging (TO) have expressed the

concern that experienced markers will not make themselves available for marking this year.

APT executive director Hugo Ackermann said his organisation had reluctantly bowed to the "considerable pressure" from its members to take legal action and papers would be served on the department this week.

The TO's director, Chris Kloppe, said he had written to the Education Labour Relations Council - the bargaining council for all public school teachers - to formally declare a dispute. His organisation hoped to get a court order forcing the department to pay.

"How difficult can it be to sort out computer problems? We are fed up with waiting," he said.

He added some markers had been massively overpaid - one teacher was paid R200 000 - while others could not get any money.

The GDE has battled to address what it calls "systemic challenges" in the inherited system of payment.

Department spokesman Aubrey Matshiqi said in the past DET markers had been paid in April and TED markers by the end of January.

He said reworking the administration of payment had led to

problems.

"There have been areas of human error in the capturing of data but there have also been mismatches of information on many claim forms," he said.

A team of investigators was looking into what had gone wrong and a report with recommendations on how to improve the system would be out in the coming months.

He said 9% of the claims from the 7 000 markers had still not been paid. Some markers had submitted more than one claim because they had marked more than one paper.

Alan 8/4/97

# More than 100 schools implicated in Gauteng matric irregularities

Kevin O'Grady

MORE than 100 pupils had been found guilty of cheating, and 110 schools implicated in irregularities, in last year's Gauteng matric examinations, provincial education department superintendent-general James Maseko said yesterday.

Maseko also said the department would spend an additional R2m improving security systems for this year's exams to prevent a repeat of last year's events which resulted in three separate inquiries being launched into irregularities.

Of 1 585 pupils called to appear before hearings into exams irregularities, 1 144 were found guilty and 441 were cleared of wrongdoing, Maseko said.

At the hearings, 297 pupils admitted their guilt and 847 denied cheating but were found guilty anyway.

Maseko said the pupils who owned up had already written supplementary exams in the subjects in which they were found to have cheated but had effectively been prevented from gaining access to tertiary institutions this year.

Pupils who denied wrongdoing were forced to wait until November to rewrite their exams and would have to rewrite a minimum of three subjects, Maseko said. Pupils found guilty of selling leaked papers faced suspension for two years. These cases were still being investigated.

Maseko said the department was looking at a range of measures against the 15 private schools — mostly inner-city Johannesburg institutions — that were implicated in irregularities.

Although most schools implicated were public schools, irregularities at private schools were generally worse, he said.

At these schools there was "lots of mass copying which means the invigilation system was not in place or was relaxed intentionally", Maseko said.

At one school, which Maseko declined to name, 36 students had been implicated in 560 incidents of irregularities.

Action that was being considered against private schools included withdrawing their right to act as exam centres, withdrawing their state subsidies and laying fraud charges against principals who had deliberately assisted matric candidates.

There were also plans afoot to reduce the number of exam centres for this year's exams and to have private school pupils' exams written at central points where department officials could be present and monitor the proceedings.

Action against education department officials could include laying criminal charges against those suspected of fraud or other statutory offences and investigating charges of mismanagement against others.

Steps to improve security ahead of this year's exams included hiring private computer and security firms to review the department's information systems and improving security of the printing, storage and distribution of exam papers.

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92  
11/4/97

# Guilty pupils must rewrite matric exams

Apr 11/4/97

(52)

Mixed feelings as Gauteng department  
announces moves to end cheating

By **LEE-ANN ALFREDS**  
Education Reporter

A total of 1 144 of the 1 585 matric pupils suspected of cheating in last year's matriculation examinations have been found guilty of wrongdoing and face rewriting their papers, the Gauteng Education Department announced yesterday.

The announcement by superintendent-general James Maseko met with a mixed reaction.

The Democratic Party welcomed the moves as "firm but fair", but a parent of one student found guilty was very upset, saying students had been used as scapegoats by the department.

Maseko said 297 pupils had admitted they had cheated and had been allowed to rewrite the relevant subject in the supplementary examinations last month.

Another 847 found guilty would have to rewrite the entire examination in November because they had refused to admit they cheated, he said.

Maseko said 441 pupils had been cleared of any wrongdoing.

The department also said about 110 schools had been found to have been involved in irregularities and action would be taken against them.

Of the schools, of which about 15 were private institutions, most were situated in the inner city, said irregularities committee coordinator Albert Chaane.

He said the private schools had been responsible for most of the "gross irregularities" which had occurred, including deliberately relaxing invigilation or not putting any in place.

Maseko said the department could either not allow the schools to operate as exam centres in future, or withdraw state subsidies. Fraud charges could also be laid against staff who deliberately allowed pupils to cheat.

He said he believed the action taken against the pupils fitted the crime.

Maseko also announced that recommendations by the Khumalo Commission on how to improve examinations were being implemented.

The commission had been appointed by Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe to investigate the chaos surrounding last year's examinations.

It found seven senior education officials guilty of gross incompetence in the organisation of the examinations and slammed the security and computer systems in place at the time.

Maseko said an investigating officer had been appointed to probe the allegations of mismanagement. Findings were expected to be finalised in three weeks time.

"In 1997 there may be problems (with the examinations) but they won't be the same types," Maseko said.

# Call to tighten security of matric exam process

Jacob Dlamini

CAPE TOWN — Education officials responsible for matric exam papers would have to be in possession of security clearance certificates, public protector Selby Bagwa said yesterday.

Baqwa said officials in all education departments should have these certificates and that only those with security clearance be responsible for production and distribution of the exam papers.

In a report tabled in parliament yesterday, Bagwa called on the national education department to develop a standard set of security arrangements for all the provinces.

His report followed an investigation into claims by the SA Federation of State-aided schools of irregularities and the leaking of the 1996 matric exam papers.

Baqwa said the integrity of last year's exams had been more than substantial in most provinces and that the examination process had not been compromised in seven provinces. He said Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal had experienced the most problems, but that officials had taken proactive and sufficient steps to deal with the irregularities.

"Parents and students in those provinces need not fear or doubt the quality of the certificates issued by authorities," Bagwa said.

He said provinces that did not have laws governing the conduct of matric exams should introduce measures to make it "unattractive to meddle with the examination process".

He said Eastern Cape had already introduced draft legislation to deal with this matter.

BD 17/4/97 (62)

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# Are we playing games with matrics?

*The public needs to know far more about this essential exam*

ART 17/4/97

(52)

RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE INTRODUCTION OF 'CURRICULUM 2005' HAVE CAUSED A PUBLIC STR. MAN YELD AND LEONIE VAN BOMMEL DEBATE THE YEAR-END EXAMINATION SYSTEM AND ASK WHETHER IT IS SIMPLY A GIANT LOTTERY – WHICH MANY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HAVE LONG SUSPECTED.

In 1996, the first provincially set school-leaving examinations were written.

This meant that, for the first time, all the matric students from all the historically segregated education departments wrote the same exams, separated only on a provincial basis.

In other words, for the first time the vast differences in educational provision became visible, and the reality of the effect of decades of educational oppression became clear to all.

From October 1996 onwards, however, press releases on leak scandals took over from any kind of serious reporting on the examinations.

Articles in the press with headings like "exam paper syndicate" were characterised by outrage and sensation, not by what the public has a right to expect – serious and constructive analysis.

This is not to point a finger only at the media, though – they report on what their public wants and there is certainly no tradition in South Africa of high quality feedback on public examinations, and thus no expectation of such.

should not be of public concern, and roundly condemned – of course they should.

But such outrageous incidents could be used constructively if efforts were made to determine what exactly went wrong so that the mistakes were not repeated.

In fact, it is now generally accepted that exam leaks have always taken place, particularly in the old Department of Education and Training system, and that at least this time corrective action is being taken publicly.

The problem is that sensationalising problems with the exam only adds to the general confusion accompanying the transformation of the educational system and feeds the distrust surrounding the integrity of the results.

Now that the transformation of the racially based departments into nine integrated provincial departments has taken place, and all matriculants have written the same exam in each province, we need to look at what the school-leaving examination really entails.

**'The problem is that sensationalising problems with the exam only adds to the general confusion'**

Recent announcements on the introduction of "Curriculum 2005" highlight the need to develop ways of raising public awareness and improving debate about school-based issues as these are reflected in the examination system.

What more do we know and understand of the school-leaving exam beside the facts that there were (yet again) leaks, and that the pass rate for the school-leaving certificate was about 52 percent?

Do we know what skills were tested in the exam papers or how the exam papers



End of an era: elated Rhodes High School matric pupils show off their joy at the end of the matric exams last year. From now, a new regime sets in for scholars

asked of educationists about their silence on these matters.

A recent nationally based press clippings survey conducted by the authors revealed, however, that press coverage of the school-leaving examinations left much to be desired.

Of the 96 articles surveyed in the period December 1995 to January 1997, only two were based on the views of an official examiner.

Teachers' views featured in only 23 percent of the articles, whereas 48 percent drew on information provided by spokesmen for the Department of Education.

Forty-five percent were classified by the researchers as "sensation" (exam leaks, evidence of cheating, marker strikes and so forth), while only 21 percent could be classified as "stimulating debate", in other words, as containing more than one point of view, or presenting different arguments or theories.

Similarly, only 23 percent of the articles were classified as having a serious level of analysis, with 27 percent being extremely superficial.

Inevitably, this kind of coverage ignored the content-related issues of the examination system in favour of more saleable scandals.

This is not to say that appearance of the exam papers on the market, and related instances of corruption or incompetence,

WALE SELL:

Do we know whether candidates are becoming stronger or weaker in these skills - are there trends about which the public should know?

What do examiners have to say about the matriculation exams?

And what did teachers expect from Matric '96?

Are the exams simply a giant lottery, as DET students (and teachers) have long suspected, or is it possible to build public confidence through a careful campaign of public education - starting with the press?

There are a number of compelling reasons for strengthening the school-leaving examination and restoring (or establishing) public confidence in it.

The school-leaving examination is a high stakes examination - by and large, it is what motivates pupils and parents to continue studying against sometimes great odds.

Although not always a reliable indicator of future educational success, at present the senior certificate is still the only realistic gateway to post-secondary education.

It is also still a valued marker of achievement for employment.

The more the value of the certificate is devalued, however, the more likely it is that universities and technicians will begin to develop their own entrance test-

ing schemes and that employers will lose confidence in the certificate.

Removing the "punch" from the end-point of schooling through devaluing the examination would weaken its potential to improve the quality of education.

If serious and skilled effort is put into it, the examination can be used very effectively to support and drive changes in the curriculum.

While perhaps unpalatable, it is a truth nonetheless, that whatever the intrinsic worth of various curricular reforms, and however necessary these are, what the pupils' and the parents' gaze is on, is the examination occurring at the end of the curriculum, and not primarily the curriculum.

Of course, effort should be made to change this - in the meantime, however, it seems foolish in the extreme not to capitalise on this strength of examinations.

In addition, allowing the mass system of education to deliver less information than it could in terms of information about the skills and so forth of its learners, is to waste the taxpayers' money in a most profligate fashion.

The development of expensive alternatives by universities and industry could be avoided to a large extent if the school-leaving examination itself regained credibility. And for a poor country like South Africa, every rand spent on education needs to be carefully justified.

For a better public understanding of the school-leaving examination, the public has to look to the press to provide a lead. Reports should be written (or commissioned) from a more expert perspective.

Input from official examiners could form a crucial ingredient of a press release on examinations.

Furthermore, teachers' and students' views should be more prominently used in any kind of feedback on the school-leaving examination.

Teachers, particularly, have to be taken seriously as they are directly involved in classroom practice.

After all, it is teachers who form the direct link with matriculants in preparing them for the exams.

Ideally, good feedback on the management, content and significance of the matric exams would come from the new provincial examination panels.

An example of a highly organised feed-

back mechanism on examinations comes from the Netherlands, where the department of education routinely produces documents in order to keep both the general public and the professional field informed.

Such information (coming from the department that handles the examinations in all its aspects) allows for a high level of analysis in the Dutch press.

As a result of this, the annual school-leaving exams are much more prominent and are followed by the general public.

In South Africa, the new provincial examination panels are accountable to civil society.

These panels should contribute to a better understanding of the school-leaving examinations, by making information around the setting of the examinations, for instance, available to the press and public.

This kind of accountability has not been a feature of the examination system in South Africa and the press could play a valuable role in promoting its development.

However, developing a proper feedback mechanism is just one of the many tasks facing the Ministry of Education.

The problems in education are many and the road ahead will not be an easy one. But in the meantime, non-governmental structures of society - in which the press is a major player - can monitor the ministry's moves and report back to society in a constructive way.

# 'Show no mercy over exam scams'

(52) Star 17/4/97

**By JOVIAL RANTAO**  
Political Correspondent

Cape Town - The Government should show no mercy to pupils, educators and public servants who contributed in any way to the compromising of an examination by unlawfully buying, selling or reproducing examination papers, Public Protector Selby Baqwa has recommended.

"Individuals who steal, leak, sell or distribute examination papers unlawfully need to be dealt with mercilessly. Learners who accept leaked examination papers are as guilty as the culprits who make them available in the first place," Baqwa said.

In a report released in Parliament yesterday on the progress and integrity of last year's senior certificate, Baqwa said implicated educators and civil servants should be discharged from duty and face criminal prosecution.

He recommended that any person who contravened the provisions should be given a fine not exceeding R10 000 or, in default of payment, imprisonment for a period not exceeding 60 months.

"The courts ought to impose the highest fines and harsher sen-

tences. This ought to apply to educators, civil servants outside the education system and non-civil servants assisting during examinations. The unequivocal message ought to be sent out to all potential culprits that meddling with the examination process is just not worth the fame," Baqwa said.

He suggested that education authorities should consider the disqualification of learners from writing senior certificate examina-

## Baqwa calls for stiffer punishment

tion whenever they were found to have transgressed the laws.

"Disqualified learners ought to be excluded from further participation in matriculation examinations for three years."

Baqwa said the fact that provinces had no laws concerning the conduct of matriculation examinations presented an opportunity for all of them to address the issue proactively. Provinces had been advised to include provisions in their laws which would

make it unattractive to meddle with the examination process.

He said it was incumbent on the national Education Department to investigate and propose a standardised form of security arrangements which could be adopted in all the provinces.

Baqwa said it was clear from an assessment of the nine provinces that the integrity of the matriculation exam in 1996 had been substantial in six provinces.

"There have been significant problems in two provinces, namely KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng. It would seem to me, however, that even in those provinces, the authorities have been proactive and sufficient measures have been taken to redress the problem in the short term," Baqwa said.

He said he had been assured that the national Education Department, through the agency of the Interprovincial Examination Committee and the Heads of Departments Committee, would undertake an in-depth analysis of the process and the problems with a view to highlighting the shortcomings and preventing a recurrence.

# Matric leaks: Baqwa wants no leniency

*Sowetan*  
17/4/97

(52)

Public protector recommends that culprits face full force of the justice system

**By Rafiq Rohan**  
Political Correspondent

**P**OLICE ARE OFFERING rewards of up to R100 000 for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of those behind the leak of matric examination papers last year.

This was revealed to Parliament yesterday by public protector Mr Selby Baqwa in a hard-hitting report on the issue.

"Any teacher or public servant involved in leaking or selling matric exam papers should be shown no mercy.

"Fire them and hand them over to the criminal justice system," Baqwa said in the report he tabled in Parliament.

Baqwa recommended to all provinces that legislation be tightened so that, if found guilty, perpetrators be sentenced to pay fines of up to R10 000.

Baqwa's report says the law should be severe on those found guilty. "The unequivocal message ought to be sent to all potential culprits that meddling with the examination process is just not worth the game," he said.

The province hardest hit by exam leaks last year was Gauteng, where seven examina-

tion papers were leaked before the dates on which they were to be written.

These were biblical studies, English first language, computer studies, accounting, biology, English second language and geography.

A full-time investigative team comprising personnel from the Gauteng department of education and the police is currently looking at leaks within the department.

"The SAPS have conducted investigations by questioning key staff members from the examination section at head office (in Pretoria) and by following up leads which have been acquired by the Gauteng department of education or which they have obtained themselves," the report says.

The team obtained a lead which pointed to a syndicate selling exam papers for profit and individuals could face prosecution, Baqwa said.

The other province hard hit by leaks last year was KwaZulu-Natal where the business economics and physical science papers were available before examinations.

In Durban a number of arrests were made, including that of school inspector Mr Siphon Mchunu of Umlazi.

The Department is now awaiting the decision of parliament on Community Service.

(2) It will depend on the passing of the Bill.

*New questions transferred:*

**Subsidies for homes for the aged**

\*1. Mr P C MCKENZIE asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development: [Written Question No 60]

(a) What is the total amount in subsidies that has been paid over or is to be paid over to each of the provinces for homes for the aged in regard to the 1996-97 financial year and (b) what is the percentage increase or decrease in each case? N116E

**The MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:**

(a) and (b) The amount in subsidies paid to homes for the aged for the 1996/97 financial year in comparison to the 1995/96 financial year well as the percentage decrease/increase per province is provided in the attached table:

Province	Subsidies paid in 1996/97	Subsidies paid in 1995/96	Decrease or increase
Mpumalanga	R10 549 171	R11 970 850	Decrease: 11,88%
Western Cape	R76 726 000	R82 099 000	Decrease: 6,5%
Northern Province	R5 437 536 (Projection)	R5 437 536	Envisaged a decrease, percentage not available
Eastern Cape	R30 378 237 (Projection)	R33 190 455	Decrease: 8,47%
KwaZulu-Natal	R34 572 000	R38 114 491	Decrease: 9,29%
Gauteng	R92 157 000	R83 263 850	Increase: 9,65%
North West	R13 328 000	No amount indicated	Cannot calculate
Free State	Voted estimate R17 913 000	R12 814 000	Increase: 39,8%
Northern Cape	Voted estimate R10 835 000	R12 180 000	Decrease: 11%

**Academic hospitals: bed-occupancy**

\*2. Ms K W NOWEMESHA asked the Minister of Health: [Written Question No 62]

What was the bed-occupancy percentage at each academic hospital in the Republic in 1996? N118E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

I would like to urge the hon member to table this question in the different Provincial Legislatures.

\*3. Mr L D CHUENYANE - Public Works [Written Question No 64] [Question standing over:]

**Provinces: examination anomalies**

\*4. Mr R S SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Education: [Written Question No 74]

(a) How many cases of examination anomalies occurred in each of the provinces at the end of the previous school year and (b) what steps have been taken in each province in respect of such anomalies? N131E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(a) The question requires a lot of detail and it is a bit difficult for me to give all the details here. Therefore could I please table the detailed written response for the member's pleasure at a later stage. May I also urge the member to contact my office if he needs a detailed report from the Task Team that was dealing with this matter. I also want to assure the member that from the reports I got from the HEDCOM Subcommittee on examinations that the measures that were taken were effective.

The nature of the irregularities in the 1996 Senior Certificate Examination, varies from one province to the other. Therefore, this matter will be reported in terms of each of the individual provinces.

1. Western Cape

(a) No. of Verified Irregularities: 4

(b) Nature of the Irregularity and the Steps taken

In three of the cases candidates were in possession of crib notes and one candidate copied from another candidate.

The results of the candidates involved were declared null and void and they were permitted to write the examination at the end of 1997.

2. North West Province

(a) No. of Verified Irregularities: 8

(b) Nature of the Irregularity and the Steps Taken:

- During the writing of the Business Economics, Economics and Biblical Studies papers, a total of six candidates were found to be in possession of crib notes.

In all six cases the scripts were marked and the candidates attained a fail mark. These candidates were not permitted to write the supplementary examination, but may write the November 1997 examination.

- One candidate asked his brother to write the examination paper for him.

The candidate was given a zero score in the paper concerned and he was not allowed to write the supplementary examination, but may write the November 1997 examination.

- In another case, a candidate asked his sister who was writing the same examination to assist him after she had completed answering her paper. The sister complied.

Both the candidates forfeited their marks in the subject concerned and will not be allowed to write the supplementary examination, but may write the November 1997 examination.

3. Northern Province

(a) No. of Verified Irregularities: 174

(b) Nature of the Irregularity and the Steps Taken:

- A total of 167 candidates were identified by the invigilators to be in possession of crib notes during the examination. These candidates were advised in writing to seek an interview with the Irregularities Officer. None of them have come forward and this was taken as an admission of guilt. The results of these candidates in the subjects concerned, was nullified.

- A large number of candidates allegedly received assistance from other candidates during the examination. These candidates were also interviewed by the Irregularities Officer, but since there was no evidence to support these allegations, the results of these candidates were released.

- The other instances of cheating related to candidates presenting answer books that were different from the ones provided by the invigilator and in another case, two candidates handed in scripts with the same examination number.

These cases are still under investigation.

4. Gauteng

(a) No. of Verified Irregularities: 1 413

(b) Nature of the Irregularity and the Steps Taken:

- Poor/Negligent Invigilation at Examination Centres

A large number of students were copying either from textbooks or crib notes during the examination. This was evident from the

model essays/answers presented by certain students and by answers of students that were identical.

In History HG, Biology HG and English 1st language HG Paper 2, a large number of students presented the examiner's marking memorandum in detail. Since there was no control by certain Chief Invigilators, of the number and issue of answer books at examination centres, it is possible that answer books were taken home by some students and answers were written out at home and then brought into the examination centre.

It is also evident that some invigilators and teachers assisted candidates by working out, writing out (or reading out) the answers to the questions on either the chalkboard or overhead transparency.

• Access to Examination Question Papers and Marking Memoranda

From the information gained from the team investigating the theft of examination papers, it became evident that candidates at certain examination centres had access, either to the question paper or the examiner's memorandum. Chief Examiners were given a list of these centres and the subjects, and were asked to be particularly vigilant when marking and moderating these scripts. As a result further irregularities were identified at examination centres, in Biology HG, History HG, Afrikaans HG 2nd language, Geography HG Paper 1 and English HG 1st language Paper 2.

(b) Action Taken

The Gauteng Department of Education carried out a thorough investigation of all alleged irregularities relating to pupils and the following represents the results of the investigation and the action taken.

Result of Investigation      Action Taken

\*Not guilty of irregularity or inconclusive evidence      Unconditional release of results

\*Admitted guilt

Results in the subject cancelled with an opportunity to rewrite the subject in March 1997

\*Does not admit guilt but is guilty      Results cancelled in the subject with an opportunity to rewrite in November 1997

\*Complicity in selling of examination papers      Two year suspension

The investigations have also revealed that a number of private schools have been directly responsible for a number of irregularities. Reports on these institutions and the nature of the irregularities will be forwarded to the Deputy Director-General: Policy and Administration (GDE) for further action. Possible action against these schools could include de-registration of the school as an examinations centre, withdrawal of subsidies or the de-recognition of the school by the department as an educational institution.

The Police investigations which related to other persons involved in the irregularities has resulted in court cases and one individual has been convicted.

5. Northern Cape

(a) No. of Verified Irregularities: 1

(b) Nature of the Irregularity and the Steps Taken:

One pupil purchased the Biology HG and Mathematics SG paper from an unknown source, and either provided it to, or worked through the questions with three fellow pupils.

A Committee of inquiry was appointed by the MEC: Education. The results of the candidates were withheld pending the outcome of the enquiry. The inquiry concluded that three of the four pupils were guilty of an irregularity and their results were declared null and void. The results of the fourth candidate was released unconditionally.

6. Mpumalanga

(a) No. of Verified Irregularities: 150

(b) Nature of the Irregularity and the Steps Taken:

- Candidate were found with crib notes in their possession and in other cases two scripts were presented for one candidate.
- The candidates involved were interviewed and in the case of the use of crib notes, the candidates admitted and their results were nullified and they were allowed to write the supplementary examination.

In the other case, where candidates submitted two scripts, the results have been withheld and the matter is still under investigation.

7. Kwazulu-Natal

(a) No. of reported Irregularity (not verified): 3226

(b) Nature of the Irregularity and the Steps Taken

- 44 Candidates were caught copying during the examination, by the invigilator.
- 262 persons were found writing an examination on behalf of another. 24 of these persons were arrested during the writing of the examination by the SAPS.
- 672 Candidates were suspected of having been assisted by invigilators. 106 of these cases have been confirmed during the interview with candidates.

8. Eastern Cape

(a) NO. of verified Irregularities: 454

(b) Nature of Irregularity

- 48 candidates were found guilty of cribbing
- 406 candidates were minimally assisted by invigilators.

the lack of evidence.

Every candidate suspected of being involved in any sort of examination malpractice was afforded the opportunity of scrutinising his/her script in the presence of the Provincial Irregularity Examiner and to make a written submission to the Provincial Disciplinary Committee. The interview and the submissions was made in the language chosen by the candidate.

All Chief Invigilators, Principals of Centres where malpractices have occurred were required to present themselves before a panel consisting of the Regional Chief Director, members of the Inspectorate, members of the Disciplinary Committee and the Department's Legal Advisor.

Candidates found guilty of serious malpractice, have had their results retained and are barred from writing the Kwazulu Natal Senior Certificate Examinations for two years. This measure was applied in 104 cases. Other candidates guilty of minor offences will have their results retained but they will be allowed to rewrite the examination at the end of 1997.

Steps Taken

- 102 cases of two scripts submitted for one candidate.
- 2 064 cases of suspected copying were identified by the marking teams.

Action Taken

- Every script submitted for further investigation was scrutinised by the Disciplinary Committee. Of the 3226 scripts that were submitted, 578 results were released due to

Candidates found guilty of cribbing were given 0 for that paper.

Officials that were responsible for assisting candidates in the examination were severely reprimanded and were given a written letter of warning.

Candidates that were assisted by invigilators, had their marks adjusted.

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1991E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) The SADC Trade Protocol was adopted and signed by all member states, except Angola, during the 1996 SADC Summit in Maseru. To date, Tanzania and Mauritius have ratified the Protocol during the first half of 1997.

SADC Ministers of Trade agreed during their meeting in Dar-es-Salaam in August 1997 that certain prerequisites for ratification of the Trade Protocol are in place and urged member states to complete the process of ratification as soon as possible. These preconditions included the finalisation of the "Study to Determine Tariff Schedules", as well as the conclusion of options and modalities for tariff reduction and time frames for the submission of sensitive products lists. Within this context it is anticipated that South Africa will ratify the Protocol in due course.

Progress in the ratification of the SADC Trade Protocol is dependent on the nature of domestic legislative procedures (constitutional demands) in each member state, but a conservative appraisal is that ratification by all member states should be completed by the next annual SADC Summit. The South African position towards ratification is that it (ratification) will depend on the successful outcome of a process of negotiation on the elements of the Protocol.

(b) All SADC member states, with the exception of Angola, are involved. Angola confirmed during the 1997 Summit in Blantyre that she is in the process of signing this protocol.

(2) No.

The line-function department responsible for this issue is the Department of Trade and Industry. Minister Erwin is fully *au fait* with the status of this Protocol due to his direct

involvement in regional negotiations and it is his prerogative to elaborate further on the matter.

**SATRA: ruling against call-back companies**

\*34. Mr L M GREEN asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

(1) Whether the South African Telecommunications Regulating Authority has ruled against call-back companies operating in South Africa; if so,

(2) whether this ruling will affect the approximately 500 persons working for these companies; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, how? N1992E

The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

*Chairperson of SATRA advises me as follows:*

(1) The South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA) has not ruled against call-back operations but has instead, by means of a notice in the *Government Gazette* made the public aware that call-back operations are prohibited in South Africa by the Telecommunications Act, 1996, (Act no. 103 of 1996). The position is briefly as follows:

In South Africa, conduct of telecommunications requires licensing (section 32) or exemption from licensing (section 33(2)).

Call-back operations are neither licensed in terms of section 32 nor are they exempted from being licensed in terms of section 33(2).

Furthermore, in terms of section 36(3) only Telkom may provide an international telecommunications service. In other words, even if call-back operators were to apply for a licence, they would not be granted same for the period of exclusivity granted to Telkom.

(2) It seems to SATRA that call-back operators conduct their business in South Africa through agents. It is conceivable, therefore, that such agents may be affected by the prohibition. It must also be borne in mind that some of the call operators have represented to the public

(and, therefore, to their agents) that their operations are lawful in South Africa while that is not true. Consequently, it is SATRA's view that remedies for such agents lie within the relationship they have with their principals.

**Matriculants: choice of 11 languages for second language**

\*35. Mr L M GREEN asked the Minister of Education:

Whether matriculants are to have a choice of 11 languages out of which to choose their second language; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? N1993E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

Yes, a Senior Certificate will be issued to a candidate who is not an immigrant and who has offered and wrote examinations in at least six instructional offerings, provided that two official languages, one on First Language level and the other one on either First, or Second Language level are offered. All eleven official languages are currently offered on First and Second Language level and a candidate may therefore, for Senior Certificate purposes, offer any combination of the eleven official languages, provided that one of the languages is offered on First Language level and the second language on at least Second Language level. As far as the nine African Languages are concerned, not more than one language shall be offered from the same group, viz. from the group isiXhosa, isiZulu, Siswati and isiNdebele, and the group: Sepedi, Sesotho and Setswana.

A candidate may, however, substitute one of the official languages with an approved language, provided that such a language is either a First or Second Language level. Currently only German First Language complies with this requirement.

**Complaints about customer service on SAAs domestic services**

\*36. Mr H K SINGH asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:

(1) Whether she or the South African Airways

has received any complaints to the effect that the standard of customer service on the SAAs domestic services does not comply with international standards; if so,

(2) whether she or the SAA intends taking any steps to raise the standard of customer service on the SAAs domestic services to international standards; if not, why not; if so, what steps? N1994E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

*Transnet Limited furnished the following reply to the hon member's question:*

(1) No.

(2) Falls away.

**Local government: measures on transparency/consumer protection/options/performance**

\*37. Dr R RABINOWITZ asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:

(1) Whether any regulatory measures are applied in local government to ensure good governance in respect of accountability and transparency, consumer protection in respect of standards and tariffs, efficiency through the encouragement of competition as a matter of general policy, the promotion of the principle of local options, the monitoring of performance and/or the involvement of stakeholders in decision-making; if so, what measures; if not,

(2) whether it is the intention to take any steps aimed at creating such measures; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when? N1995E

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

(1) Yes. The *Local Government Transition Act Second Amendment Act (Act 97 of 1996)*, requires municipalities to implement a range of measures to ensure effective service delivery, proper planning and budgeting, sound financial management, accountability to

# Pupils 'arriving at school drunk'

## Principals slam easy access at shebeens

SAT ARCAUS

6/9/97

SA

SA

JULIAN JACOBS

Many primary school children on the Cape Flats come to school drunk or suffering from hangovers, principals claim.

Several prominent Mitchell's Plain principals have accused shebeens owners of selling alcohol to minors.

The principals asked that they and their schools not be identified as they feared retaliation from shebeen owners in their neighbourhoods.

One of the principals said he had a case in July at his school when he found four boys all in Standard 4 under the influence of alcohol at

9am. He said that one of the four boys had been working at a local shebeen, where he bought alcohol and brought it to school, offering it to some of his friends in a coldrink bottle.

"All of them drank it and couldn't walk while throwing up," he principal said.

He said this was a common occurrence and not surprising because 70% of his pupils lived near shebeens.

"The situation is becoming worse by the day as children can get easy access to alcohol at shebeens where they buy alcohol for their parents," he said.

In fact, often these children bought the liquor for their own use.

He said there appeared to be no control over the sale of alcohol at shebeens while there were some restrictions at legal taverns.

Another principal said the problem of alcohol abuse among children in the area was due to parents leaving their children unattended. Shebeens were easily accessible because they provided entertainment as well.

"I nipped the problem in the bud and very quickly," she said.

She had now introduced a programme to look after children before and after school hours. The programme was managed by unemployed parents who live in the area.

Schools have called in the South African

National Council on Alcohol and Drugs Dependency (Sanca) to help fight the problem.

Judy Cockrill, a Sanca social worker, said children were experimenting with alcohol and most did it after school and over weekends.

She said Hanover Park, where she worked, had not had any cases of primary school children coming to school drunk, but the situation "was rife among high school pupils".

Ms Cockrill said Sanca had programmes at various schools and often gave life skills training, which included talks on substance abuse and its effects. She said shebeen owners in most of the Cape Flats were role models for hundreds of impressionable children.



# 'Pupils should pay costs of high school'

Kevin O'Grady

BD 9/9/97 (52)

A GOVERNMENT-appointed committee has recommended that learners be required to pay at least 20% of the cost of their education for the last three years of secondary school tuition or at the equivalent level in the national qualifications framework.

However, the committee, appointed by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu last year to investigate transforming the further education and training sector, also proposed a tax rebate for people who pay their own further education fees.

While the principle of rewarding individuals for paying for their own training was important, SA would need to implement a "more individualised tax system" to allow people falling below the R60 000 Site threshold to qualify for the rebate, the committee said.

The committee's report, made public yesterday, also proposes that provisions in the Tax Act be extended to make donations to education and development organisations tax deductible.

The committee found that further education enrolments were skewed heavily in favour of secondary schools and previously employed people and suggested this be changed.

Last year there were 2,1-million previously employed people enrolled at secondary schools, 58 554 full-time equivalent students at technical colleges, about 60 000 at private colleges and about 5 000 at youth colleges, fin-

ishing schools and community colleges, the report said.

There were between 630 000 and 2,7-million employed people enrolled in further education programmes out of a labour force of 10-million and recent labour department figures showed that the training of unemployed people had dropped from 400 000 a year to 150 000, the report said.

Education deputy director-general Ihron Rensburg said that although Bengu was still studying the report, he agreed with the committee that SA could "no longer afford further education and training to be the stepchild of higher education, nor for it to be dominated by school education".

Committee chairman Silas Zuma said the committee had recommended that further education and training offer multiple entry and exit points and a range of qualifications at different levels.

It should also involve a range of providers such as secondary schools, colleges, private providers, and commerce and industry, with all providers treated and funded in the same way.

This would entail revising the way secondary schools were funded, possibly changing them from being funded on an institutional basis to being funded according to the programmes they offered and the number of students enrolled.

Zuma said the committee proposed earmarked funding for redress and "strategic priorities" such as information systems and the promotion of intermediate level technical training.

## qualand Exploration and Finance ny Limited

(011100/06)  
epublic of South Africa)

# Panic rush on top

## Fearful parents flock to private

SABATA NGCAI  
EDUCATION REPORTER

Top government high schools cannot cope with the huge number of applications for Standard 6 next year and private schools are starting extra classes because of the demand.

Hundreds of applications to former Model C schools have been turned down because classes are full.

The Western Cape Education Department says the onus is on parents to find

alternative schools for their children if the ones they choose are full.

The chief director for education provision, John Lyners, said he understood the problem but "there is nothing we can do".

Uncertainty about the future of education, increasing overcrowding and lack of equipment are forcing parents, especially from the townships, to apply to enrol their children at former Model C schools.

Schools have been inundated with applications and telephone inquiries.

Westerford High School in Rondebosch

has had more than 500 applications for Standard 6 next year but has room for only 180.

Wynberg Girls' High has had about 500, 100 more than last year.

The school takes only 200 pupils a year and about 100 of these come from the junior school.

Wynberg Boys' High School has had about 290 applications but admits only 180 a year, 134 of them from Wynberg Boys' Junior School.

The high school has six Standard 6 classes of 30 pupils each.

SACS has had more than 320 applications for Standard 6.

Principal Gordon Law said this was almost the same number as applied last year. The school takes 180 a year and 95 to 100 of these come from the SACS junior school.

Pressure is increasing on private schools to enrol more pupils in Standard 6.

St George's Grammar School in Mowbray is starting an extra Standard 6 class next year.

"The demand is partially because of

uncertainty in state education," said deputy principal Barry Hart.

"Many parents are worried about increasing class numbers.

"The pupil-teacher ratios in our schools are much lower," he said.

St Joseph's College in Rondebosch is also starting an extra Standard 6 class because of demand.

Parents have to fork out thousands of rands to educate their children at private schools. Standard 6 fees at St Joseph's are about R7 800 a year.

# Schools

ARC 12/19/97

# No cheating for the classes of 97

Even education bosses are barred from exam vaults

ST 21/9/97

GILLIAN ANSTEEY

**W**ITH one month to go before the start of matric exams, the Department of Education is doing everything it can to prevent a repeat of last year's fiasco.

Security is so tight this year that Mpumalanga's education MEC, David Mabuza, was recently refused entry to the province's exam centre.

And staff at the building where Gauteng's exam papers are stored call it "Alcatraz".

Security is a priority after last year's disaster with the leakage of papers, inaccurate processing of results and exam markers paid late.

A spokesman for the Northern Cape said: "We've got burglar bars, doors that lock automatically and codes to punch in. Edward Pratt, our director of exams, is adamant that nothing will go wrong."

The KwaZulu Natal department, which has a record number of 149 103 candidates writing this year, is equally confident. "Any loopholes have been closed," said its assistant director of communication, Nagoor Bissetty.

"Last year's security appeared to be some inside problem and that's been blocked," he said.

Despite these assurances, some doubts exist.

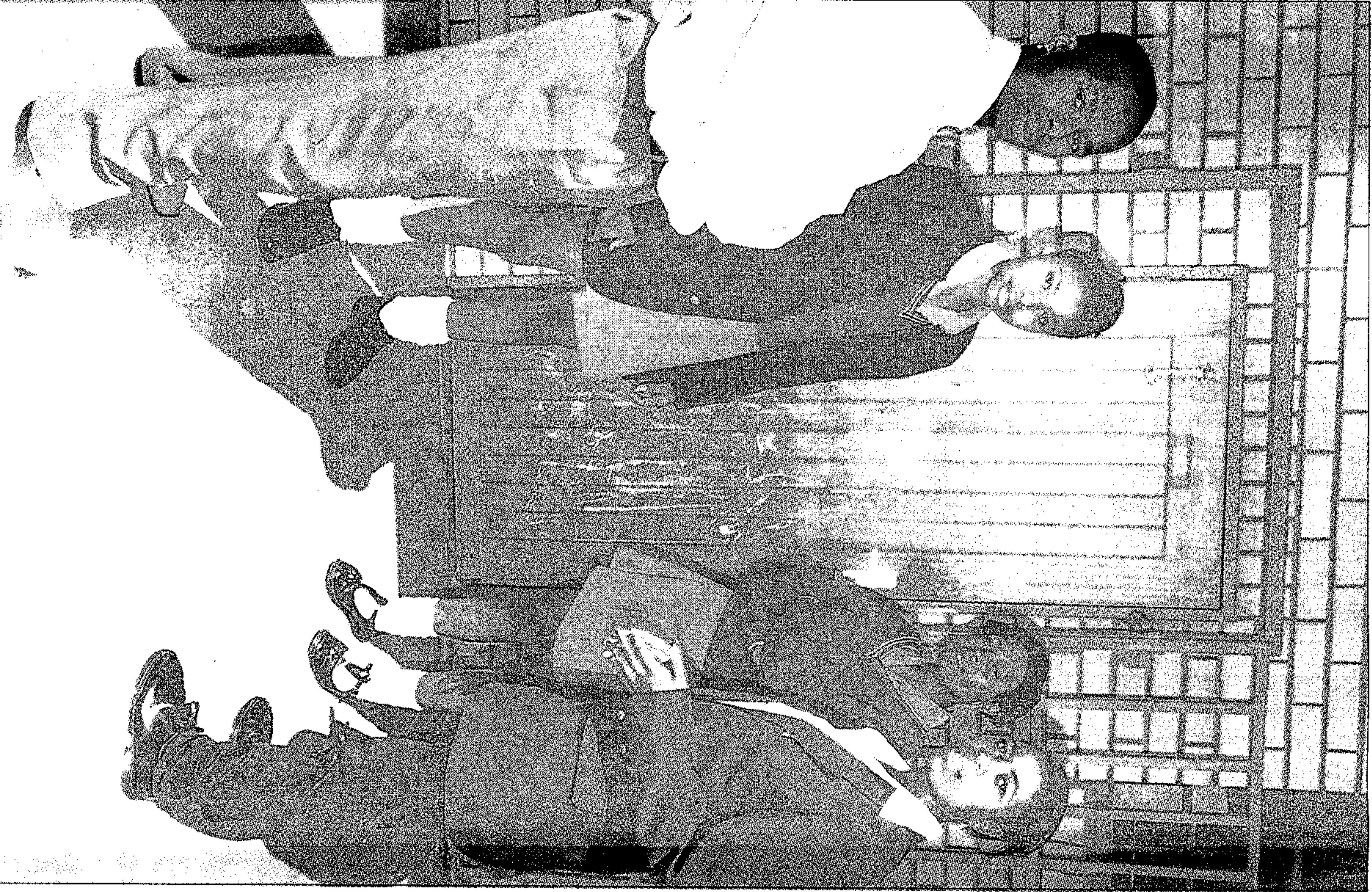
The national department was unable to say how many candidates were writing the exam.

The department's head of communications, Portia Mairice, said she did not think all the provinces had completed registering their students.

There is also a question mark over whether schools and pupils are ready for the exams.

The Sunday Times paid an unannounced visit to a Soweto school, chosen at random, on Friday morning.

Matric pupils at Fons Luminis



SCHOOL IS OUT: Matric pupils Simon Kungoane, 19, Rebecca Mokwena, 19, Tshidi Sebesho, 19, and selsane Mphomane, 16, contemplate an uncertain future

Picture: JOE SEFALE

Secondary were hanging around outside the classrooms and chatting — despite the fact that it wasn't break time.

The graffiti on the walls included "Education is the Power". But few of the pupils appeared to be taking their studies seriously.

One pupil said he did not know what lesson he was supposed to be having, and another strolled in after about 15 minutes, jiving to the music she was listening to on a Walkman.

Tselane Mphomane said she was out of class because she was a member of the students' representative council, and was collecting funds for the matric dance to be held next week.

None of the pupils interviewed was doing more than three hours studying — even though their trial exams start tomorrow.

Matric English teacher, Thandi Nisoole, said: "After school some pupils close their books and don't see them again until the next day."

Their lackadaisical attitude is not entirely their fault. Mphomane said the government did not supply them with textbooks this year. "We had to buy our own and some parents couldn't afford it."

Her friend said they either borrowed books or stole them. Schools in other provinces

seen to have had similar problems.

Robert Tshazbana, the head of the language department at Molly Blackburn Senior Secondary in Uitenhage, said they ordered 150 copies of the matric setwork *Macbeth*. Initially 74 arrived. The rest were delivered only last month.

Sophia Phala, a matric accounting teacher at Glen Cowie Secondary in the Northern Province, said the government had also failed to supply them with textbooks, so the school had eventually bought them.

Brian Basterman, the principal of Daniels Khatliso Senior Secondary in Grahamstown, said they had also not received enough copies of *Macbeth* and had been forced to borrow from other schools or make photocopies.

"We are a poor school. We have corrugated-iron classrooms. Most of the science equipment we received we can't use because we don't have electricity. The pupils are trying but it's like having a false start," he said.

Thomas Mokgawa, a maths teacher at Masiphakaze Secondary in Tembisa, said that while some pupils were planning to come to school for extra lessons during the holidays,

others weren't concerned about passing or failing.

The national Department of Education is trying to do the job of leading the exams, which are a provincial responsibility.

This year, the department said, everything was better prepared for the following reasons:

- An inter-provincial committee, known as Ipec, has been established to co-ordinate the exams.

- A national task team has also been appointed to identify problems and monitor exams.

- The department and Ipec are busy developing a document which will provide guidelines to the provinces on practices such as the appointment of examiners and irregularity procedures.

- The Education Labour Relations Council is about to ratify a document outlining the service conditions for exam-related work; and

- A confidentiality and secrecy agreement has been prepared, which all those involved in the exams will have to sign.

Dr Hiron Rensburg, a deputy-director at the education department, said the task team had visited all nine provinces.

"Barring certain problems that are now being attended to, provinces are progressing in terms of the management plan."

# New <sup>(52)</sup> board will yet *Star 25/9/97* exams

By HOPEWELL RADEBE  
Provincial Reporter

Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe has tabled an Examination and Assessment Bill in the legislature. It provides for the establishment of a board that will scrutinise examination procedures and policies.

Metcalfe said the board would comprise academics and administrative experts to ensure that quality and standards of education were not compromised. It would make recommendations regarding policy and monitor its implementation.

She said feedback from the public, as well as the 1996 examination inquiry chaired by Bongani Khumalo, had prompted the need for the establishment of the board.

The inquiry had recommended that the board be established to "separate the player and the referee" in assessing the competence of the examinations conducted by the Government.

The legislature has referred the bill to the education standing committee for debate.

# Bid to make matric exams leakproof

CT 25/9/97 (52)

**TROYE LUND**

SECURITY has been radically tightened to protect this year's 52 000 matric pupils from the leaks that caused mayhem with last year's examinations.

The Western Cape Education Department's printers have begun printing the papers, training staff and finalising secret strategies to make this year's exams more secure and administratively efficient than they have ever been.

Matric exams in the Western Cape were nowhere near as scandalous as they became in other provinces last year where

a roaring trade was created by officials, teachers and pupils selling question papers.

Principals and teachers said their greatest concern as the exams approached, was that schools make up the academic time lost through teacher strikes and disturbances this year.

They were confident in the department's ability to run the exams and were positive the Western Cape would once again come out tops in results and exam administration.

But the "hiccups" that were experienced last year had to be avoided, provincial director of curriculum management Mr

Brian Schreuder said.

As co-ordinator and manager of the examinations this year he has implemented several new measures to ensure that this year's matrics sit "no-nonsense" exam papers that are on time, accurate, clear, correctly marked and above all, securely kept and transported.

Closed circuit televisions and electronic gates have been installed where papers will be stored and marked.

Schreuder said security measures around papers in transit to and from exam centres had been radically tightened.

"But, it is the sheer adminis-

trative load that is the real nightmare," Schreuder said adding that the volume of paperwork had become more complicated to handle now that apartheid's 15 different education departments had been amalgamated.

There are 153 exam papers that have to be set, checked, moderated and printed in time.

"For the past two years cognisance was not taken of the enormity of handling an amalgamated department. This year each step has been isolated and an overseer appointed. We are finally getting the process into a manageable cycle."

# Teachers' unions hope for smooth matric exams

By ADAM COOKE

With two weeks to go before the start of this year's matric exams, education officials and teacher unions say they are optimistic that the shambles of last year will not be repeated.

They said yesterday that Gauteng's education department had pulled out all stops to ensure a smooth exam period.

Last year a number of exam papers were leaked and stolen and senior department officials were criticised for their preparations and management skills.

Improved procedures in turn would lead to better results for the 80 000 full-time and 46 500 part-time matric pupils who start writing on October 13 and end on December 2.

Gauteng public schools start a week-long break today, which

will allow matric pupils to begin their pre-exam preparations. As an indication of how seriously schools are approaching the exercise, some schools in townships will continue teaching through the break.

Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe said that while she did not expect the exams would ever be a trouble-free exercise, she would be "bewildered" if there were mishaps of the sort that happened last year.

"Security for this year's exams is tighter than it has ever been in any education department," she said. Metcalfe added that the team of department officials under director of exams and certification Ian Moll had worked according to the strict deadlines of a day-to-day master plan.

Unlike previous years, when

(52) exam papers were printed in several venues, this year the question papers are being set, moderated, typed, laid out and printed at a single, high-security venue.

The location of this venue has not been disclosed.

Metcalfe said problems with the department's information technology section had been overcome after a computer system operated by specialists was put in place.

Gauteng's South African Democratic Teachers' Union secretary Jabu Ngwenya said few teachers had expressed concern over the preparations.

"There have been one or two cases of disruptions to classes this year but I believe schools have made up for lost time."

Ngwenya said he expected a better pass rate this year in

stan 26/9/97  
Gauteng than last year's because there had been greater enthusiasm from teachers and pupils.

The director of the Transvaalse Onderwysersvereniging, Chris Klopper, said he was "expecting better results than ever before".

The deputy director of the National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa, Willem Boshoff, added his voice to the positive mood when he said many disadvantaged schools were having extra lessons to improve performance.

He said the department's planning had been more thorough than last year: "They have addressed all the problems that arose."

"I think they learnt a lot from that debacle," he said.



**OVERTIME:** Barry Collins attends his first A-level lesson of this term.

**PICTURES:** KIM LUDBROOK

## Senior certificate 'too thin on top'

**TROYE LUND**

52

CT 2/10/97

THE present senior certificate, especially at higher grade level, has been assessed as being too thin and in need of bolstering with an internationally recognised qualification such as Britain's A-level programme.

"You can't even get accepted into the University of Namibia with a South African matric anymore. An A-level qualification gives pupils access to more overseas, and this is becoming essential as the world becomes more of a global village," said Ms Barbara Elion, co-ordinator of the A-level programme at Fairmont High in Durbanville.

The content of the A-level programme differs from the matric syllabus, Elion said, in that it offers more in-depth.

Classes are smaller, tutorial type discussion groups. Students who for example study physics, would be able to also study astrophysics, telecommunications or electronics and subjects like pure maths are combined with interrelated subjects such as statistics and logic.

A-level examinations are a minimum of six hours with science and biology exams extending over 10 hours and each subject requiring students to express themselves in clear and meaningful English.

Parents Elion had discussed the programme with were in favour of acquiring an internationally recognised qualification but were not as enthusiastic about paying the R2 600 per subject per year, she said.

ALEVELS ATTACKED

# Educating pupils <sup>(52)</sup> for export — claim

CT 2/10/97

**ALEVELS** are about engaging children with the sciences and arts and teaching them to ask questions that do not have answers but inspire them to seek further, their defenders argue. **TROYE LUND** reports.

**S**TINGING criticism has been directed at schools that have decided to go the A-level route. It is seen to be "educating pupils for export" and neglecting to develop a South African education system.

Mr Mike Henning, chairperson of a group that represents about half South Africa's independent schools, said schools offering A-levels were "trading on uncertainties" and that educators' energies should be focused on maintaining existing standards.

The group is not encouraging any of its members to go the A-level route as it believes the South African matric qualification is on a par with other international examinations and equips students adequately for tertiary studies.

"Our priority is to sustain excellent South African public schooling," said Henning.

The Western Cape Education Department said that because A-levels were not required for entry into SA universities, there was no need for pupils to take them.

Few countries had a 13-year schooling system, as the British did and most had a 12-year one, like South Africa, the department noted.

However, Ms Barbara Ellison, who quit teaching after 18 years and started the A-level programme at Fairmont High School

in Durbanville, said: "It is not just about educating children for export. None of my students are going anywhere. A-levels are about the types of tutors, the specialised and individual attention that state education just can't offer.

"They are about engaging children with the sciences and arts, teaching them to ask questions that do not have answers but inspire them to seek further. What is wrong with promoting excellence?"

The tutors she had teamed up with are academics who were doing research in the subjects they are teaching.

Educators expect universities to start relying less on the matric certificate and the point system of winning a place.

They said universities were already starting to set their own entrance requirements and specific examinations to determine the aptitude and ability of students.

Stellenbosch University said it would be discussing what examinations would be acceptable in future and would be guided by the matriculation board.

Some academics at Natal University said the present state of qualification was not adequate and that as a result of the point system many students got into university but did not make it through first year.

They said students in first year were "given a lot of rope to hang themselves".



**POINT OF DEPARTURE:** Two pupils, Paul Maneveld (left) and Nicholas Eays, debate a point in their A-level class at Fairmont High School.



# Stringent security measures for matric exams

(52)

Star 2/10/97

By CHERYL HUNTER

Gauteng's Class of 1997 – more than 120 000 pupils – will begin writing their matric examinations in just 10 days and authorities have promised that everything will run smoothly this year.

At a press conference in Johannesburg yesterday, Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe said she would “publicly eat my hat” if there was a repeat of last year's leaked examination papers or other administrative bungles, considering the security measures

put in place this year.

Examinations director Ian Moll said a computer management system had been set up which would track every exam paper by means of a barcode, and all question papers needed for the first two weeks of the exams had already been printed and packaged.

Moll said the rest of the papers would be packaged in good time and there was a master plan to ensure efficient delivery of the 48 000 packages to 736 examination centres.

“Some teachers will still have to collect papers on the

day of the examination, but security has been tightened and they will have to provide identity documents before papers are released to them,” he said.

Once the papers are at the school, only the principal may open the packages and no school may keep exam papers on their premises overnight.

The department had been faced with an initial shortage of markers, which Metcalfe said was a result of people's reluctance to apply after last year's problems with working conditions and payment.

Superintendent-general

James Maseko said these problems had been resolved and there would be sufficient markers. Markers will be paid per hour, not per paper, this year, and payment will be made to their accounts electronically.

Pupils will have to present their identity document and personal timetable at each exam centre before being allowed to write papers.

Marking should start on November 13 and finish by December 10, but no results will be released before December 31. They are expected to be released on January 7.

STUDENTS PREPARED FOR A-LEVELS

# City schools reject



**SOME CAPE** schools are turning to an A-level system as an "insurance mechanism" should education standards become inadequate. Education Writer **TROYE LUND** reports.

**P**ROMINENT city schools are offering pupils international matric qualifications as a feeling grows among educators that our education standards are slipping.

"You have to apply to fail matric in South Africa today," quipped one teacher.

The first batch of A-level candidates will sit Britain's Cambridge University exam in January, after having written their Western Cape Senior Certificate (WCSC). The A-level qualification is a means of supplementing the WCSC.

Ms Barbara Elion, the first educator to co-ordinate the A-level programme in the province, said:

"In certain matric subjects it would appear that the vaguest hint of a coherent thought is credited. Teachers admit that this is how exams are marked but few will stick their necks out and say it."

Elion, a high school English teacher, left the profession after 18 years because of the frustrations caused by "what was supposedly" a higher grade subject.

With six tutors — all academics doing related research in each of the A-level subjects — she is preparing 27 Std 9 and 10 Fairmont High School pupils for A-levels.

"We are living in politically awkward times and instead of raising standards we are dropping them so that more people can get through. This is only fair given the history of SA education," said Elion.

Schools that have opted for the A-level route for next year include Wynberg Girls High and Wynberg Boys High, Fairmont and Bishops.

Pinelands High may follow in 1999 and Herschel is also considering the option.

The 80 state schools that backed Grove Primary School in court action against teacher redeployment are discussing ways to offer a joint examination in addition to the WCSC.

They say their motives are not a reflection on a "deteriorating" state schooling system and claim public schooling, especially in the Western Cape, is of a high and competitive standard.

They do admit, however, that the A-level programme could be an "insurance mechanism" for students to gain entry into world-class universities overseas and in South Africa, should education standards become inadequate.

The schools that support the A-level option also say it's a means to give students an international ticket and make them more marketable should they wish to study or travel overseas after school.

Educators said teaching in state schools was being made more difficult by teacher cuts, overcrowded classrooms and limited syllabuses.

They were also concerned about the low standards of the Senior Certificate examination and the fact that pupils could pass with less than 40%.

In A-levels 49% is an outright failure.

As an example of falling standards, Elion said it was possible for a matriculant to study English at a university without ever having written a literary essay.

"Children are kept busy by the state syllabus but they are not extended or encouraged to do exploratory research.

"Matriculants are not expected to express a thought for more than three sentences. The meaning of higher grade has been watered down immensely."

Teachers the Cape Times spoke to agreed with Elion. The South African science syllabus was "like a dinosaur" and the English syllabus "way too thin".

But for educators, one of the most disturbing aspects of the matric system is how raw scores are adjusted to a "normal" curve. The curve, based on statistics of how many pupils should "normally" pass or fail, has been set up from several past matric exams.

"The curve allows for the fluctuating tone of exam papers from year to year," Elion said.

Pinelands headmaster Mr Dave Argyle said curve critics had a valid point but considering the government's present task — merging apartheid's 15 education departments into one — the curve was

□ Turn to Page 3

**EDUCATING FOR EXPORT**  
— PAGE TWO



**A-LEVEL WAY:** Barbara Elion inspires young minds at Fairmont High School, Durbanville



**IN BROTHER'S ARMS:** Quentin Gaffley comforts his sister, Desirée Jacobs, who lost her husband and daughter when the child's father, holding his toddler, stepped in front of a train.

PICTURE: GARTH STEAD

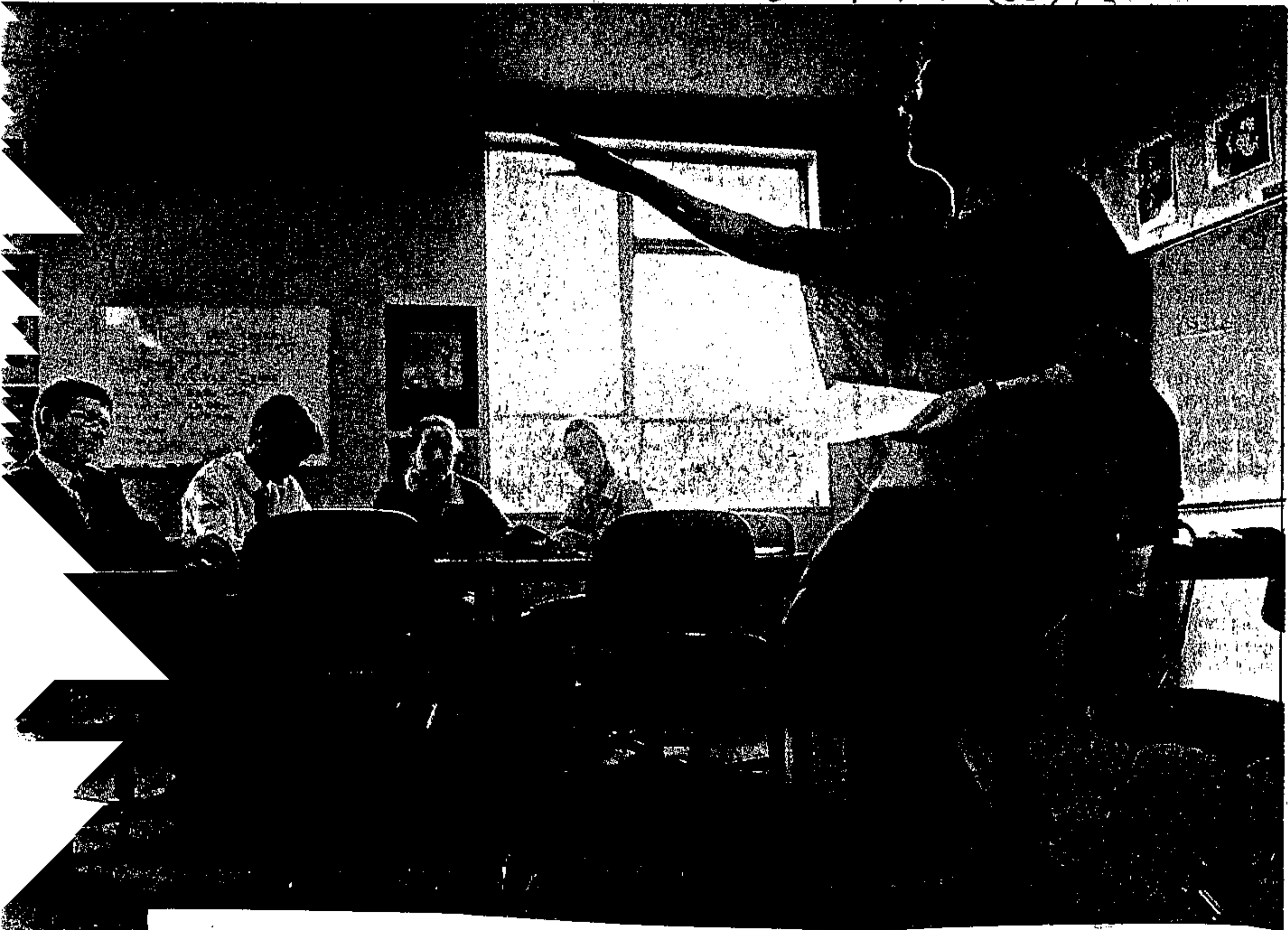
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# Schools reject metric

CT 2/10/97 (52)



## Grove 80' look at

### A-levels option

(52)

CT 2/10/97

From Page 1  
possibly the best method at present.

"The 40% gained by pupils schooled in inferior education systems may not be a true reflection of their ability.

"The question of standards is so debatable. What are standards?" asked Argyle.

He is considering introducing A-levels into his school in 1999.

He said many educators had criticised the state syllabuses for being inadequate but it was up to teachers to go beyond syllabus requirements — especially when above-average children were concerned.

"Really sharp kids have had this frustration for decades but teachers should extend them," said Argyle.

Teachers in public schools, however, said they did not have the time to give individual attention in crowded classrooms or extend teaching beyond syllabuses.

The chairman of the "Grove 80", Mr Jock McConnachie, said education in the Western Cape was of a higher standard than in any other province. But despite its being "early

days" to start offering alternative qualifications because of inferior standards, the 80 schools were discussing this option.

"The reality is that the state is not going to give to schools where parents can afford to pay a little more. The education department has priorities to disadvantaged students, which is 100% correct. State schools have basically been told to get on with it."

Herschel is looking into the possibility of introducing A-levels, but headmistress Ms Dianne van Syl believes that educators should focus on developing the existing system and offer extensive extra-curricular opportunities.

The Western Cape Education Department said the SA Certification Council and Committee of University Principals kept a careful watch to see that standards were maintained.

The fact that the WCED pass rate was 4% lower in 1996 than in 1995 was "hardly a sign of dropping standards" or an indication of how hard it was to fail, the department said, and added that their syllabuses were on a par with other countries that had 12-year schooling systems.

LEVEL WAY: Barbar



ROTHER'S ARMS  
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# Afrikaans school heads worried

**TROYE LUND**

(52)

CT 3/10/97

AFRIKAANS-MEDIUM schools in the city may offer alternative matric qualifications if standards in the Western Cape Education Department drop, it emerged yesterday.

This follows some English-language city schools offering British A-level examinations to pupils wanting university entry qualifications.

Afrikaans school principals are concerned that the new Outcomes Based Education system (or Curriculum 2005), soon to replace the present curriculum, will compel them to offer alternative matric examinations.

Although confidence was expressed in the present state education standards, it was not extended to the future after Curriculum 2005 has been introduced. The 2005 system is based on New Zealand's model of outcomes based education. Instead of specific subjects the curriculum is divided into learning areas and teachers evaluate pupils in these areas rather than examine them in specific areas.

The Western Cape Education Department said the last two years of schooling in the new system — the Further Education and Training (FET) phase — was still under discussion and no decisions had been taken about promotion, certification or qualifications in this phase.

It said current thinking was that pupils who wanted to study further after completing Std 7 would attend institutions offering various courses in the FET band.

TOP 20 TO BE NAMED BUT...

# Matric A symbol to be scrapped as unfair

CT 17/10/97 (52)

**FROM AN** educational point of view, publicising symbols led to ridiculous competition between schools trying to be seen as the best, says Sata. **TROYE LUND** reports.

**T**HE A symbol — traditionally the yardstick for academic excellence in matric — has been chopped by the National Education Department and replaced by a point or interval marking system.

The 52 000 Western Cape matrics that are knuckling down for the exams — which begin on Monday — will get an M published next to their name if they have achieved a university exemption or an S if they pass on standard grade.

This move has been welcomed by teacher unions but, a few proud parents, pupils aiming to be among the top students and teachers who are working hard to prepare candidates are disappointed.

Oaklands High pupil Ms Sadiqa Davids said that if the hours she is spending every day over her books do pay off with results that exceed 80% — previously accredited as an A symbol — she would like something next to her name to credit her.

Rocklands High teacher Mr Kamil Magan said: "Why can't an accolade be given to those who deserve it?"

As a point of compromise, which is also promising to spark controversy, the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has decided to "celebrate" excellence this year by publishing the names and schools of the top 20 students.

South Africa's Democratic Teacher Union (Sadtu) has pledged to try to stop this by taking the matter up with the matric examination board as they had not been part of the decision to publish the top 20.

Although no one else will know

what they got, each candidate will be able to figure out how they did by the points they are allocated.

Top students will be given 1 680 or higher. The next interval down includes points between 1 440 and 1 679 and then between 1 200 and 1 439. The second lowest interval will range between 1 199 and 950 with the lowest range being from 720 up to 949, the WCED said.

Teacher unions have been calling for this method of publicising results because it does not create a "false perception" in the public's mind about what schools are good or bad.

Sadtu spokesperson Ms Simone Gayer said: "Our society is still very uneven and exposing symbols is not a fair reflection of

how students performed. Of course students from the privileged and well resourced schools are going to do better. Until our education system is equal and while we have schools struggling under impossible conditions, we cannot expose symbols."

Gayer slammed the publishing of the top 20 names not because the union was against the celebration of excellence but, because it was "divisive" and "played schools up against each other".

South African Teacher Association (Sata) vice-chairperson Dr Malcolm Venter said that, from an educational point of view, publicis-

ing symbols led to "ridiculous competition" between schools trying to be seen as the best.

Venter said that this competition had, in the past, led to "unfortunate practices" like spoonfeeding pupils and inflating year marks. This achieved the goal of A aggregates as marketing tools for the school, but the pupils were often left unable to cope at tertiary level.

Pupils at the lower end of the scale who achieved beyond their potential were also not recognised as they should be by the symbol system.

"Why publish just A symbols. What about the Bs and Cs? What about the candidates who excel

beyond their potential and get a D? These candidates probably deserve far more praise," said Venter, who is also principal at Edgemead High School and is also opposed to the top 20 names being published.

Meanwhile more than R130

000 has been spent on boosting security to make matric exams leak-proof. About 4 000 extra staff have been employed to ensure that administration is top-notch this year, the WCED revealed yesterday as the final preparations were being made for the end of the year exams that start on Monday.

Matric exams in the province were nowhere near as scandalous as they were in other provinces last year when a roaring trade was created by teachers, pupils and officials selling papers.

But the department is determined to improve on the hiccups that did occur last year.

*'Our society is still very uneven, and exposing symbols is not a fair reflection of how students performed.'* —  
**Simone Gayer, Sadtu**

# Studying for matric with only **one book**

ST 19/10/97

Budget cuts expected to worsen learning crisis in senior schools

GILLIAN ANSTEV

**M**ARTHA MASONDO is feeling like a loser before she even starts her matric exams tomorrow.

Studying has been almost impossible as her school provided her with only one textbook. A keen reader who gets the top marks for English out of the 114 matrics at Ibhongo Secondary School in Dlamini, Soweto, Masondo desperately wanted the prescribed novel and poetry anthology. Her uncle, who is saving money for her technician studies next year, gave her the money to buy them. That left 11 textbooks outstanding.

She borrowed Afrikaans and biology books from past matriculants, and gratefully accepted an outdated geography book.

Last month, her teacher lent Masondo her copy of the prescribed novel.

But Masondo still does not have a history textbook, grammar books for Afrikaans, Xhosa or English or the Xhosa play and short stories.

Textbooks are such a priority at Ibhongo Secondary that Masondo says she stopped taking hers to school a month ago.

Everyone knows who has textbooks and who doesn't, she explains. "So people steal your books and even your notebooks, because if you've got a

textbook then your notes are up to date.

"Our school gives us notebooks and pens, that's all. This has been going on for years. The school can't provide us with textbooks because the department doesn't provide them.

"It's very unfair and makes it very difficult to work in class. We copy notes from the blackboard and it's time-consuming, so we don't always finish the syllabus," Masondo said.

She said pupils formed study groups so they could share textbooks, and photocopied "important sections" from books at local libraries.

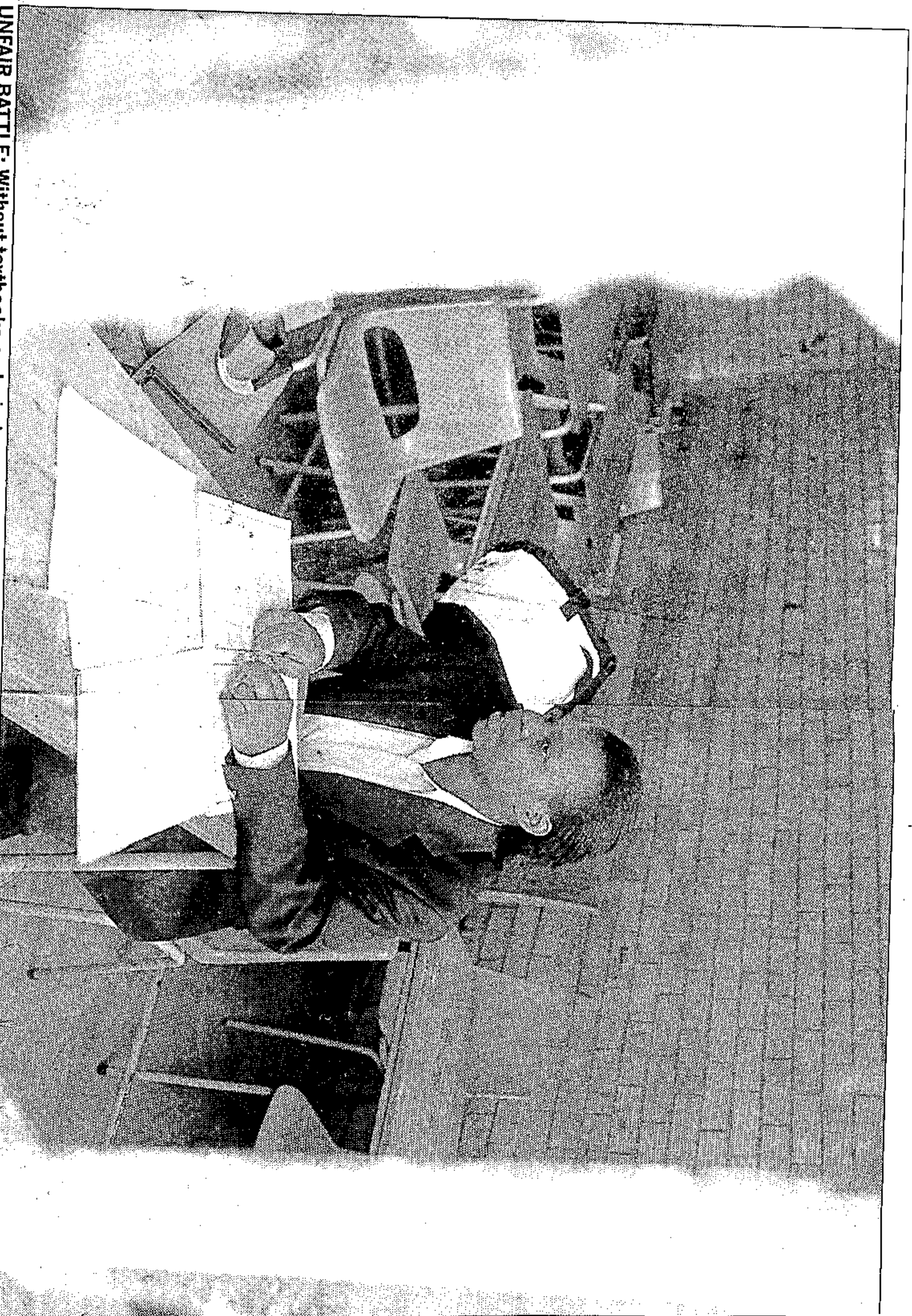
"Two months ago, women from the department were here moderating English orals. One of the topics was about quality education and we spoke about how the government should provide us with equipment. We don't even have a recent map of South Africa.

"The women said the department had no money. It is absolutely hopeless," said Masondo.

Vivienne Chuma, headmistress of Ibhongo, said the main cause of her school's book shortage was that last year's matrics did not return their textbooks.

She also blames the Gauteng education department.

Chuma said sometimes books were not delivered. "In most cases, they say there are



**UNFAIR BATTLE: Without textbooks and window panes, Soweto pupil Martha Masondo crams for her matric**

Picture: ELIZABETH SEJ

shortages. The department is expected to give us new books for new work, otherwise we must use what we have. You cannot order an update."

This was denied by the department, which said it had not been told there was a problem at the school.

Alida van Bruggen, the department's deputy director for logistics, said books were expected to have a "lifespan" of three years. After that, the department supplied a 10 percent top-up, according to the expected enrolment.

Van Bruggen said Ibhongo had not ordered new books but only top-ups of existing stock for the 1997 matrics. These

were delivered to the school by the end of February, she said, and the department held signed delivery notes as proof.

Charles Sibya, the teacher in charge of Ibhongo's bookroom, claims the only books delivered to the school this year were about seven Xhosa textbooks.

Van Bruggen responded: "They say they have only 33 copies of a Xhosa textbook. According to our records, and allowing for damages, the school's stock should be 104.

"What happened to the other books? In terms of their expected enrolment of 62 in Xhosa next year, and our 10 percent topping-up, we will be supplying them with 29 books."

She said Ibhongo had not ordered a lot of books for next year. Queries to about 15 other Gauteng schools revealed they had all received their textbooks timeously. Only one school, Raucall, said they could not rely on the department and bought their own textbooks. According to Shireen Motala of the education policy unit at Wits University, textbook budgets were cut by 42 percent from R895-million to R520-million in 1996. "This has exacerbated book buying in provinces and could lead to large numbers of children being without textbooks in early 1998," she said.

# Matric pupils on to 'good start'

By Victor Mecoamere

**P**UPILS at CJB Senior Secondary School in Bosmont, Johannesburg, were yesterday upbeat after tackling the geography first paper of the matric examinations.

They are among 126 508 matric candidates in Gauteng who started writing last Monday and are due to finish on December 2.

Of these, 9 974 are full-time candidates and 46 534 are part-time candidates. They are writing at 736 examination centres in the Gauteng department of education's (GDE) 18 districts in three regions.

Gift Sihlali (19), of Meadowlands, Soweto, said the paper was "alright, especially when one had studied properly", and that "none of the questions were hard".

Natasha Abrahams (17) and Denise Williams (18), both of

*Sowetan 21/10/97*  
GED's inaccessible security  
measures are dubbed Alcatraz

Newclare, complained that there was just too little time available to cover all questions adequately, but said they also found the paper easy, except for one of the general knowledge questions on the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

Tumelo Morebudi (20), of Coronationville, Zanecebo Menze, of Lenasia, and Johannes Mashaba, of Diepkloof, said they were all tense before sitting for the paper.

"But our prayers have helped us through and we hope for a 75 percent effort from each of those who were writing geography (33 out of 123 Grade 12 pupils)," said a highly confident Mashaba.

Lorraine da Gama (19) was cautious and was only prepared to say:

"Although the paper was not that hard the section that dealt with regional geography was a bit tricky."

CJB's principal Mr Enver Domingo praised the GDE's security arrangements, which were "so tight that the answer books could only be seen on the day of writing a particular subject, and in this case, the geography paper has to be commended".

The main part of the GDE's tight security measures involves top secrecy of the venue for the production and storage of question papers.

It has been dubbed Alcatraz because access to and from it is restricted only to authorised personnel and it is totally separate from the administrative unit of the GDE's examination directorate.

# Matric exams pass the test

GILLIAN ANSTEY

MATRIC exams have kicked off to an excellent start all over South Africa — with none of the problems which marred last year's tests.

Pupils in Kwazulu Natal only start writing their exams tomorrow, but the other eight provinces all report smooth sailing, with only a few easily-fixed minor hiccups.

Annelie Potgieter, acting public relations officer for the Northern Cape education department, said: "Last year our phones were ringing non-stop. This year the helpline is so quiet I cannot believe it."

(52) ST 26/10/97  
Ismail Wadee, liaison officer for Gauteng's exam directorate, said: "Things are going extremely well compared to last year."

Dr Koot Meyburgh, director of examinations for North West Province, said: "We had no leaks of papers last year but there were rumours. This year there aren't even rumours."

Yet some departments are still worried about a repeat of last year's problems such as the theft of exam question papers and the chaotic processing of results.

Said Wadee: "We're optimistic, but it's still early days. We don't want to start the celebration dance just yet."

By Friday only the following problems had been reported:

- Gauteng: The English literature paper had two lines missing from a poem;

- Eastern Cape: About five schools received Biblical Studies question papers instead of Woodwork. A backup paper for Biblical studies was used on Thursday;

- Northern Province: One exam centre was short of a few question papers. A provincial exam monitor was present, made extra copies, and the exam began about 15 minutes late;

- Western Cape: There were delays at some centres because part-time candidates arrived without ID documents; and

- Northern Cape: One or two centres had left out mark sheets, which function as registers, in their packages.

A random selection of schools contacted by the Sunday Times revealed a similar pattern of satisfaction with the exams so far.

Wadee said the Gauteng education department's strategic plans had been based on the recommendations of the Khumalo commission, which was set up to investigate irregularities in last year's matric exams.



**Only one person sentenced to jail for irregularities**

Last year the Gauteng Department of Education revealed that more than 1 100 pupils were found guilty of cheating and 110 schools in the province were implicated in irregularities.

After three separate enquiries and a claim by the South African Democratic Teachers Union that the process had been hijacked by agents of the old Government, it emerged that Gauteng was the worst hit by leaks.

The public protector Selby Baqwa found that seven of the papers leaked nationally were from Gauteng. These were biblical studies, both English first and second language, computer studies, accounting, biology and geography.

Last year, 5 280 out of a total of 518 000 matrics across SA were found guilty of cheating.

National Education Department deputy director general Dr Ihron Rensburg said that nine of the 1 800 exam papers had been leaked or stolen.

After police investigations and public hearings in Gauteng at which the suspected cheating pupils could relate their stories to a panel of judges with their parents, those pupils who owned up to their wrongdoing could write supplementaries but were prevented from entering tertiary education this year.

Those guilty pupils who denied wrongdoing had to wait until November this year to rewrite and will have to redo a minimum of three papers.

One Pretoria teacher was sentenced to a year in jail in July after being found guilty of selling maths, biology and accountancy papers. - Education Reporter

# Master plan to keep Gauteng examinations secure fails as accountancy paper is leaked

By ADAM COOKE

Somewhere between "Alcatraz" and the exam halls of Gauteng's matric pupils, accountancy exam papers were leaked yesterday, despite a security plan which has been running like clockwork.

Following last year's leaks and administrative bungles, the more than 120 000 pupils who began writing their final exams two weeks ago were assured by everyone, from MEC for Education Mary Metcalfe to director of examinations Ian Moll, that the problems that had

set up which would track each individual exam paper by means of a barcode.

James Maseko, superintendent-general of education in Gauteng, said at the time: "Tight security measures are already in place to prevent the criminal theft of exam material, and the venue for the production and storage of papers has been dubbed 'Alcatraz' because access is restricted to authorised personnel only."

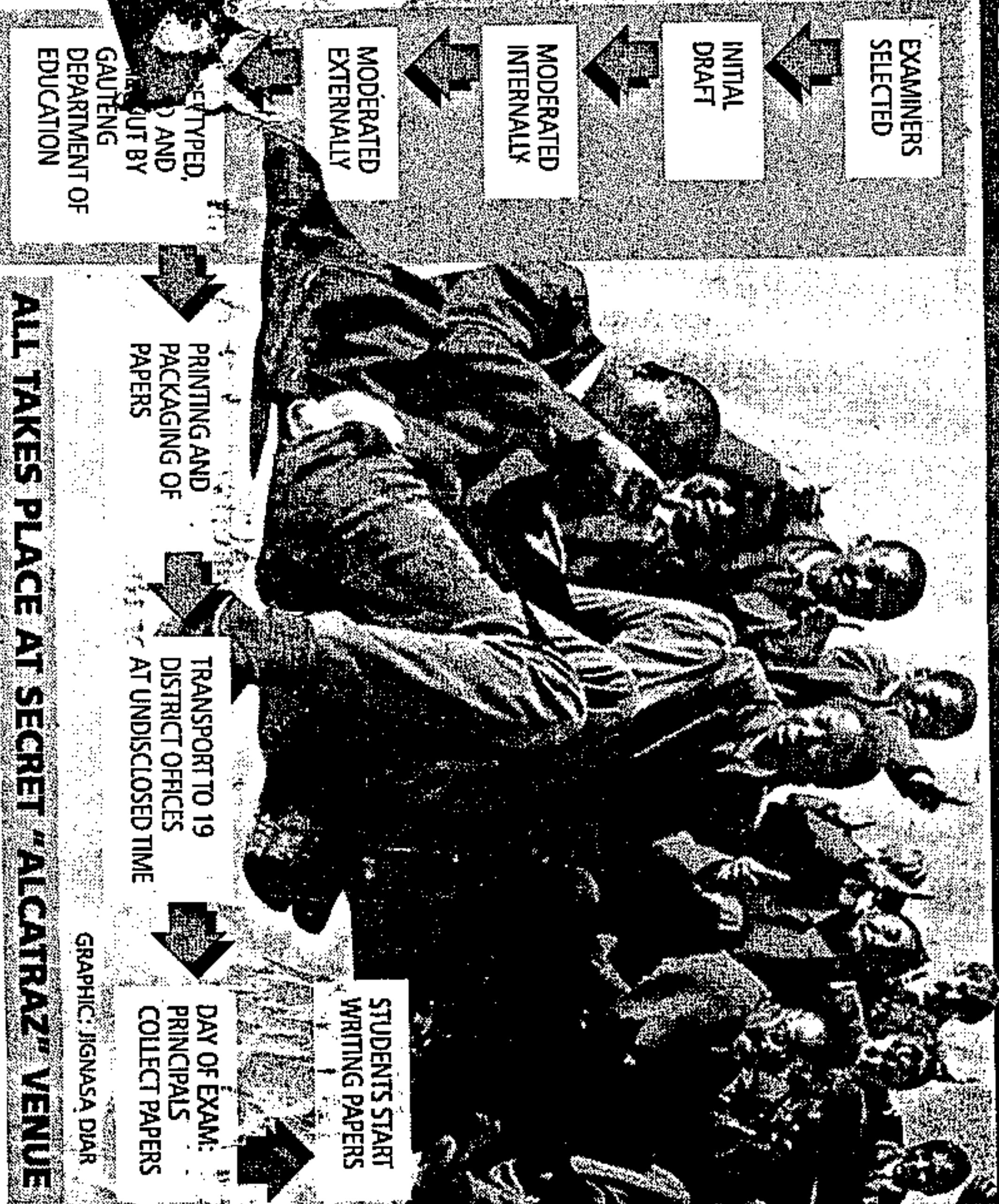
Maseko said an extra R2-million would be spent on improving security for this year. Moll said there was a master plan to ensure efficient delivery of the 48 000 packages of exam papers to the 736 examination centres.

He said security had also been tightened in the collection of papers by teachers. Once the papers were at the school, only the principal was permitted to open the packages, and no school was to be allowed to keep exam papers on their premises overnight.

The plan also ensured that pupils would have to identify themselves with their identity document and a personal timetable - already handed to pupils at their respective schools - at each exam centre before being allowed to write papers.

Marking is scheduled to start on November 13 and finish by December 10, but no results will be released before December 31. They should be released on January 7.

## ROUTE OF THE MATRIC PAPERS



GRAPHIC: JIGNASA DIAR

**ALL TAKES PLACE AT SECRET "ALCATRAZ" VENUE**

## Pupil feels cheated after sleepless nights of study

BY THEMBAKAZI SIKENGA

Hard-working Soweto pupil Stephen Magalifa, who burnt the midnight oil preparing for his matriculation examinations, feels cheated after hearing that yesterday's accountancy paper had been leaked.

Stephen (22), a pupil at Thaba Jabula High School in Pimville, Soweto, said he was angry that the many hours he had spent studying would be in vain because of a few cheats.

Now he fears he may have to join thousands of other matriculants throughout Gauteng in writing the paper all over again.

MEC Mary Metcalfe confirmed yesterday that the paper had been leaked yesterday morning.

Stephen was one of several angry pupils interviewed yesterday as news of the leak spread throughout schools.

He asked why people like himself who had spent many "sleepless nights" studying should be victimised by a bunch of cheats.

"I knew that accounting was going to be tough. That is why I spent sleepless nights studying for it... I want to pass my exams with flying colours and I have dedicated this time to them," said Stephen.

A pupil at St David's Marist College in Inanda, Sandton, said the paper was "fair", and pupils at his school were unaware of the leak.

Pupils at Barnato Park High School in Hillbrow said yesterday: "An honest matriculation certificate is our only gateway to a better future."

## Tight security measures are already in place

bedevilled last year's exams would not be repeated.

Central to the new plan was that all parts of the process would be centralised - from setting to moderating, typing, publishing and packaging.

This meant that exams would be handled from one unknown venue by a small team as opposed to the dispersed sites of last year. Moll said he saw about 100 exam papers before arriving on a pupil's desk.

Speaking at the beginning of October, Moll said a computer management system had been

# Gauteng matric accounting paper leaked

**Pule Molebeledi**

THE Gauteng matric higher grade accountancy exam paper, written yesterday, was leaked despite assurances by education MEC Mary Metcalfe that last year's debacle where papers were leaked would not be repeated.

Metcalfe said a commission of inquiry would investigate the leak.

Last month she said strict security measures were in place for this year and declared: "I'll publicly eat my hat if an exam paper leaks."

The department decided that the examination should continue because the leak was discovered moments before it was due to begin.

Education spokesman Aubrey

Mashiqi said the department was "extremely concerned" that the physics examination paper to be written today might also have been leaked.

An examination hotline had been established and the department was offering a reward of R50 000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person involved in the theft, sale or distribution of unauthorised examination papers in Gauteng.

Expressing "disappointment", Metcalfe said a criminal case had been opened and "we are going to pursue a prosecution with determination".

Mashiqi said Metcalfe had called in investigators who would be working "around the clock".

Metcalfe said evidence was received

(52)  
yesterday morning that the accounting paper had been stolen and sold to students writing matric. "We share the disappointment of parents and learners because the security system we put in place seemed to be impregnable."

The leak came barely four weeks after Metcalfe pledged her confidence that this year's matric examination would not be marred by the widespread leaking of papers and cheating that took place last year.

Despite a few hiccups, the examinations have been running smoothly until yesterday's discovery.

Metcalfe had been due to address a media briefing yesterday on the education amendment bill, but cancelled it when the leak became known.

BD 4/11/97

# Whip cracked on matric

## leaks

(52) Saw 4/11/97

Urgent steps taken to prevent the theft of any more papers following shock leakage of questions

By MIKE MASIPA

Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe has announced tough new measures to stop the leakage of any further matric exam papers, following yesterday's leaked accountancy paper.

As opposition parties expressed concern over the leakage, Metcalfe said an "impregnable" security system put into place earlier this year had been breached.

She said a commission of inquiry has been established to investigate the leak and her department was offering R50 000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of culprits.

All matric final examination papers already written, as well as those still outstanding, will be investigated to establish whether the accountancy paper was the only one leaked. Last night there were unsubstantiated rumours that other papers of examinations still to be sat had been leaked.

Metcalfe said an examinations hotline number - (011) 355-0598 - had been established for anyone wanting to report information about the leaks.

"The marking of the leaked paper will be vigorously undertaken in such a way as to identify students who may be guilty of this irregularity. At the same time we will be extremely careful not to prejudice those students who have not participated in this dishonest act," Metcalfe said last night.

The accountancy paper was the first confirmed leak this year, and raises fears that the fiasco of 1996, when widespread leaks threw the matric exams and results into turmoil, could be repeated.

The department said earlier this year that it had devised a watertight security system and declared that a recurrence of the leaks was impossible. A

confident Metcalfe even declared she would "... publicly eat my hat if an exam paper leaks".

Departmental spokesman Aubrey Matshiqi said the department became aware of the leak shortly before 9am yesterday when pupils were scheduled to sit for the exam.

"We got numerous calls from the public across Gauteng informing us that the paper had been leaked. We have had such calls from the public since the exams started, but pupils were already in the middle of the exam by the time we verified the leak, so we could not stop the exams."

Matshiqi said most of the calls came from southern Johannesburg and Lenasia, but maintained that the department was not reading too much into that. "It is not a foolproof way to indicate how widespread the problem is."

Many schools throughout Gauteng went ahead with the accountancy paper despite news of the leak.

Reacting to the news, the NP's Juli Kilian stopped short of calling for Metcalfe's resignation, but added: "We are not convinced she has taken the necessary steps against the three top education department officials fingered by the Khumalo Commission in last year's leaks."

The commission appointed by Metcalfe last year named the deputy director-general of the department, Enver Motala, and chief director of policy and provisioning, Nokuzola Moiloa, as having contributed to the administrative bungling of the exams.

"The fact that both are still with the department explains the *laissez faire* attitude which prevails in the education department," Kilian said.

► More reports, graphic

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## Matric pupils arrested selling fake physics paper

TWO matric pupils from southern Johannesburg were arrested on Monday night for being in possession of and attempting to sell fake copies of the matric physics exam paper.

Gauteng education department spokesman Aubrey Matshiqi said yesterday that the arrests had followed the receipt of information from several mem-

bers of the public.

Matshiqi stressed that the paper the youths were trying to sell was not the paper which had been set by the department.

The writing of the matric exam had gone ahead as scheduled.

"There is no concrete evidence to suggest that any other papers have been leaked other than the accountancy paper," he said.

On Monday the department announced that the accountancy paper, which was to have been written that afternoon, had been leaked.

Matshiqi refused to release any further information concerning Monday's arrests.

However, he hinted that further arrests were expected. —  
Sapa.

(52) BDE/11/97

# E Cape maths paper leaked, exam postponed

Star 6/11/97

(52)

Eastern Cape high school pupils are not writing their second standard grade matric mathematics exam today because the examination papers have been leaked.

Education MEC Nosimo Balindlela said the writing of the exam would be postponed to November 25.

An unknown number of students were arrested and Balindlela said those people who had leaked the paper would be "summarily dismissed".

Meanwhile, the Gauteng department of education has appointed a top criminal lawyer and a crack detective team to look into the leaking of matric exam papers.

Education MEC

Mary Metcalfe said yesterday that under section 9 of the Gauteng Schools Act she had the power to appoint a person who could subpoena suspects and question them.

This effectively gave the department more power to investigate cases of exam leaks than the police.

Metcalfe said the detectives would be concentrating on the "networks", while the specialist lawyer would focus on finding where the leaks originated.

"The children in this are small fish. This is the workings of a highly efficient syndicate," she said, adding that the accountancy paper had leaked in several areas.

- Staff Reporters

## Four pupils arrested for stolen exam paper

STUTTERHEIM — Four matric pupils were arrested yesterday in Stutterheim in the Eastern Cape in connection with a leaked mathematics paper, police said.

Two of those arrested were 20 years old and the other two were 19, East London police spokesman Capt Shannon Kirkhoff said.

They were arrested following a tip-off from a resident of Mlungisi township in the Stutterheim area. Police went to a house in the township, where they found a handwritten copy of yesterday's maths paper.

After confirming that it was a copy of the actual paper, police arrested the four.

Kirkhoff said that the original document from which the handwritten copy was made was believed still to be in circulation.

Investigations were continuing, she said. (52)  
Earlier yesterday the Eastern Cape education department announced it would appoint a commission of inquiry to investigate the leaking of the matric maths paper.

All mathematics candidates would have to re-sit the examination on November 25, the department said. — Sapa.

BD 7/11/97

Comment: Page 15

# Bomb hoaxers hit exams

## *Pupils suspected as calls halt classes*

ARG 10/11/97 \* (52)

**NORMAN JOSEPH**  
STAFF REPORTER

**A flurry of hoax bomb warnings is threatening to disrupt examinations at schools in the Athlone district.**

Athlone police inspector Dion Jafta said the calls could come from pupils who wanted to leave school early to study, or they could be mischievous attempts to disrupt exams.

He said children were playing with their own futures and wasting police resources.

The bomb disposal unit has been called to several schools in the past four weeks, spending many hours searching for suspect devices, while classes have been cancelled

and pupils sent home early.

Several principals confirmed prank bomb warnings, but declined to be identified, fearing they might become targets.

Western Cape Education Department spokeswoman Nomkitha Makosana said no schools had reported bomb scares, but she was investigating.

There have been 12 bomb scares at the Ned Doman High School in St Athen's Road.

Principal Edwin Moses said that if this carried on the matriculation exams would be severely disrupted.

"We have treated the calls seriously and asked teachers to search class rooms for strange objects."

Mr Moses said the callers could be pupils. Eddie Snyders, principal of Garlandale High School in Rondebosch East, said hoax calls had become "a damn nuisance".

"The school has had so many that we have become used to them."

Mr Snyders said teachers and pupils had searched classrooms for suspect objects in the mornings and in the afternoons.

"On a few occasions we ignored the calls during school hours, and the caller telephoned the police."

Athlone High School principal Hammond Mackrill said bomb warnings could not be ignored, and that his teachers and pupils had to be evacuated.

# Cape need not fear other exam leaks

(52) CT 11/11/97

## EDUCATION WRITER

IN addition to the stress of writing her final examination, a local student fears that matric question paper leaks elsewhere, and errors, may cast doubt over the integrity and standard her qualification.

Education authorities deny this.

"Even though there have not been any leaks in the Western Cape, there have been bad errors like some of the maths paper being included in the biology exam," said matric student Ms Sheila Wesels, who did not want her school named.

"The leaks that have occurred so far in other provinces may also put a question mark over the entire exam. What if universities refuse to accept my marks? If I study over-

seas, will they laugh at the South African school leaving exams?"

South African Certification Council (Safcert) spokesperson Dr Fred Calitz said yesterday if the council found widespread leaks and botched administration, it would refuse to recognise the exams and demand that they be rewritten.

He said, however, that each province was judged separately, as was each subject in each province. Students in provinces where the exams had run smoothly would not be adversely affected by other provinces, Calitz said.

Safcert, an independent body employed to monitor standards, will make an announcement about the fairness and legitimacy of the exams when the results have been announced.

So far the accountancy paper in Gauteng and the maths paper in the Eastern Cape have been leaked and postponed.

It was also rumoured that the science paper in Gauteng was for sale the night before it was to be written. Pupils in the province had a tense 12 hours before the examination after warnings that it may be cancelled.

But the exam went ahead as planned — police found that the papers being sold for R800 were from last year.

Gauteng's maths paper was also rumoured to be available on the Internet. The exam continued as scheduled because the paper that was found on the Internet was not the same as the one set for the matric exam.

The Gauteng Education Depart-

ment has launched an investigation to crack a syndicate of department officials that is believed to be behind the leaks.

In the Western Cape, a section of the maths paper was accidentally included in the biology paper, and a section of the business economics paper was left out.

Mr Thami Mseleku, adviser to Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu, said the incidents reported had been attended to and contained quickly.

A member of the Western Cape matriculation board and principal of Edgemoor High School, Dr Malcolm Venter, said: "Even if the other provinces fall to pieces, (local) students do not have to worry. Universities look at the results of individual provinces. Each is completely independent."



# X-rated exam debate sizzles (52)

ADELE BALETA

Matric English exam papers aren't what they used to be - these days pupils need to know as much about sex as syntax.

Although some Mother Grundys are outraged by the new approach to English, others have welcomed it as a breath of fresh air.

In Gauteng pupils were given topics from "penile enlargement" to pimples.

In the Western Cape the first of two questions that has tempers flaring is based on a quote from the controversial film *Trainspotting*.

The film, essentially a black comedy, is about the teenage drug culture in Scotland.

The quote is: "The job, the family, the f\*\*ng big television..." is followed by an instruction to candidates to use it as "a stimulus to write a section or autobiography or short story or reflective essay."

Edgemead High School, which has complained to the Western Cape Education Department, found the presence of the "f" word "totally unacceptable" because in order to answer the question properly, candidates would have to use "such words" in their essays. "To encourage language which is anathema to many, is quite appalling," the complaint said.

The letter, signed by headmaster Malcolm Venter, added that *Trainspotting*, which has an age restriction, was not the kind of film that all candidates or their parents wished to see. He added that many of the candidates were not yet 18.

But his argument has been pooh-poohed by teachers who believe the film is relevant and has sparked a hot cultural debate.

One teacher said: "Teenagers should not be over-protected. To pretend that words like f\*\*ng do not exist in the English language is ridiculous. *Trainspotting* is about real life issues that teenagers face when leaving school."

Dr Venter has also taken exception to a question accompanied by two visuals.

The main picture depicts a man with his shirt unbuttoned; the other is an inset of which Dr Venter said "no one seems to be able to make out what it is".

Dr Venter believes the picture of the man is "very suggestive" if taken in the context of the quotation taken from writer-philosopher Roland Barthes's *The pleasure of the text*. The quote reads: "Is not the most erotic portion of a body where the garment gapes? It is the intermittance which is erotic: the intermittance on skin flashing through two articles of clothing (trousers and sweaters)... it is this flash itself that seduces..."

Candidates are asked to write two to three pages of a novel or film script that includes a sequence that Barthes would regard as erotic.

Dr Venter said the question was "totally inappropriate" for a senior certificate examination. He agreed that examination papers should be "relevant" and should deal with the real world, but this did not mean "sordidness and crudity".

While the school did not want to curb the freedom of others to think or write in a way that "we find unacceptable", he said it was the constitutional right of his pupils not to be faced with material which offended their morals and/or religion.

Dr Venter concluded: "To dismiss our views as mere narrow mindedness or prudery would, we believe, be missing the point of our complaint."

But Plumstead High School English teacher Simon Winter said the school had no problems with the paper. "We cannot afford to be puritanical anymore. Teenagers are part of a film and video culture which we cannot ignore."

"The fact that this is reflected in examination questions reflects this," he said.

Douglas Kennedy, the Western Cape chief director of education in charge of exams, invited anyone with a complaint to put it on paper and to be specific about the complaint.

Schools and members of the public are asked to address their complaints to: The Western Cape Education Department, PO.Box 9114, Cape Town 8000.

# Leaked matric biology paper: 16 pupils arrested

OWN CORRESPONDENT  
Pretoria

Matriculants sat down to write their biology paper today after 16 pupils were arrested in Lenasia overnight in connection with leaking the exam.

This morning Gauteng education department officials declined to comment on the matter as news of the arrests spread. Most said they had only heard of the arrests through the media.

But Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe confirmed that today's exams would not be disrupted as a result of the leak.

"It's very localised so we're not going to destabilise the whole province," she said.

She added that she believed that insiders, with access to the high-tech security printing and distribution centre, were responsible for the leaking of exam papers.

Lenasia police confirmed the arrests but declined to comment further. The investigation is still at a sensitive stage, Lenasia station commissioner Superintendent Jones Mbambala said.

High school principals in the area also declined to comment on the news, saying they had not heard about the arrests until contacted by the media.

Metcalfe said the news of the arrests came as no surprise: "I was expecting this."

"We have to make sure that pupils are caught, but our main

concern is that we find the people who are stealing papers and selling them. I'm hoping that they've caught the sellers," she said.

Last year a number of provincial officials - including a deputy director-general - were identified by the Khumalo Commission of Inquiry into the exams as being negligent. While they are not involved in leaking the exam papers, none of the officials accused of negligence last year are working with the matric exams this year.

In spite of stringent security measures - which include limited access to the printing and distribution centre dubbed Alcatraz - the department has confirmed that this year's ac-

countancy, maths and biology papers have been stolen.

■ Authorities are on the verge of busting a syndicate responsible for the theft of matric exam papers, Metcalfe told The Star yesterday.

"We have evidence which can link the thefts to a highly organised crime syndicate and believe that the syndicate comprises some employees within the department because there were no signs of a break-in at the exam centre," Metcalfe said.

Gauteng matric exams spokesman Ishmail Wadee said markers would be able to determine during the marking process which pupils had bought papers or cheated.

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SPAN 17/11/97

# Markers know how to spot matric exam cheats, says Metcalfe

BY ROOMNEY VICTOR

Examination markers had been given guidelines on how to spot the papers of pupils who had cheated in the exams and there was no possibility that pupils who had bought leaked papers would be able to get away with it, the Gauteng Education Department said yesterday.

Education MEC Mary Metcalfe told a media briefing that pupils suspected of cheating would have their matric results compared with their results during the year, and if there was any discrepancy they would be called in for questioning. Those found guilty of irregularities would have the "maximum

penalties" applied to them, she said. Sixteen Lenasia pupils who were allegedly selling yesterday's matric biology paper were arrested yesterday and are expected to appear in court soon.

Metcalfe said it appeared that a highly organised syndicate was involved in the thefts, and that Lenasia was the centre of their illegal sales activities.

Police spokesman Inspector John Shiburi said some of the pupils were arrested at their homes and others arrested "on the streets where they were busy trying to sell the papers". Lenasia station commissioner Superintendent Jones Mhambala

SFSAW 18/11/97  
said the raids started at 5am after a tipoff to the police.

"We rounded up the children and took statements from them and then released them into the care of their parents so that they could still write the exam at 9am," he said.

The senior public prosecutor at the Protea Magistrates' Court would decide whether they should be arrested again or merely summonsed to appear in court, Shiburi said.

Police declined to name the schools the children attend, but The Star understands that one of the schools is Lenasia's Topaz Secondary School. The headmaster there could not be contacted last

night, but a pupil said there had been swarms of police at the school yesterday morning.

"There are a whole lot of people at school selling papers and there are lots who want to buy like those who don't study and who fool around the whole year and then look for the papers the night before," the pupil said.

Metcalfe said the integrity of the matric exam as a whole had not been compromised, even though three papers had now been found to have been leaked. "The areas where there has been distribution of stolen material are extremely localised and an extremely small number of students are affected."

# Leak: 14 pupils held

By Victor Mecoanere

**F**OURTEEN teenagers, arrested in Lenasia, Johannesburg, on Sunday night for allegedly being in possession of stolen matric biology examination papers, were allowed to sit for the same paper yesterday.

Gauteng MEC for education Mrs Mary Metcalfe told a media conference in Johannesburg yesterday that the pupils were allowed to write because the authenticity of the papers in question still had to be verified.

Metcalfe said although the pupils were allowed to write the paper, they were at a disadvantage because they had already broken one of the examination rules. She said the arrests were a break-

through and praised "the good work of the police". There had been no decision yet to institute a commission of inquiry, she said.

Metcalfe also dismissed suggestions of a possible link between the thefts and the secret venue at which examination papers were produced and stored.

"We are confident that the ongoing investigations will result in the arrest of those that have been central to the theft and attempted distribution of stolen matric examination papers," she said.

Metcalfe said the 14 pupils faced being rearrested and appearing in court within 48 hours of their arrest. She insisted that the "integrity and credibility" of the examinations and results was still intact.

The biology question paper was the third to be leaked since matric exams started last month.

"We believe that the integrity of the examination results is not at risk because the attempted illegal distribution has been highly localised and the preemptive police action effectively thwarted plans to sell the paper," said Metcalfe.

## Barring pupils from rewriting

Chief director of examinations Mr Tom Waspe said the pupils faced criminal charges. These charges fell outside the GDE's control and penultimate under the department's examination rules and regulations. These include barring pupils from rewriting. Lenasia police spokesman Sergeant Shaid Abdool told *Sowetan*

that the arrests followed an investigation by the Soweto dog unit. They became suspicious when they saw a Ford Escort with two occupants parked in a certain street Sunday at around 11.30pm.

Police found a brown envelope in the car and were then led to a house in Penguin Avenue, where the two suspects said they had bought the biology higher grade paper from a certain individual for R500 a copy.

"The suspect tried to burn the exam papers but one of the policemen managed to save some of the papers.

"A further search uncovered more copies of the biology paper, a photostat machine and a fax machine, all of which have been confiscated," said Abdool.

He said the suspect then pointed

out a number of houses in Heatcock Avenue, Ostrich Avenue and Stingray Avenue where several pupils were found in possession of the stolen papers.

A furious principal at a high school in Soweto, who asked to remain anonymous, said the efforts of hardworking pupils had been undermined again.

"It is not fair. This nonsense must stop. Industrious pupils need to be given a chance.

"My pupils would stone the culprits to death if they were brought here," said the principal.

Most pupils who were interviewed in Soweto and Pretoria yesterday said the standard grade of the biology paper was fair, while the higher grade paper was tough.

*Sowetan* (52) 18/11/97

# Dept to be put to test on exams' credibility

By EDWIN MAJIDI

Star 19/11/99

The Gauteng Education Department will have to prove the integrity of the matriculation examinations before the results are accepted by the South African Certification Council.

Council executive officer Dr Fred Calitz warned yesterday the matriculation results would not be accepted unless the department proved irregularities were not widespread.

He was responding after Monday's biology paper had been leaked. Earlier this month the accounting paper, and a week ago the mathematics standard grade paper, were leaked. The three subjects are important entrance requirements at tertiary institutions.

Calitz refused to speculate on what action the council would take against the department. He said the council's 20 members would meet to discuss how the examinations were conducted and what course of action, if any, to take.

He was of the view that leaks were not widespread and were confined to a particular area.

However, a Johannesburg school principal, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said yesterday the leaks were more widespread than the department realised, and that details of exam papers had been spread by telephone.

University of the Witwatersrand spokesman Peggy Jennings said the latest leak was "disturbing" and the university would devise its own strict entrance tests to ensure students unworthy of a place would not be admitted next year.

# Some matric papers re-set

(52)

*Sowetan 20/11/97*

**By Victor Mecoamere**

AS A safety precaution and also in an attempt to ensure the integrity of exams, the Gauteng department of education is re-setting some of the matric examination papers.

MEC for education Mrs Mary Metcalfe told a media briefing in Johannesburg yesterday that this was being done in the wake of the arrests of 14 Lenasia, Johannesburg, pupils. The children were allegedly found in possession of the higher grade biology question paper on Sunday night.

Two Lenasia teenagers, Mohammed Wassar and Ravi Govender, both aged 19, appeared in the Protea Magistrate's Court on Tuesday charged with fraudulently selling fake examination papers. They are out on bail.

Metcalfe said the 80 higher grade biology question papers found at the Pretoria fresh produce market on Tuesday had been inadvertently left there by an invigilator from an East Rand adult education centre.

The papers were the surplus

from an exam written by students at the adult education centre on Monday morning.

Three papers have been leaked so far: biology, accountancy and mathematics.

Metcalfe said there was no evidence of any theft and distribution of the physical science paper. A supposedly stolen paper was shown to be false and "scientifically incorrect", she claimed.

She said also that she was not concerned by reports that the SA Certification Council would need her department to prove the integrity of the examinations. Metcalfe claimed the exams had been "well managed".

The physical science paper has been re-set as well as a number of other papers.

Some of the papers to be re-set are: Northern Sotho higher grade, Tswana, Zulu and history papers to be written today; economics, technical drawing and South African criminal law (tomorrow); and biblical and Jewish studies, mathematics, shorthand and agricultural science (November 24).

# Journalists visit the exam paper Alcatraz

Kevin O'Grady

JOURNALISTS were shown yesterday why provincial education MEC Mary Metcalfe had sufficient confidence in security at the province's secret exam centre to pledge to eat her hat if there was any repeat of last year's matric exam leaks.

The centre where this year's papers were produced, printed and packed and from where they are being distributed, is known as "Alcatraz" because of difficulty in obtaining access.

It was set up under the protection of a comprehensive security system and at great expense, after widespread leaks during last year's exams.

Metcalfe and senior education department officials yesterday took a group of newspaper reporters on a tour of the jealously guarded facility in an attempt to show that this year's papers were, indeed, being produced and distributed in a highly secure way, despite the leakage of two exam papers so far.

The visit was conducted on condition that the location of the facility and details of the security measures that were in place were not revealed.

Metcalfe said she was allow-

ing the visit against the advice of department officials who were concerned that its security might be compromised.

One of the officials responsible for the facility explained that the production of the number of papers required without breaches of security was a mammoth task.

Each of the 256 papers followed a path from examiner to external moderator, editors, typists and proof readers before being printed, packed and distributed to the province's approximately 700 exam centres.

All of the steps, including printing (about 40-million sheets) up to distribution, took place within the facility, the official said.

The department has developed a method of tracing each exam paper along the path it follows and of being able to determine where any paper is at any given time.

It was this method which enabled the department to trace the source, in a short time, of a box of surplus papers found at the Pretoria fresh produce market this week.

Metcalfe said the papers were also packed and sealed in such a way that it would be "im-

possible" for papers to be removed without it being apparent to the person who was required to break the seal in front of exam candidates.

At the exam centre, stringent security measures apply. Examiners' and moderators' identities are verified before they are given entrance and only stationery is allowed to be carried into the building.

Boxes in which paper for reproduction is carried remain there and only shredded paper is allowed to be taken out.

Access to each of the facility's three sections is limited to as small a number of people as possible and work is carried out under surveillance.

Metcalfe said she was confident police would soon make a breakthrough in their investigation into this year's leaks.

Meanwhile, Durban's government-fraud police unit yesterday arrested 20 people, including the chief invigilator, at an adult education centre in KwaMashu in connection with exam irregularities.

It was alleged students bribed the invigilator to allow the exam to be written with the aid of notes. Six of the students were subsequently released.

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*Star 21/11/97*

# A peek inside Gauteng matric exam centre called Alcatraz

By ADAM COOKE

Welcome to Alcatraz, the secret vaults where all the Gauteng Department of Education matric exam papers are set, moderated, typed, printed, and packaged for distribution.

Security guards look you up and down in the lobby before you enter; inquisitive officials watch behind glass

walls; and senior education department officials whisk you around like warders in a maximum security prison.

The location of Alcatraz and its workings have never been revealed to the public, and they will remain secret because every person who enters the venue has to sign a pledge of secrecy.

Gauteng Education MEC

Mary Metcalfe yesterday took the press on a tour of the fortress in a bid to correct perceptions that the department is not doing enough to secure exam papers.

Alcatraz is not an ad hoc development. It is a carefully designed set of rooms, controlled through the use of access cards, that will be in operation for a number of years.

(52)

Inside, the examiners work under surveillance while setting their papers; typists sit behind a heavy glass door typing up the papers; printers housed in a separate section operate the state-of-the-art computerised publishing system; and the packers and sealers secure the papers in their boxes before weighing and marking each one with a tracking system.



# Another 21 nabbed

CP 22/11/97  
By CHRIS HLONGWA

HOPES for scandal-free matric exams in KwaZulu-Natal have been dashed, with the number of people nabbed for fraud pegged yesterday at 21 matric candidates - and a chief invigilator.

These people have been charged with fraud in connection with cheating during the exams in two adult centres in KwaMashu township, near Durban.

The chief invigilator, teacher Justice Gumede has been released on R5 000 bail while 15 students were granted bail of R500 each.

Six students not directly linked with the paper being written were released.

They were scheduled to write another paper later and police could not prove criminal offences against them, said a member of the fraud unit.

Acting on a tip-off from the corruption hotline, the Government Fraud Unit, stationed at John Ross House in Durban, swooped in on two adult centres: Mandela Abet Centre and Osizweni Abet Centre, both in KwaMashu.

The candidates were apprehended by undercover cops while they were writing Business Economics.

It is alleged that the students paid the chief invigilator bribes of between R20 and R70 to be allowed to write exams with the help of notes and textbooks.

Durban regional chief director Dr Ganesh Nair said the chief invigilator at the Osizweni centre had been irresponsible in leaving candidates unsupervised for a period of time.

He has asked district manager BH Mthabela for a full report on how examinations were conducted at this centre.

Nair is of the view that in future, senior certificate examinations should not be written at adult education centres at all.

Candidates should write their examinations at the nearest public secondary school.

Some candidates were also caught in Clermont township on Friday and released.

Details were sketchy at the time of going to press.

Nair has praised the fraud unit for its swift action in bringing to book those involved in senior certificate examination irregularities.

The public is asked to let the Government Fraud Unit know of any mismanagement and irregularities.

They can do so by calling the toll-free number: 0800-313-233.

## Contact us

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# The saga continues

22/11/97  
(52)

By SIFELANI MLAMBO

WITH 35 MORE matric examination papers still to be written, the Gauteng Department of Education has so far been forced to reset 15 papers due to leakages or suspected leakages.

The examinations are scheduled to end on December 2 and the department has had to reset the Physical Science, Northern Sotho (Higher Grade), History, Economics, Technical Drawing, South African Criminal Law, Biblical and

Jewish Studies, Mathematics, Shorthand and Agricultural Science papers. So far 190 papers out of a total of 225 have been written. Those left are mainly practical examinations. A spokesman for the Gauteng

Education Department's examinations directorate, Ishmael Wadee said the department was confident it would find the source of leaked examination papers. He said his department could only confirm that the Biology, Ac-

countancy and Mathematics papers had been leaked.

However, Wadee said the matter was no longer in the hands of the department as the police had taken over investigating the leaks. City Press can reveal that the matric examinations leaks are now being handled by the police's internal investigations unit.

Investigations were moved to the high level police investigating unit after 14 teenagers were arrested for being found with a stolen matric Biology paper in Lenasia last week. The arrest was expected to lead

police and education officials to the source of the leaked paper.

The teenagers took the police to the person who sold them the paper for R500 each. Police arrested two suspects and confiscated a photostat and a fax machine.

The Biology paper could not have been leaked on its way from Alcatraz as the paper was on the street days before it was due to be written. It is suspected that a high-profile person with access to Alcatraz was responsible for the leak. Police remained tight-lipped about their investigations.

# Alcatraz:

(52) 23/11/97 CP.

## Does it really exist?

WHEN GAUTENG MEC for Education Mary Metcalfe invited journalists to the province's "secret" exam centre, otherwise known as "Alcatraz", she deliberately ignored City Press.

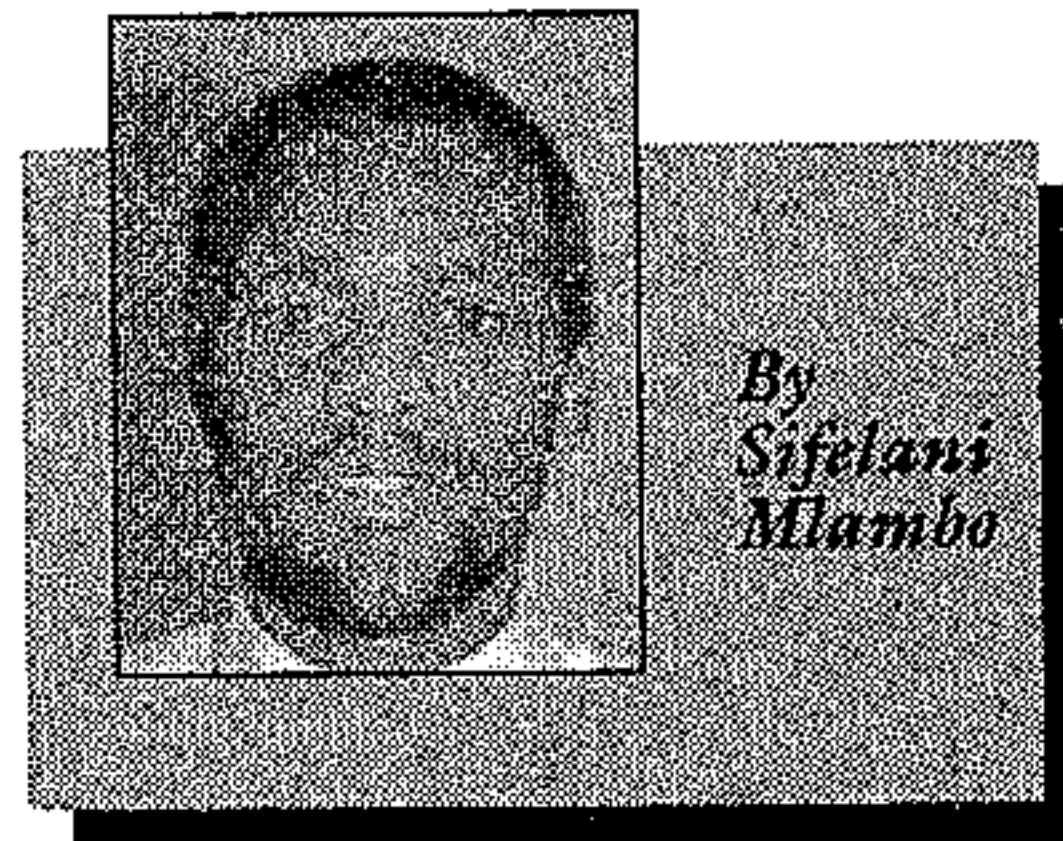
This is despite City Press' doubts about whether Alcatraz really exists. Numerous requests to be taken to the secret venue have been denied. But lo, journalists from other newspapers were reportedly shown Alcatraz where this year's matric papers are being kept.

Metcalfe and other senior education officials invited certain journalists to the venue on condition that the location of the secret venue and details of its security were not revealed, giving credence to suspicions about the existence of Alcatraz.

City Press had challenged Metcalfe, who had declared that this year's matric examinations would not be leaked, to tell where Alcatraz was situated.

Alcatraz was named after what was once one of the world's most secure prisons - a jail in the US.

The local "Alcatraz" was created as part of a set of security measures proposed by a commission of enquiry which was established after the chaotic 1996 matric exams, when papers were either stolen or



leaked to students.

Metcalfe had said that she would eat her hat if there was a repeat of last year's matric exam leaks.

When the accountancy paper leaked Metcalfe refused to eat her hat and accused City Press of being insensitive.

A spokesman for Metcalfe, Tsepo Matodlana, said he had not been involved in the invitation of journalists who took the tour, adding that the MEC had handled the invitation process herself. "The invitation process was done between the MEC and editors," he said.

The spokesman could not say what kind of arrangement had been made with the editors and referred all questions to Metcalfe herself.

Efforts to contact Metcalfe were unsuccessful.

# Maths, science-pass crisis

(52) Star 17/12/97

STAFF REPORTER

Only 5% of matric students leave school with a higher-grade pass in mathematics or science, according to research released by the South African Institute of Race Relations.

Senior research manager at the institute, Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, said the shortage of school-leavers with maths and science skills had serious consequences.

"These are the basis for moving into engineering and medical sciences. The economy needs these people," she said.

Sidiropoulos said another problem was producing and keeping maths and science teachers. "We need real incentives to keep these teachers. There has always been a shortage of maths and science teachers but they are being poached now more than ever."

The institute's statistics

were based on a report published by EduSource, which found that, much like science, only 42% of all pupils enrolled in Grade 12 were doing maths in 1995. And, of every 100 of them, only 33 passed.

"If the higher-grade pass rates are measured against total Standard 10 (Grade 12) enrolment, not even 5% of such pupils are qualifying at school to study science and engineering at university," the institute's report found.

Sidiropoulos said that turning the problem around would take a long time and the Department of Education was working on a number of programmes to address the issue.

A total of 36 non-governmental organisations were currently upgrading teachers through in-service training in maths and physical science programmes across the country, Sidiropoulos added.

*Southern 2/12/97*

# No hitches in marking

MEASURES have been taken to ensure there will be no interruptions this year with the marking of matriculation examination papers, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

Problems experienced last year – including dissatisfaction with the marking tariff, as well as the physical conditions of the marking venues – had been addressed, he said in reply to a question from the National Party's Dr Tersia King in the National Assembly.

Bengu said measures had also been taken to ensure that the announcement of results would

(52)  
not be delayed. It had been agreed by all the provinces that the results would be released between December 31 and January 7.

Provinces had detailed plans to ensure that the processing of results was completed before December 31.

The marking of scripts would be completed by the middle of December, which would allow provinces adequate time to complete the processing of results.

In certain provinces additional data captureers would be appointed to expedite this process.-- Sapa.

# 96% pass rate for IEB matriculants

Star 24/12/97

(52)

Excellent performance, with nine who scored seven or more distinctions the cream of the crop

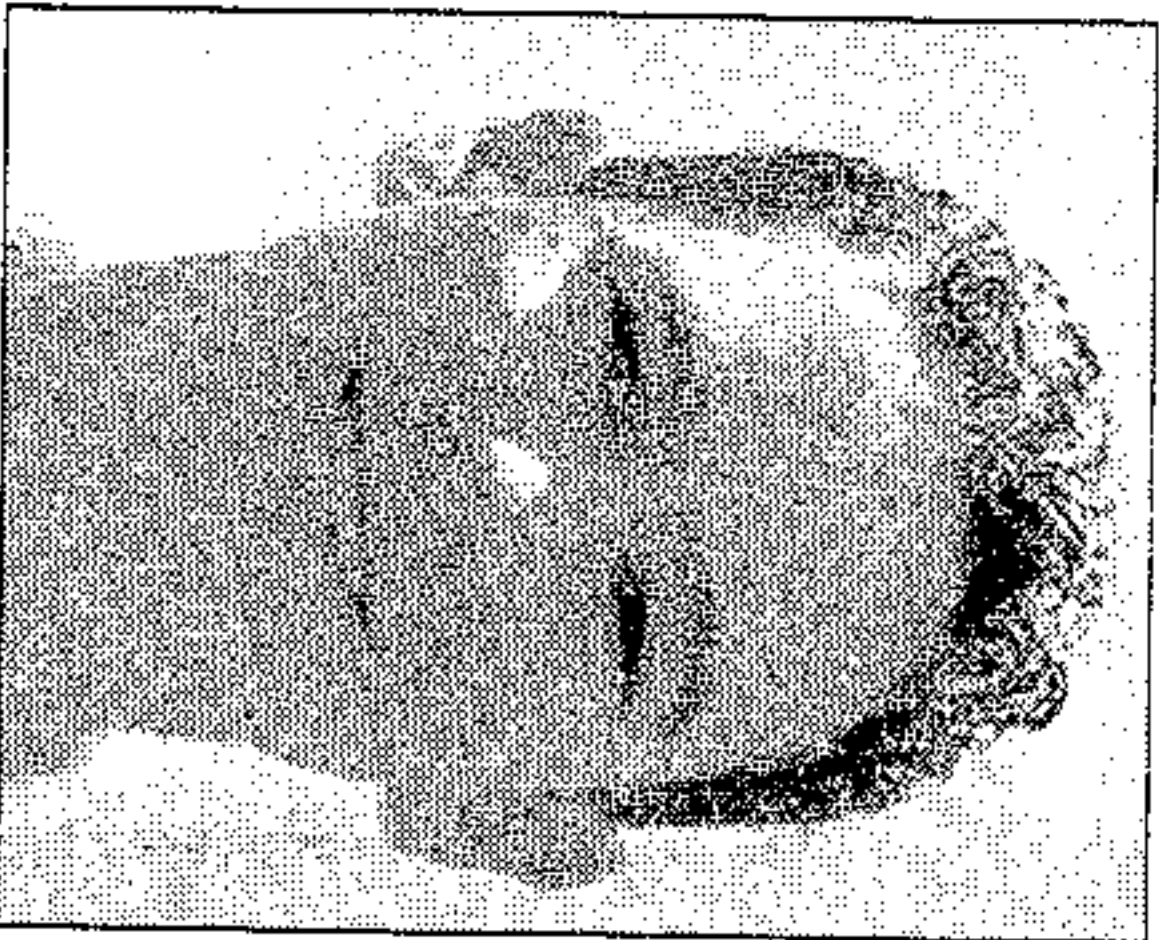
By Shirley Woodgate

There was a 96% pass rate for the 4 268 full-time pupils who wrote the Independent Examinations Board matric exam at 93 schools countrywide this year, IEB director Clive Talbot reported yesterday.

A further 680 private and part-time candidates wrote individual subjects towards either a Senior Certificate or Matriculation Endorsement.

Two of the three pupils who obtained eight distinctions were girls, including Lindsay Bick (17), one of two deputy head girls of St Andrew's School in Senderwood, and Veronica Weisser of Abitur German School in Pretoria. H.L. Twidle was the third candidate who walked off with a full house on the higher grade.

While IEB students celebrated their exam successes, some 80 000 full-time candidates out of a total of some



**7 distinctions ... King David School's Doron Kur.**

126 000 pupils who wrote the Gauteng Education Department matric exam are due to spend a nail-biting Christmas. Spokesman Ismail Wadee said although principals in the province had viewed the results yesterday, they had signed confidentiality agreements binding them to secrecy. He said the decision to with-



**Family affair ... Yeshiva College's Yehuda (left) and Joseph Hockman with 5 and 4 distinctions respectively.**

hold results was a national directive, and a date for the release of the end-of-year marks would be announced today. He expected pupils would hear the outcome of their exams between December 31 and January 7.

Talbot said of the IEB results: "A total of 2 005 subject distinctions were awarded. The



quality of the candidates can be seen in the fact that 455 of the exemption candidates achieved A aggregates. Nine candidates achieved seven or more distinctions, 32 achieved six distinctions and 47 got five distinctions."

King David schools, which previously wrote Gauteng's matric exam, switched to the IEB

exam this year after two years of research by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, said spokesman Arlene Lipshitz.

"In keeping with their high-quality education, the King David schools approached the IEB because it was recognised as a highly professional and ethical examination board of proven standing," she added.

Fifteen of the 18 pupils who studied Hebrew at Yeshiva College got distinctions, with the remaining three boasting B aggregates, said headmaster Frank Samuels. Among the top Yeshiva students was Malka-Ester Rosenberg who was awarded distinctions in four languages - Hebrew, French, English and Afrikaans - and another two As for maths and art.

St Sithians College's results ranked among the best, with the boys achieving the highest number of A aggregates so far and the highest number of subject distinctions, said headmaster David Wryde.

# More faith in

## IEB

(52)

### matric

24/12/97

TROYE LUND

AS faith in the standard of the education departments' matric dwindles, the school-leaving Independent Examinations Board (IEB) qualification is becoming more popular among independent schools.

The number of candidates sitting IEB Senior Certificate examination in 1997 — the results of which were released yesterday — was a third higher than last year.

This year 4 268 full-time candidates at 93 schools across the country sat the exam and 96% passed, with 455 achieving A aggregates.

Nine candidates achieved seven or more distinctions, 32 gained six distinctions and 47 achieved five distinctions.

In all, 2 005 distinctions were awarded.

Of the pupils who wrote the exam, 3 408 passed with a Matric Endorsement. This means that 81% passed well enough to be accepted at university.

"The quality of some of the answers was quite outstanding," said Mr Mike Talbot, director of formal IEB examinations.

"We are pleased with this indication of excellent preparation by candidates, especially those from disadvantaged schools."

However, educators at independent schools in the Western Cape still hold the province's Senior Certificate exam in high regard.

Only four schools in the province wrote the IEB exam.

Western Cape education experts said the provincial department's examination was equal in standard to the IEB's.

The IEB schools in the Western Cape are Bridge House School at Franschhoek, Oakhill school at Knysna and Cape Town's Greendale Education Centre and All Saints College.

Supporters of the IEB exam said it was of a high standard and preferable to the department's because it was not run by the provider of education, the state.

# Cape shines in matric results gloom

ARG 31/12/97

(52)

STAFF REPORTERS

National education officials say matriculation pupils across the country are in for the shock of poor examination results but Western Cape education authorities are expecting good results on a par with previous years.

A source in the national department described the results nationally as "a total disaster".

But Western Cape Education Department spokesman Tony Eaton said: "We are very pleased with the exams this year. There were no leaks or serious mistakes and so far everything is on track."

Last year 80,7% of matric pupils in the Western Cape passed their exams, the highest pass rate in the country. This year more than 33 000 full-time pupils wrote final exams in the province and their results will be released at 4pm on Tuesday, January 6, at their schools.

A senior Western Cape language examiner said marking of papers had gone well and

Next week the Cape Argus gives you a double opportunity to join in the celebrations of thousands of matrics who will get their results in the newspaper on Wednesday.

The first opportunity comes in our Classified columns on Friday January 9 and Monday January 12, as well as in Weekend Argus, when we offer fantastic discounts to family and friends who want to congratulate successful candidates publicly in words and pictures. Find

details of this special offer on page 2 today.

Second, as part of our 1998 campaign to tell the stories of Cape Town's unsung heroes, we want to know about matric pupils who achieved academic success against the odds.

If you know of a pupil who has that extra special reason to celebrate, tell us and we will tell Cape Town. Write to Unsung Heroes, Box 56, Cape Town, 8000, fax us at 488 4075 or send an e-mail to argusnews@ctn.independent.co.za

it seemed pupils had not fared better or worse than previous years.

South African Democratic Teachers' Union general secretary Ndaba Gwcabaza said he expected the results across the country to be significantly better because of the "relatively peaceful" school year and the "fair measure" of co-operation between pupils and teachers. But his predictions are apparently way off the mark.

A national education source speculated that the poor results were the result of several factors which included the "state of

teacher organisation and input this year".

He added: "There have been several strikes this year and a lack of teacher commitment."

Exam officials in the Western Cape Education Department are working flat out to ensure that the results are ready for release on time. The official release will be made by the provincial Minister of Education, Martha Olckers, at a media briefing on Tuesday at 3pm.

The results will be published in the Cape Argus on Wednesday.



# Matric exam results brings mixed fortunes

*Southern 31/12/97*

*(52)*

**By Morgan Naidu and Muzi Mkhwanazi**

**T**HE pass rate of matriculants in North West fell by more than 14 percent while Mpumalanga anticipated a high success rate in this year's matric examinations, it was announced yesterday.

North West education MEC Mr Zachariah Tolo confirmed that his province's matric pass rate had dropped from 66 percent last year to about 51 percent this year.

However, it was not all doom and gloom as 70 North West schools achieved a matric pass rate of higher than 80 percent, including 13 schools with a 100 percent pass rate.

At least 48 500 pupils sat for the matric exams in North West with more than 200 achieving three or more distinctions.

Of the more than 24 000 candidates who passed, 5 331 will be able to pursue university education, having passed with matric endorsement or exemption.

"The department acknowledges the fact that a number of schools performed well. However, we are disappointed with the overall drop of the pass rate," Tolo said yesterday.

He attributed the poor results to several problems, including administrative wrangles in the education department, budget constraints and the impact of a teachers' strike.

Tolo said management problems had "led to unproductivity and low morale among staff in the department".

These problems had a ripple effect and schools had suffered as a result, the MEC admitted. He said financial challenges facing

the department were emphasised by its failure to deploy teachers where they were most needed. This had left many schools without teachers for long periods.

"Overcrowding in schools also meant that learning and teaching suffered badly," said Tolo.

An urgent review of the province's education strategy would have to take place. "We will have to implement programmes related to a culture of learning, teaching and service if we are to improve the situation," he said.

While many North West schools were operating below their potential, a good few continued to do exceptionally well, Tolo said.

He singled out schools in rural areas which had achieved 100 percent pass rates despite overwhelming odds. In Mpumalanga there was a strong

indication that the matric results would surpass last year's overall 50,9 percent pass rate.

Although the final figure was not available by late yesterday, Mpumalanga education spokesman Mr Peter Maminza said the preliminary figures were well above last year's overall pass rate.

There was likely to be a marked improvement on last year's results, he said.

"We have experienced some encouraging improvements in the overall pass rate. We will know for certain tomorrow (Wednesday) the size of the improvements after we finalise some minor outstanding matters."

"It is expected that the overall results will improve comparatively if the other outstanding results are finalised," he said.

Maminza said about 62 353 pupils had sat for the examinations while more than 1 230 pupils had failed to write the exams.

Only 100 pupils had asked for formal permission to be excused from writing examinations due to a variety of reasons.

He said the administration of exams in Mpumalanga this year had been significantly different to last year's "fiasco" when exam markers had protested over payment.

"Our emphasis this year was on tight, waterproof exam management which looked at security and logistics.

"We also managed to avoid last year's fiasco in which exam markers were complaining about salaries. This year everything went according to plan and we managed to finish the whole process in record time," he said.

EDUCATION - SECONDARY

1998

that I'm going to pick will lay a solid foundation for Troussier and his technical "This ing toge

# Matric exam results very poor again

CP REPORTER

CP 4/1/98

(52)

GAUTENG matric results, to be announced on Wednesday, will more or less be just as poor as the previous year, MEC for Education Mary Metcalfe said yesterday.

"I am not expecting any great improvement at all from the previous year's matric exam results," said Metcalfe.

She blamed lack of consistency, bad discipline and the absence of a culture of learning at most schools for the poor results.

"The task of improving matric results rests squarely on the parents, teachers and the pupils themselves. The culture of learning must be maintained at all times if we expect good results every year," she said.

The results will be released to the media at a press conference tomorrow, with an embargo for their release to the public set at midnight on Tuesday.

□ Last year 126 508 matriculants registered for the exams. About 250 exam papers were written.

However, the exams were beset by problems with exam paper leaks and there were a number of arrests and prosecutions.

In 1996, 75 218 full-time students wrote the matric exam. Only 18,2 percent obtained an exemption and 45 000 failed.

# Gloomy outlook for the class of 97

Educationists expect matric pass rate to plummet

GILLIAN ANSTEY

(52)

ST 4/1/98

SOUTH African education is headed for another black January amid expectations that the pass rate among 1997 matric pupils will be significantly lower than in 1996.

Only three provinces have released their results, but the education MECs of the other provinces all expect their matric pass rates to decline.

Half the full-time matric candidates in North West Province passed, slicing 16 percent off the 66 percent pass achieved in the province in 1996.

In the Northern Cape, which had the second-highest pass rate in 1996 — 72,9 percent, only 63,7 percent of matric pupils passed.

So far Mpumalanga has proved the exception: its pass rate increased by 3,6 percent to 54,5 percent in 1997.

The other provincial education departments all predicted poorer results this week.

Durban newspapers speculated that the pass rate in Kwazulu Natal would be 10 percent down on the 63 percent achieved in 1996.

Said Vincent Zulu, the province's MEC for education: "From what I

hear, I am also not that optimistic. Nobody's telling me anything to make me happy. I'm waiting for my guys to confirm it, but it seems as if it's less than last year."

In the middle of last month, Northern Province's education MEC, Joe Phaahla, projected a pass rate of about 40 percent, a 3 percent improvement on last year's figure. By yesterday, however, he had changed his mind.

"It doesn't look like an improvement. I am still waiting for the final report, but initial indications are that there will be a decrease in the pass rate."

The department's spokesman, Bernard Rapule Matsane, said the December projection was based on the September trial exams. "It may drop to 30 percent," he said.

"Overall, there was general stability in the province, but there were a few isolated incidents in some regions and people didn't go to school at some stages. These isolated flash points might make the average pass rate low."

Mary Metcalfe, Gauteng's education MEC, was not too hopeful either. "I am not expecting a great improvement," she said.

The pass rate in Gauteng in 1996 was 57 percent. Metcalfe said it would take time to bring all schools

up to scratch but she was confident that this would be achieved eventually.

Martha Olckers, the Western Cape's education MEC, said that while she would have liked to have seen an improvement on the 80,2 percent pass rate achieved in 1996, "it was a very difficult year for education in the Western Cape".

Nosimo Balindlela, the MEC for education in the Eastern Cape, said the province's pass rate was likely to be slightly lower than last year's 50 percent.

"But the quality of the pass rate will improve, with more schools achieving a 100 percent pass rate." She also believed that more pupils would pass subjects which had a lower pass rate in previous years.

Thabo Khunyeli, acting director for exams in the Free State, refused to speculate on the matric results in the province ahead of a press conference scheduled for tomorrow.

Outstanding results in the other provinces are due to be released by Wednesday.

There have been unconfirmed reports predicting that the 1997 pass rate in the Western Cape will fall by five to 10 percent and that the Gauteng rate will fall by between one and two percent.

# Seventeen in 10 fail in Northern Province

(52) Sowetan 5/1/98

## Pure joy for Purity!

By Mbulelo Baloyi

"I WAS quite certain that I would pass and get an exemption but I had not anticipated that I would get four straight As."

This was the reaction of elated Westville Girls High pupil Purity Thobile Dlamini yesterday when *Sowetan* broke the news that she had obtained four distinctions in her 1997 matric examinations.

Purity (18) had been visiting relatives at Mandeni near Sibebe on the KwaZulu-Natal North Coast when she got the news.

Purity, who lives in Malvern, south of Durban, scored distinctions in English, Zulu, history and accounting all on the higher grade.

The Westville Girls High pupil, who is the daughter of Clairwood Hospital chief professional nurse Mrs Jalisile Euphemia and Durban attorney Mr Zenzele Dlamini, said she had been nervous when the preliminary pass percentage rate was announced.

"I was a bit jittery when I saw a banner headline in a Durban newspaper last week indicating that scores of KwaZulu-Natal pupils might have failed," she said.

Purity said she had been studying at multi-racial schools since Grade Five and when she enrolled at the former Model C Westville Girls High, she did not encounter any problems in adjusting to the school's decrees.

She attributed her success to hard work and determination. On her future career prospects, she said she intended to pursue a career in chartered accounting.

"I intend to do a Bachelor of Commerce degree, specialising in information systems. I have been provisionally accepted at the University of Natal's Durban campus," she said.



Purity Dlamini - four matric distinctions.

By Mbulelo Baloyi and Khathu Mamalla

**S** EVEN in ten students who wrote their final matric examinations last year in Northern Province failed.

In KwaZulu-Natal there was a remarkable drop in the pass rate in the 1997 examinations from 61 percent in 1996 to 54 percent last year.

KwaZulu-Natal education MEC Dr Vincent Zulu and his Northern Province counterpart Dr Joe Phaahla blamed their provinces' poor results on the absence of a culture of learning and teaching.

Northern Province only attained a mere 31,8 percent pass rate - a six percent drop compared to the 1996 results.

A record 136 903 candidates registered for the 1997 Grade 12 examination, but only 129 720 actually sat for the examination.

Of the total number who wrote their final examinations, 33 247 passed without exemption while 7 149 managed to get university entrance. A total of 86 657 pupils failed their exams.

Addressing a media conference yesterday, Phaahla said: "It is unacceptable. This is a waste of taxpayers' money. If we do not change this there is no way our economy can grow. We can't continue to pump billions into a system that can't deliver."

Phaahla urged "all involved" to do their best to avoid a repetition of the poor results.

Thirteen schools - including Sioce School for the Blind, Mbilwi, Moise Maria, Khanyisa and Tshapo - scored a 100 percent pass rate. All candidates at Mbilwi obtained university entrance certificates.

The best student in the province is Marize Barkhuizen, who obtained seven distinctions. Another whizzkid, Romeo Mohlahlego Phalalala scored

the highest marks in mathematics. He got 396 out of 400.

KwaZulu-Natal education MEC Dr Vincent Zulu said at a media briefing in Uthuli yesterday that he blamed his province's poor showing on the introduction of a system of continuous assessment and conditional transfer requirements.

"These had resulted in 'many ill-prepared candidates passing from Grade 11 to 12, hence the decline in the pass rate', said Zulu.

Only 55 254 of the 102 381 full time candidates who sat for exams passed with 18 822 obtaining matric exemptions while 36 432 candidates obtained Senior Certificates.

Zulu said the South African Certification Council's policy of not adjusting marks by more than 10 percent also had an effect on the pass rate.

"The implementation of the culture of learning and teaching programme needs to be put in place firmly in order that candidates are adequately prepared for the Senior Certification examinations and to ensure that the pass rate shows an improvement," said Zulu.

However, Zulu said he was satisfied with the administration and management of the 1997 examinations as there were no leakages of question papers and the process of marking scripts proceeded smoothly.

During the 1997 examinations only 1 932 cases of irregularities were reported compared to 3 313 cases in 1996. Zulu said the results of 1 932 candidates had been withheld pending the outcome of a departmental inquiry.

However, it was not all gloom as some schools had produced outstanding results. Zulu said KwaZulu-Natal would still require financial resources to improve the quality of results in previously disadvantaged schools.

More than 50 KwaZulu-Natal schools achieved a 100 percent pass rate.

# Poor results put Bengu under strain

Star 5/1/98

Predictions are that matric pass rates countrywide will not be up to the standard of last year

By FIKILE-NTSIKELELO  
MOYA

**E**ducation Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu is expected to come under fire amid indications that the 1997 matric results will be worse than last year.

Bengu has already been criticised by teacher unions for passing responsibility for appointing temporary teachers to the provinces.

This year's results are worse than those of 1996, but comparisons cannot be made to previous years when the examinations were conducted by 16 separate education departments.

The troubles facing Bengu and his department ahead of this year's launch of Curriculum 2005 for Grade 1 pupils are expected to get worse after release of poor matric results.

The National Professional Teachers' Organisation of SA is preparing to take Bengu and his department to the Constitutional Court over the decision to devolve responsibilities to the provinces. The department has declined to comment.

The SA Democratic Teachers' Union has also threatened protest action when schools open in two weeks if Bengu does not back down on

## Get your results first with The Star

As a special service to matriculants, copies of The Star containing the Gauteng matric results will be on sale at big shopping malls from midnight tomorrow, as well as at The Star building at 47 Sauer Street in the city.

Gauteng's matric results will be published in full in Wednesday's editions of The Star, but early copies will be available at 10 different spots around Gauteng. Look out for newspaper sellers and The Star vans parked at the mall entrances nearest cinemas:

- Northgate - entrance 7
- Sandton City - entrance 6
- Cresta - entrance 4
- East Rand Mall - entrance 3
- Southgate - entrance 4
- Westgate - entrance 4
- Eastgate - entrance 5
- Alberton City - Solly Kramer entrance
- Baragwanath - in front of Score store

retraining proposals tabled last month. About 30 000 teachers face job losses as provincial education departments reel under their massive debts.

Education MEC Mary Metcalfe said yesterday Gauteng's matric results, for release on Wednesday, are not expected to be much better than last year's.

If the trends in other provinces continue, the results could even be worse than those of 1996.

Mark Henning, national director of the Independent Schools Council, said his organisation was pleased with

the standard of the Independent Examination Board's examinations.

"It is a great disappointment to parents and candidates when results are poor, but perhaps this is an indication authorities are serious when they say real work is required to pass matric and they will not allow standards to be debased," he said.

Of five provinces which have announced results, only Mpumalanga showed an improvement on 1996, moving from 50,9% to 54,9%. Northern Province matrics fared the worst, with a 31,8% pass rate, which dropped about 6% from 1996.

North West Province chalked up a 50% pass rate, a drop of 16%.

The KwaZulu Natal pass rate fell by 7% to 54%. In Northern Cape 63,7% of matrics passed in 1997 as opposed to 72,9% in 1996.

Metcalfe said: "It takes years to create good matric results." She declined to speculate further, saying she did not want to add to pupils' worries.

"I think we should downplay the kids' anxiety ahead of the announcement," she said.

Education authorities declined to give reasons for the disappointing pass rate, saying questions would be answered at a press conference today.

# Knives out over matric disaster in KwaZulu (62)

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

ARK  
5/1/98

**Durban - The knives were out today for KwaZulu Natal's political head of education as officials, parents and pupils came to grips with dismal matric results.**

The pass rate of 54% is only one point better than the lowest recorded, in 1993, and concern was growing today about what will happen to the more than 47 000 KwaZulu Natal pupils who failed their exams.

Vincent Zulu, the provincial education minister, accepted personal responsibility for the shock results.

"I guess I could have been liable," he said. "One was trying very hard under very trying circumstances and finances placed a strain on us. But the buck stops here."

Deflated officials, who had expected a pass rate of around 70%, were secretly hoping one of the key portfolios in the provincial Cabinet would be handed to someone else.

Teachers, who expected a pass rate over 80%, were dismayed.

Ndaba Gwcabaza, provincial general-secretary of the teacher union, Sadtu, said teachers would have to search their souls to find the reason for the "disastrous results".

"It's time for Zulu to resign immediately, as he has failed dismally for three years to lead education in this province," Mr Gwcabaza said.

The chairman of the provincial parliamentary education committee, Roger Burrows, said the results were "entirely unacceptable" and reflected an atmosphere in which hard academic work was not taking place.

Nhlanhla Mtaka, provincial coordinator of the Pan African Congress, put the blame squarely on the Government for "frustrating teachers and politicising education".

Bronwyn Fisher, president of the Association of Professional Teachers of KwaZulu-Natal, said: "A lot could be attributed to the morale of teachers as there has been a lot of insecurity this year, which will not augur well for the future."

Dr Zulu said 1997's results provided the first realistic picture of the matriculation predicament.

He said there were many ill-prepared candidates promoted to matric in 1997 because of "continuous assessment and conditional transfer requirements".

**Western Cape matric results will appear in Wednesday's Cape Argus**

UNIONS TO PROTEST

# Poor matric results add to Bengu's woes

ETS/1198  
(52)

**JOHANNESBURG:** Troubles facing the national Education Department are expected to grow after poor matric results around the country.

**E**DUCATION Minister Dr Sibiso Bengu is expected to come under more fire this week amid indications that last year's matric results will be worse than in 1996.

Bengu, already under fire from teachers' unions for passing responsibility for teachers to provincial heads, will be in the firing line as results are released. Many blame Bengu directly for the low morale among teachers and the uncertainty in education.

The National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa is preparing to take Bengu and his department to the Constitutional Court over the decision to devolve responsibility for the teacher and financial and rationalisation crises to the provinces.

The South African Democratic Teachers Union has also threatened protests when schools open in two weeks if Bengu does not back down on the controversial proposals tabled last month. About 30 000 teachers around the country face losing their jobs this year as provincial education departments reel under massive debt.

The troubles facing Bengu and his department ahead of this year's launch of Curriculum 2005 for Grade One pupils is expected to grow after the release of poor matric results around the country.

Gauteng's matric results, to be released on Wednesday, were not

## 'Create culture of teaching'

**JOHANNESBURG:** Retired mathematics teacher Professor Tamsanqa Kambule takes delight in watching some of his former pupils — including new South African soccer coach Jomo Sono, Kaizer Chiefs owner Kaizer Motaung and fallen idol Stix Morewa — score all the goals.

Past pupils also include journalist Thami Mzwai, academic Professor William Mokgokong and SABC chief executive Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu.

Kambule, 76, has been a teacher for 52 years and still loves solving mathematical problems. He works as a consultant and teaches pupils up to university level. "I don't solve problems for them, but make them understand," he says.

Kambule, who lives in Soweto, has written five mathematics textbooks and is working on another for Curriculum 2005.

"People have said the biggest problem facing education in this country is to reintroduce the culture of learning. I do not agree. I believe there is a need to create a culture of teaching," says Kambule.

"Our teachers need to be motivated and rewarded. The teacher controls the class and if he is not happy he cannot create a culture of learning. The students take it from him."

Despite his academic achievements, he is deeply rooted in his culture. "The more educated you are, the more humble you should become," he says. — Own Correspondent

expected to be much better than last year's, Education MEC Ms Mary Metcalfe said yesterday.

"I am saying what I have been saying consistently, and that is that it takes years to create good matric results," Metcalfe said. She declined to speculate further, saying she did not want to add to pupils' worries ahead of the official announcement.

If the trend developing in other provinces continues, the results could be worse.

Of five provinces that have announced their results, only one, Mpumalanga, showed an improvement on its 1996 pass rate, moving

from 50,9% to 54,9%. Northern Province matrics fared the worst, with only a 31,8% pass rate, which dropped about 6% from 1996.

North West Province chalked a 50% pass rate — a drop of 16%, and in KwaZulu-Natal the pass rate fell by 7% to 54%.

In the Northern Cape 63,7% of matrics passed last year compared with 72,9% in 1996.

● Acting National Education Department spokesperson Mr Khume Kangala said the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Free State were also expected to announce their results in the next two days. — Own Correspondent



# 'State must take blame'

(52) Sawethan 6/1/98

By Victor Mecoamere

**N**EARLY half of the 126 508 matric candidates who wrote in Gauteng last year have failed, according to statistics released in Johannesburg yesterday.

Announcing the pass rate ahead of tomorrow's publication of results, Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe said only 51,5 percent of the province's matric candidates had matriculated. This, Metcalfe said, was 4,1 percent lower than last year's overall pass rate.

"There has been a slight decrease of 4,1 percent in the overall pass rate of full-time candidates, and a marginal decrease of 1,4 percent in the matriculation exemption rate which this year is 17,2 percent," she said.

This is the second year matric candidates have all sat for the same examinations under a single provincial department of education.

Metcalfe claimed the lack of discipline at most Gauteng schools – described by educationists as the breakdown in the culture of learning and teaching – could definitely not be a cause of the poor results. She chose instead to lay the blame on apartheid.

She said she was pleased that 40 schools had achieved a 100 percent pass rate and that 227 had attained 80 percent and higher.

"The top hundred students achieved 651 distinctions – an average of 6,5 distinctions each," said Metcalfe.

Metcalfe also announced the names of several schools which had achieved "a phenomenal increase".

These included Tlakula High School in Kwa-Thema in the East Rand. Tlakula's pass rate improved by 32 percent to 45 percent.

Gauteng is lagging behind Northern Cape, which has a 63,7 percent pass rate, Mpumalanga which has achieved 54,9 percent and Kwazulu-Natal with 54 percent.

The worst result, 31,8 percent, was recorded by Northern Province. North West scored a 50 percent pass rate.

Sapa reports that the National Professional Teachers' Organisation of SA (Naptosa) said yesterday that the time had come for the state to accept responsibility for the drop in the matriculation pass rate and to respond not with meaningless rhetoric, but with bold and innovative action.

Naptosa president Mr Leepile Taunyane said that a year ago the organisation had warned that unless an in-depth investigation was conducted to analyse matric results to determine scientifically areas of progress and deterioration and stagnation, the root cause of the poor results would never be determined.

He said it served no purpose to allow candidates to enter for examinations when they were clearly unprepared for them.

Reacting to the matric results, the Freedom Front said the national ongoing downward trend did not come as a surprise at all. FF education spokesman Leon Louw said the ANC had to take the blame as it had instituted slogans like: "Liberation before education."

Louw said quality education with high standards and norms, rather than political slogans and ideology, had always been the only guarantee of good results. He predicted that the possible retrenchment of more qualified teachers this year, and the funding problems being experienced in many provinces, would lead to even poorer results in 1998.

The National Party in the Northern Cape said: "Ideology and politics play a dominant role in ANC education policy." The NP added that transformation in education had become the main goal at the expense of achievement.

In Northern Province, political parties and church groups reacted with shock and disbelief at the province's dismal matric results.

The Northern Province Council of Churches said the low pass rate of 31,8 percent was due to a serious lack of commitment by all involved in education in the province.

# Major challenge awaits Free State teachers and pupils as matric pass rate drops by 8,8%

Bloemfontein - The Free State matric pass rate dropped by 8,8% last year compared to 1996, Education MEC Mxolisi Dikwana said in Bloemfontein yesterday ahead of the release of the province's results this morning.

Dikwana said the pass rate dropped from 51,1% in 1996 to 42,3% - an alarming level that he hoped would never be repeated.

Although this figure had to be understood against the context of the countrywide fall in pass rates in almost all provinces, he seriously appealed to all schools to consider this as a challenge for improvement.

Dikwana said this was an indication of the continuing absence of a culture of learning and teaching at the various levels of the education system. However, the number of dis-

tinctions increased from 2 589 in 1996 to 3 021, with four candidates obtaining distinctions in eight subjects (two in 1996), seven with seven distinctions (13 in 1996) and 29 with six distinctions (33 in 1996).

The top achiever in the Free State was Jacoba Magdalena Bosman, of Witteberg High School, Bethlehem, with eight distinctions and the highest aggregate.

Dikwana said courses would soon be presented to enable teachers to improve the situation, adding that the management of schools was just as important.

It was most alarming to note that there were some schools where no pupils or only one had passed, he said.

At head office and district level many departmental officials, who should provide ad-

ministrative and professional support to teachers, had failed to do their work effectively, he said.

Of 41 673 candidates who had registered, 40 035 wrote the examination. A total of 4 277 pupils passed with university entry endorsement, while 12 667 passed without endorsement. There were 23 083 failures and results were still awaited for eight candidates.

A total of 37 schools achieved a 100% pass rate.

Dikwana said the education department was aware of the anxiety caused by the issue of retrenchment.

There were constructive discussions with all employee organisations on the issue and the department would do everything to resolve the matter amicably within its financial constraints, he said. - Sapa

Star 6/11/98

(52)

# 51,5% pass rate for Gauteng

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(72)

Metcalfe praises several schools which show dramatic improvements under difficult circumstances

By SHIRLEY WOODGATE

Little more than half of Gauteng matric pupils passed their examinations last year - a 4,1% drop from 1996 - Education MEC Mary Metcalfe said yesterday. Of the 51,5% who passed, the top 100 students achieved 651 distinctions, an average of 6,5 distinctions each, and three pupils were awarded nine distinctions. Fifteen received eight As.

A 100% pass rate was achieved by 40 schools and 227 schools had pass rates of more than 80% and higher.

This is the second year that all South African pupils have written the same exam.

Metcalfe said: "While this is cause for concern and some disappointment, we believe we are dealing with the systemic problems that give rise to the low pass rate.

"We are confident over time, that more of our students will be achieving the results of which we know they are capable, with the appropriate effort under positive conditions for teaching and learning."

She added that there was a direct correlation between the

lack of discipline at most Gauteng schools and the poor results obtained.

Singling out schools which had shown enormous improvements under difficult circumstances, Metcalfe specifically praised Tlakula High which had demonstrated the resolve of the people of strife-torn KwaThema to return to normality by achieving a 32% increase in matric passes.

Other schools which had showed a phenomenal increase included Aha Thuto in Orange Farm, which improved by 11% to achieve a 89,5% pass rate, Raphela in Orange Farm (4,5% up for a 71,8% pass rate), Mopatsela in Kagiso (up 13,5% to 78,9%), Mamelodi Secondary (up 21,8% to 54,9%) and Lofentse High in Orlando (up 9% to 55,6%).

Low down the line were Seanamarena in Mapeta (up 13% to 50,2%), Chippa Tabane in Cullinan (up 34% to 50%), Mehlareng in Tembisa (up 34% to 50%) and Thandukwazi Secondary in Sebokeng (up 29% to a 45% pass rate).

Supplementary exams will be written from February 23 to March 31.

The criteria to qualify have

been tightened and application forms will be sent out with the candidates' results, Metcalfe said.

The closing date for applications for re-checking or re-marking is Friday January 23. Applications forms will be available at district offices and they must be returned to the relevant district offices by the closing date.

Metcalfe's announcement yesterday afternoon was embargoed for midnight tonight, but a Johannesburg morning newspaper and SABC television used the information this morning.

Metcalfe said there had been a marked decrease in the number of pupils whose results had to be withheld because of any irregularities that were linked to dishonesty.

In 1996 the results of 1 413 students were held back because of alleged cheating, but only 123 results were not handed out this year.

Of these, only 20 were suspected of having illegal access to exam papers prior to the exams, supporting the police view that the theft of stolen material was extremely localised, she said.

## Shock matric results prompt call for education summit

By SHIRLEY WOODGATE AND EDWIN MAZU

Financial wastage, a lack of a culture of learning and discipline, and the political agenda governing education have been blamed for the shock matric results which threaten to leave almost half the matriculants of 1997 without school-leaving certificates.

Angry educationists and political parties have reacted to the results, which are largely worse than those of 1996, by calling for a top-level summit involving all education stakeholders.

Of the seven provinces that have released their results, all except Mpumalanga have registered declines on the 1996 results. The Western Cape matrics results also went down from 80,7% in 1996 to 77% - the highest in the country.

Yesterday Eastern Cape Education MEC Nosimo Balindlela reported that only 46% of the province's 74 224 pupils had passed, a drop of almost 4% on the previous year.

In the Free State, Education MEC Mxolisi Dukwana announced that 42,3% had passed, down nearly 9% from 1996.

Educationists and education organisations said the dismal results could have been avoided if the Government had played a more positive role, teachers had been more dedicated, pupils had shown greater commitment and parents had shown

### Standards of teaching, learning under spotlight

more interest in their children's education.

South African Certification Board spokesman Dr Fred Calitz said indications were that things were going downhill and that the standard of teaching and learning at schools had to be scrutinised.

The National Professional Teachers' Organisation of SA (Naptosa) said the financial drain on the education system had taken on frightening proportions and it served very little purpose to merely attend to administrative problems associated with exams.

Urging an in-depth investigation into the matric results, Naptosa said it was necessary to "determine scientifically areas of progress as well as areas of deterioration".

South African Democratic Teachers' Union deputy president Edwin Pillay rejected suggestions that teachers and pupils should bear the brunt of blame for poor results, questioning the commitment of parents, "some of whom had not shown any interest in their children's education".

He said the results reflected the need for an overhaul of the matriculation exam since it was among the last remaining legacies of apartheid education.

Major challenge Page 2

# CAPE MATRICS ARE TOPS

## Three-quarters pass - the best result so far

CAROL CAMPBELL  
SPECIAL WRITER

Western Cape matrics have excelled themselves.

The pass rate for pupils who wrote in 1997 is between 76% and 77% - the best results in the country. The Western Cape Education Department was to release results officially this afternoon.

In Gauteng, where results were also released today, 51.5% of pupils passed, which is a drop of 4.1% on last year.

After the Western Cape the next best performer was the Northern Cape where 63% of pupils passed, 9% fewer than last year.

In Mpumalanga the pass rate went up from 50.9% last year to 54% this year. Pupils in the vast and desperately poor rural Northern Province performed worst. Only 31.8% passed, a drop of 6% from 1996.

Western Cape Education Minister Martha Olickers will officially announce the Western Cape pass rate and the names of the highest-scoring pupils at a press conference in Cape Town today.

National Party spokesman Steve Minaar said the party's views on the pass rate would be made known by Mrs Olickers then.

The top 20 pupils are expected to attend the press conference and were contacted yesterday.

Although the percentage pass rate is down on last year's 80.7%, commentators say it is a more accurate reflection of pupils' abilities than inflated figures produced by advantaged schools during the apartheid era.

A spokesman for Education Minister Sibusiso-Bengu, Khumé Kangala, said Dr Bengu would comment on the country's matric results at a press conference in Cape Town on Thursday. Until then there would be no word from the ministry on the Western Cape's good performance.

A national Education Department source said the rural provinces felt the Western Cape, which still had a high teacher-pupil

### MATRIC RESULTS 1997

#### TODAY ON PAGE 3:

- National matric disaster brings summit call
- Bengu calls talks on temps crisis
- Job prospects 'not all that bleak'
- Stars of '96 reap rewards of student life

■ **TOMORROW:** There'll be about 28 000 names in our Cape Argus matric results supplement. Will yours be there?

■ **TOMORROW:** Everything you need to know about Matric '97, in words and pictures

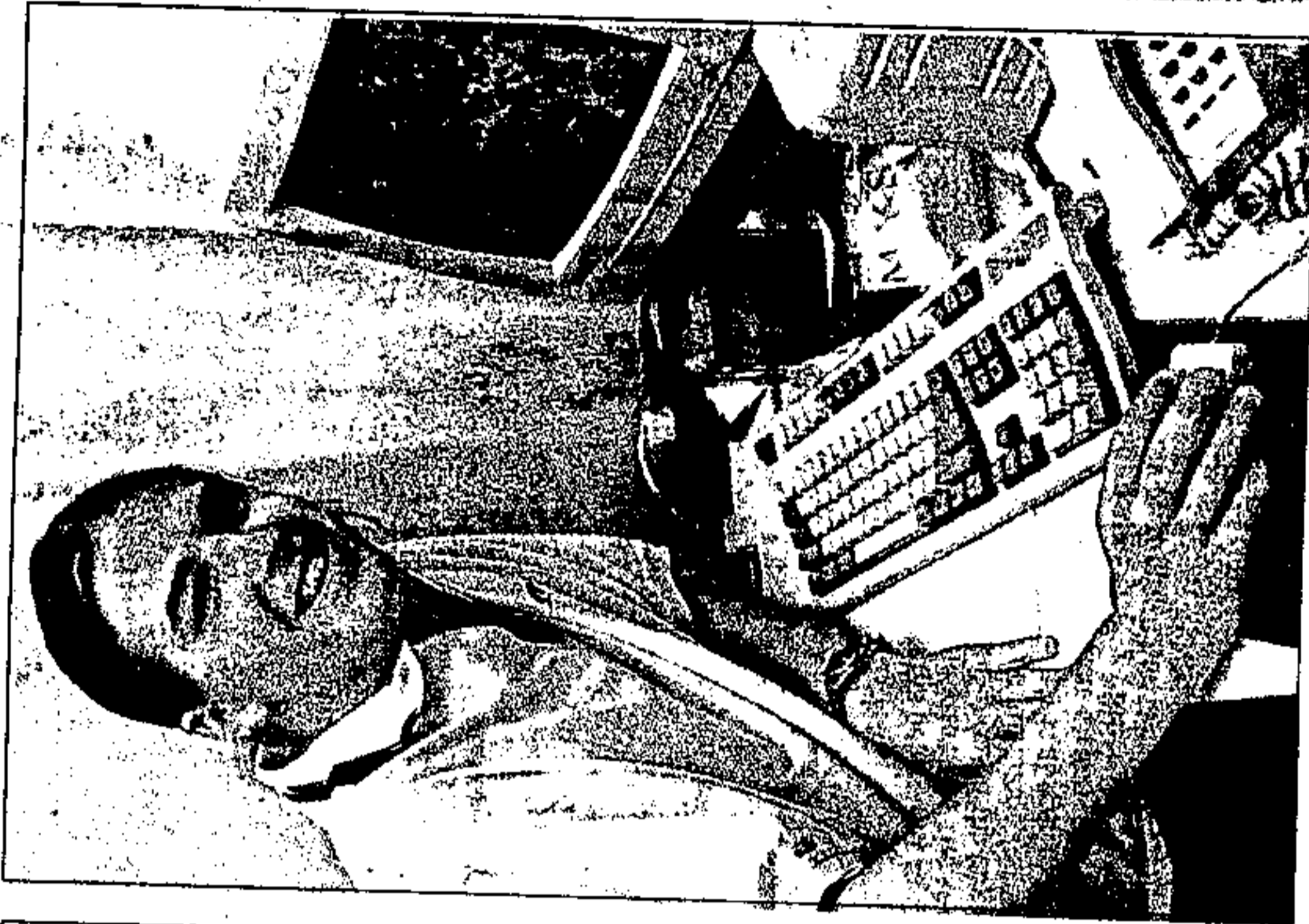
■ **FRIDAY:** Our Classified section's Class of '97 deal kicks in, offering you great discounts if you want to congratulate a successful matric student. See page 2 today for details

■ **EVERY DAY:** Tell us the stories of the unsung heroes of the 1997 matric - and we'll tell Cape Town. Write to Unsung Heroes, PO Box 56, Cape Town, 8000, fax us at 488 4075 or e-mail [argusnews@chn.independent.co.za](mailto:argusnews@chn.independent.co.za)

ratio, had performed well at the expense of the poor. "These provinces will not do well until they are given basic resources like books. We have to spread the resources more evenly but the Western Cape still clings to past privilege," he said.

Today Dr Bengu is meeting the seven African National Congress education MECs and the SA Democratic Teachers Union to discuss the results released so far and how to resolve the crisis of jobs for temporary teachers.

Mike Ellis, education spokesman for the Democratic Party, said that in view of the disastrous results in the rest of the country, pupils in the Western Cape deserved to be congratulated. "It is significant that education in this province is not run by the ANC but the National Party," he said.



FRANK GEAR

Top guns: last year's top matriculants, Tobias Brandt who is studying for a BSc degree after getting six distinctions and Amanda Weitman who got seven distinctions and is also doing a science degree, are leading a busy life at the University of Cape Town. See report, page 3

ROY WIGLEY

The schools which fought the central government's plan to cut teaching jobs and re-deploy teachers at random - through the Grove Primary School court case - could take some credit for the results.

"The Western Cape has taken the lead in countering unsound policy from the central government," he said.

School principals were to have collected results from the Education Department this



morning and by 4pm pupils will know if they have passed or failed when results go on public display at schools.

Results will be published in the Cape Argus tomorrow.



BRENTON GEACH

**Holding thumbs:** student Nokuzola Sanda of Khayelitsha will hear her results today

## Job prospects for matrics 'not all that bleak'

ARG 6/1/98

DENNIS CAVERNELIS

STAFF REPORTER

Job prospects for Western Cape school leavers are not as bleak as they have been painted, says economist Wolfgang Thomas of Wesgro, the organisation that promotes economic growth

He believes the prediction that only one in 10 school leavers will find work in the formal sector is "naive" and "statistically incorrect", assuming as it does that all school leavers will look for full-time employment immediately.

Professor Thomas said it had become "customary" in South Africa to measure the state of the labour market by the percentage of matriculants who allegedly found jobs in formal employment. Since this percentage was quite low, between 3% and 10% according to labour market observers' statistics, the conclusion that employment prospects were poor was all too easy to reach.

"In fact a significant percentage of matriculants repeat some of their courses, many continue studying and many travel overseas."

Professor Thomas estimated that about 19% of this year's 28 000 Western Cape matriculants would be unable to find jobs, 18% would find part-time work or rewrite some subjects, 12% would find jobs in the formal sector, 6% would travel and about 45% would pursue a tertiary education.

# Matric disaster sets off call for summit as critics weigh in

## *Nearly half may fail across SA*

(52) ARG 6/1/98

### ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Financial waste, the lack of a culture of learning and discipline, and the political agenda governing education have been blamed for matriculation results which could leave almost half the candidates of 1997 without school-leaving certificates.

Angry educationists and political parties have called for a top-level summit involving key figures in the education system.

Of the seven provinces that have released results, all except Mpumalanga have registered declines on last year's results.

The Western Cape and Gauteng will release their results today.

Eastern Cape Education Minister Nosimo Balindlela said yesterday that only 46% of the province's 74 224 pupils had passed, a drop of almost 4% on last year.

In the Free State, Education Minister Mxolisi Dukwana said 42,3% of matric candidates had passed, nearly 9% fewer than last year's 51,1%.

Educationists and education organisations said the dismal matric results countrywide could have been

avoided if the Government had played a more positive role, teachers been more dedicated to their jobs, pupils shown greater commitment and parents paid more interest in their children's education.

South African Certification Board spokesman Fred Calitz said it appeared that "things are going downhill" and that the standard of teaching and learning had to be scrutinised.

The National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa (Naptosa) said the financial drain in the education system had taken on "frightening proportions".

Urging an in-depth investigation of the matric results, Naptosa said it was necessary to "determine scientifically areas of progress as well as areas of deterioration and stagnation".

SA Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) deputy president Edwin Pillay rejected suggestions that teachers and pupils should bear the brunt of the blame, instead questioning the commitment of parents.

Mr Pillay said the poor results clearly reflected the need for an overhaul of the matric exams, which he

said were among the remaining legacies of apartheid education.

"There have been minor changes to content and curriculum for matriculants but in the end we have to ask whether we are turning out pupils with skills to assert themselves in the economy, and the answer is no."

Democratic Party spokesman Brian Goodall said there was no doubt the ongoing "war" between the Education Department and teachers was the root cause of the problem. Considering about a fifth of the budget was allocated to education, it was clear the country was not getting value for money, he said.

The National Party called for urgent moves to put in place a well-disciplined and managed teaching staff to instill a culture of learning among pupils.

The Freedom Front blamed the African National Congress's "liberation before education" strategy.

The United Democratic Movement blamed the results on the present teacher/pupil ratios.

The ANC Youth League questioned whether teachers were patriotic enough to commit themselves selflessly to educating young people.

# Results blamed on bad discipline

By Victor Mecomere and Mckeed Kotlole

**D**ESPITE the poor matric examination results in Gauteng, a number of schools have shown a phenomenal increase in their overall pass rates.

Gauteng posted a 51.5 percent pass rate - which was 4.1 percent lower than the 1996 pass mark - with a 17.2 percent matriculation exemption rate, which has fallen by 1.4 percent. Local education MEC Mary Metcalfe said.

"The results are a witness to the systematic transformation that is so urgent in education," said Metcalfe.

"This is the age group that has been most affected by apartheid education. These students began their schooling in 1985 and have not had the time to benefit from the greater stability that has begun to take root in our schools."

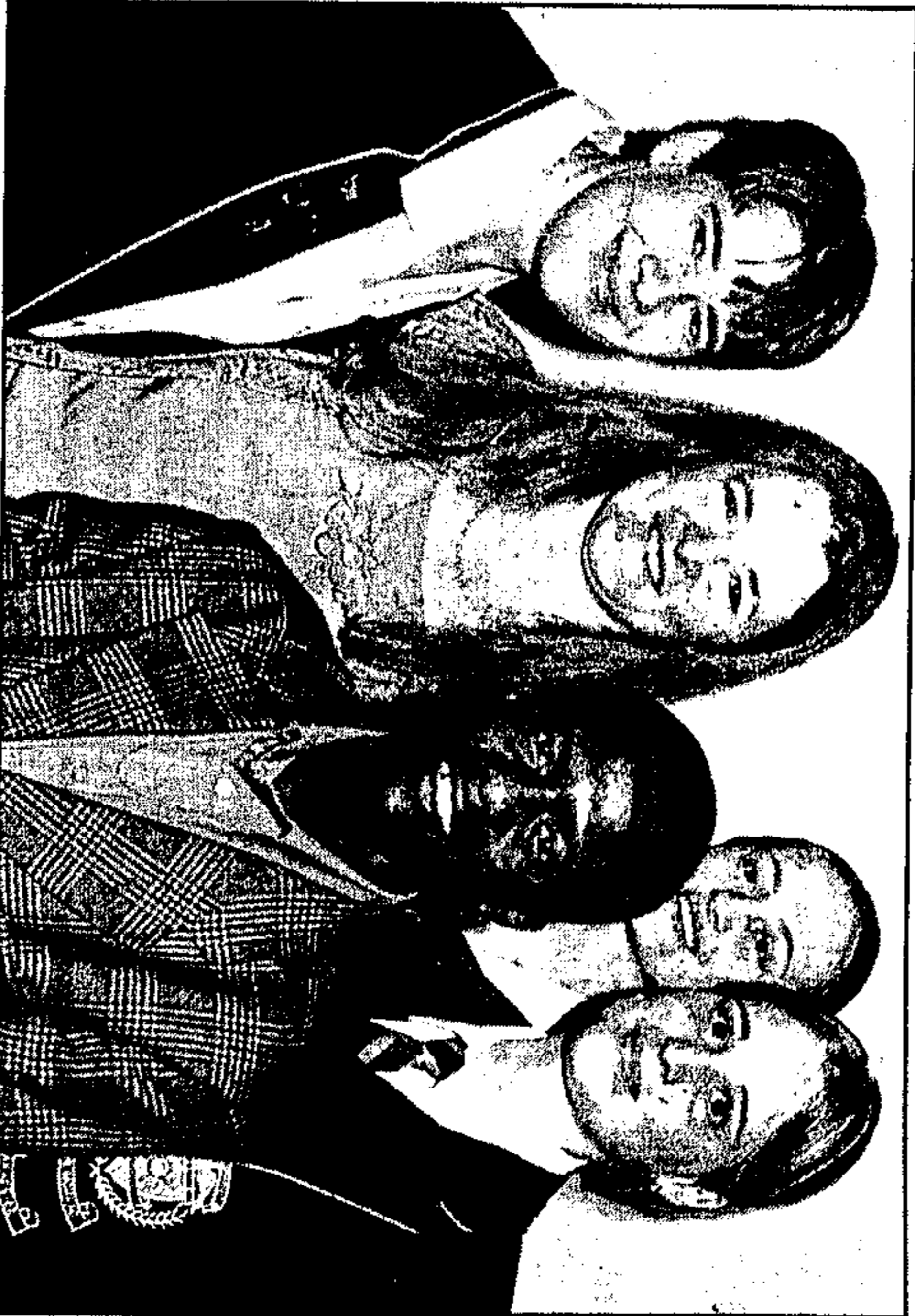
*Sowetan* erroneously reported yesterday that Metcalfe had said lack of discipline had played no role in the decline of the pass rate. It had actually played a part.

## Lack of discipline

Gauteng Department of Education spokesman Mr Aubrey Mashiqi said yesterday that the results were poor at schools which had been affected by lack of discipline, adding that this remained Metcalfe's view.

One of the schools that did extremely well is the Roman Catholic school Holy Trinity High in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, which obtained a 100 percent pass rate for the 10th successive year.

The school's elated principal, Mrs Albertina Mokoena, told *Sowetan*



Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe, second from left, with the five students who obtained distinctions in the 1997 matric examinations, Alete Roux, extreme left, Moses Maseko, Kristen McDonald and Isabella Pretorius. Roux, McDonald and Pretorius got nine A's each. Maseko obtained an A and three B's. Fifteen other students got eight distinctions each.

yesterday: "I was expecting a 100 percent pass from the kids because I have been praying for this since January last year."

The school had registered 72 matric candidates last year but, unfortunately, one of them died after an illness while at school in June, leaving 71 to sit for the examinations.

Metcalfe reported that 40 schools achieved a 100 percent pass rate while 227 other institutions scored pass

rates of 80 percent and higher.

Metcalfe and GDE superintendent-general Mr James Maseko showed off five schoolchildren who are among the top 100 successful candidates who achieved 651 distinctions, an average of six each.

Among the five pupils who obtained distinctions are Kristen McDonald of Jeppe Girls High School, Alet Roux of Kempton Park High School and Isabella Pretorius of

Florida High School who obtained nine A's each.

Amrit Kalal of Lenasia High School got six A's and Moses Maseko of the Alpheus Mamokele High School attained four distinctions.

Metcalfe said there were a number of schools that had performed better than in 1996. They include 10 schools in KwaThema, Orange Farm, Sebokeng, Kagiso, Mamelodi, Soweto, Cullinan and Tembisa.

**The ■ symbol and E symbol in front of names of matriculants who passed their examinations mean that the candidate matriculated with university exemption**

The top three schools are Aha Thuto in Orange Farm which improving by 11 percent to achieve a pass rate of 89.5 percent, its neighbour Raphela with 71.8 percent - which is an improvement of 4.5 percent - and Mosupatsela in Kagiso which improved by 13.5 percent to attain 78.9 percent.

Mamelodi Secondary School had improved by 21.8 percent to attain a pass rate of 54.9 percent and Seanamarena High in Mapella, Soweto, improved by 24 percent to get 52 percent.

Metcalfe said Tlakula High School in KwaThema had demonstrated "the resolve by the people of KwaThema to restore normality in that area by achieving a 32 percent increase in its matric results."

## Results withheld

The results of 123 candidates have been withheld because of irregularities which include cheating and the unauthorised possession of examination material. In 1996 the results of 1 413 pupils were withheld for similar reasons.

Only 20 of the 123 students whose results have been withheld are suspected of having had "unauthorised access to examination material", according to Metcalfe.

# Western Cape, Gauteng pass rates decline

Kevin O'Grady (52)

BD 7/11/98  
pass rate while Northern Province fared the worst with 31,8%.

1 WESTERN Cape and Gauteng both  
7 posted declines of 4,1 percentage  
5 points in their matric pass rates last  
9 year, to 76,3% and 51,5% respectively,  
they said yesterday.

2 This means the failure rate has  
7 climbed in all provinces except Mpu-  
3 malanga, prompting criticism of gov-  
1 ernment, teachers, pupils and parents  
and calls for Education Minister Sib-  
2 iso Bengu's resignation.

Western Cape achieved the highest

Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe said although the drop was "statistically insignificant", it was "cause for concern and some disappointment".

Last year's matric pupils had experienced the worst of apartheid education and school conditions had begun stabilising only in the past 18 months, she said. "We believe that we are dealing with the systemic problems that

Continued on Page 2

## Education

Continued from Page 1

give rise to the low pass rate."

The Gauteng matric exemption rate had dropped "marginally" by 1,4 percentage points to 17,2%. Metcalfe said 40 schools had achieved a 100% pass rate and 227 pass rates of 80% and higher. The province's top 100 students had achieved 651 distinctions.

Many of the 36 707 pupils who failed would be able to re-enroll this year only if there was space available in schools. They should look for alternatives such as the Gauteng Youth College, technical colleges or commercial correspondence courses.

Sapa reports Western Cape education MEC Martha Olckers said 28 381 of the 37 197 full-time Western Cape candidates who wrote the full exams passed, while 8 791, or 23,6%, obtained exemptions. The number of "A" symbols rose to 6 490 from 5 783 in 1996; an increase of 12%. The challenge this year was not to allow the correction of imbalances in the school system to

"prevent us from raising pass rates".

Metcalfe said there were far fewer instances of cheating than in 1996. Only 123 matric candidates' results had been withheld because of suspected prior access to exam papers and other forms of cheating, compared with 1 413 the previous year.

Northern Province premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi said he would call a meeting of stakeholders to prevent a repeat this year of the province's poor pass rate. "If it requires a streamlining of processes and a re-examination of our entire system, it will be done."

Farouk Chothia reports that African National Congress KwaZulu-Natal spokesman Dumisani Makhaye said the "shameful" and "scandalous" matric results in the province were not due to a lack of funds. KwaZulu-Natal had budgeted R6bn for education for this fiscal year — more than the total budget of some African countries.

The problem lay in the failure to redistribute resources "boldly" in favour of underprivileged schools.

Picture: Page 3  
See Page 5



# Bengru to focus on quality of education

The past year might well be viewed as an *annus horribilis* by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengru and his colleagues in the education sector, particularly in the light of the generally dismal matric results released by the provinces in the past few days.

What remains to be seen is how much havoc will be wreaked in the new year by fallout from some of the disasters of last year, and whether this will translate into an even lower matric pass rate.

The past academic year was characterised by increasing tension between Bengru — an African National Congress (ANC) minister — and teachers' unions, including the ANC-affiliated SA Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtutu). It ended with Bengru and his union adversaries agreeing on one thing — that SA's school system was in a crisis — but disagreeing on how the situation should be dealt with.

The reasons put forward for the crisis, and where the blame lies, differ, but to most outside observers difficulties in the school system stem largely from government's ambitious teacher redeployment scheme. This view garnered some belated recognition from Bengru when, during Christmas week, he announced plans to terminate the scheme from the beginning of the new year.

As a direct result of the scheme, which was intended to achieve equity between overstuffed and understaffed areas without actually decreasing teacher numbers, government lost an important court case against several Western Cape schools and was forced to allow provincial education departments to press ahead with plans to retrain temporary teachers.

This side effect of the redeployment scheme could prove to be a most damaging factor to the operation of schools this year.

Government has said about 20 000 temporary teachers will be affected by the provinces' cost-cutting plan of not renewing contracts. The unions say this will have a disastrous effect in many schools — some of which are almost entirely staffed by temporary teachers — when they reopen during the next two weeks.

Sadtutu has also called on affected teachers to ignore the termination of their contracts and take up their posts again when the new school term begins — a move likely to add to the confusion generated as grade one teachers and pupils start to get to grips with the new out-of-context curriculum.

However, government says many of those affected were due to leave anyway when the teachers they had replaced returned from maternity or study leave. Others would be rehired by their schools from funds raised by their governing bodies, while still others were only occupying posts waiting to be filled by teachers who had been identified for redeployment as part of the scheme.

This redeployment was halted by the court case in which the Cape High Court ruled that Grove Primary, and other public schools, could not be forced to employ teachers from government's redeployment lists. About 16 000 teachers are awaiting redeployment despite the termination of the scheme. Bengru has said that a way will be found to complete the process, eradicating the need to employ the same number of temporary teachers.

The massive overemployment of teachers last year, as a result of the delays caused by the failure of Primary case and the failure by unions and the state to reach agreement in the education labour

relations council on an improved way of achieving equity in the provision of teachers, resulted in another major problem — provincial overspending.

The fact that some provincial education departments were spending as much as 90% of their budgets on personnel, together with the fact that Bengru has stopped having a say in the budget allocations, made the minister realise that it was no longer practical to determine teacher-pupil

ratios at national level — another late change scheduled to be implemented this year.

Provincial education departments will now employ only as many teachers as their individual budgets allow — a fiscally prudent change but not one likely to achieve the equity between provinces that was envisaged when Bengru embarked on the redeployment scheme in 1996.

All of the changes to policy and legislation last year and in 1996 were geared towards one thing — eradicating the vast inequalities in education that were engineered as part of the National Party government's apartheid policy.

While desperately needed and indisputably correct, these changes were never likely to produce improved matric results in the short term, and this has been borne out by the consistently declining pass rate. Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe said this week that among the reasons for her province's 51,5% pass rate — 4,1 percentage points down on 1996 — was that last year's matric pupils started school in 1985 and "experienced the worst of apartheid education". It has been only during the past 18 months that government's new education policies have begun to bring normality to SA's school system and it has been impossible to find im-

mediate solutions to the "deep-seated" problems caused by apartheid education, she says.

But even if this is a valid "reason" for this year's high matric failure rate, observers point out that policy which brings about equity in the school system at the expense of the success of the system's "clients" — the pupils — is policy which has not achieved very much at all.

With policy and legislation aimed at normalising schooling now in place, perhaps greater emphasis should be placed in the year ahead on aspects of education that translate into good results, observers say.

Despite the upheavals in the sector last year, Bengru could at least be said to have had a legislatively successful year, implementing the SA Schools Act, which was passed late in 1996, making morally, logistically and financially important changes to government policy and laws governing the school system; and the Higher Education Act.

The latter law finally gave effect to the constitutional provision for the college sector to be governed at national level, although control will be gradually transferred from the provinces.

It also confirmed the new policy — developed after endless consultations by government and the long-running national commission on higher education — that the higher education system will be managed, developed and funded as a single sector.

If this translates into more effective funding and running of institutions and into the establishment of a successful student aid scheme, the turmoil of student protests that were characteristic of 1996 but were noticeably less so last year, could also be avoided in the future.

After another set of woeful matric results, education reporter Kevin O'Grady looks at the problems in education and what might lie ahead in 1998

BO 7 11 98 (52)

## School reform...when will pupils benefit?



Province	Pass rate %	% point difference over 1996
Northern Province	31,8%	-8,1%
Kwazulu-Natal	54%	-7,7%
North West	50%	-1,6%
Northern Cape	63,7%	-9,2%
Mpumalanga	54,5%	+3,6%
Gauteng	51,5%	-4,1%
Free State	42,3%	-8,8%
Eastern Cape	46%	-3,3%
Western Cape	76,3%	-4,1%

Graphic: KAREN MOOLMAN

# Western Cape matrics on a 'high'

TROYE LUND

(52)

THE Western Cape matrics have come up streaks ahead of the other eight provinces — the examinations they sat have been declared to be of an "exceptionally high standard" and conducted in a manner that is "beyond reproach".

Although the 77% pass rate is a drop of 4% from last year, more A symbols were achieved and more schools had a 100% pass rate this year.

Western Cape's pass rate was 14% higher than Northern Cape, which had the second best pass rate.

But, educators said that Western Cape should be better than other provinces.

It has better qualified teachers, a higher teacher/pupil ratio and a more advantaged background because 80% of its schools were formerly from the

advantaged white or coloured education departments.

Western Cape Teachers Council spokesperson Mr Mike Reeler said: "The Western Cape should be the best. It should not compare itself to other provinces but to itself. A four percent drop is disappointing.

"But, it hasn't been an easy year. Perhaps the drop is to be expected."

Outgoing Western Cape Education MEC Ms Martha Olckers denied that the 77% pass rate could be attributed to more resources, because ratios and resources were similar in other provinces.

"This success would not have been possible if teachers, parents and students had allowed their focus to be lost in the trauma and

instability that has been caused by rationalisation in education. Teachers and students decided to remain focused, to stick to the job and not to dictate politics," Olckers said.

Olckers said: "Although the drop in pass rate was not significant, it was not what had been hoped for. We must set to work at once to reverse it."

Of the 37 197 Western Cape candidates who wrote the full examination, 28 380 passed. Of the students who passed, 8 791 passed with a matric exemption.

The most dramatic improvements in pass rates from 1996 were two schools in Khayelitsha and one in Mowbray.

Thandokhulo Secondary in Mowbray achieved a 71% pass

rate this year as opposed to the 47% in 1996.

Luhlaza Secondary's pass rate improved from 67% in 1996 to 86% in 1997, while Balumko Secondary's pass rate jumped from 52% in 1996 to 73% this year.

The South African Democratic Teacher Union (Sadtu) said that this year's drop had to be seen in the correct context.

If formerly disadvantaged schools had improved pass rates, the overall drop could be justified, but Sadtu warned that standards and pass rates would plummet at all levels of schooling if the proposed teacher cuts were enforced.

ANC provincial executive committee spokesperson Mr Randall van den Heever said the overall pass rate disguised the fundamental inequalities that still exist in the province.

For more details about the results, telephone 403-6005.

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MEETING THE  
TOP MATRICS  
— PAGE 4

# Relax, the party has begun — Olckers

ET 7/1/98

(52)

**IF IT WAS** merely a battle of the sexes, women would have won hands down. At issue was who handled matric examinations best, reports Education Writer **TROYE LUND**.

**I**T was a gathering of the top 20 or rather 22 brains — two places were occupied by more than one student — among last year's 52 000 Western Cape matriculants.

Of the top 10 students, seven were female.

Males dominated thereafter — there were nine in the remaining places.

Just before the results were given to schools, the top-scoring matriculants and their proud parents were invited to the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) head office yesterday to be introduced to the media.

To the nervous and rather pale, overworked youngsters Education MEC Ms Martha Olckers said: "Relax, the party has begun."

"You worked hard enough for it and you were among those who stuck to the job amid all the turmoil."

After the formalities the media were let loose among the students to find out what their recipe for success was and what their plans were for the future.

Reading the book *Gone with the Wind* was how Stellenbosch High School's Margaretha Ruthven managed to come second overall.

"It is a family tradition to read this novel at exam time," said Ruthven, who plans to study law this year to enter the business world.

As top scoring male, and third on the top 20 list, Pieter Kapp of Jan van Riebeeck High School, said

his success was due to his science teacher, Mr Trevor Robertson.

But God was the only reason that Jacob Niemand of Hoër Jongenskool in Paarl could think of for his coming sixth in the province.

"It must have come from above. I never expected this.

"When I left the exams I was quite down," said Niemand, who will begin studying actuarial science this year.

Another potential actuarial scientist is top of the top 20 Elizabeth Ruddy from Huguenot High School.

Although many different reasons were given on how to excel in matric, there was one that all the students gave — hard work and paying attention in class all year.

● A name omitted from the matric supplement is Corneli van Tonder of Outenique High School.

## Western Cape Education Department Senior Certificate Examination Results 1997

	1996	1997
Number of candidates who wrote full examination	34 444	37 197
Number of Senior Certificate passes without matriculation endorsement	18 689	19 590
Senior Certificate with matriculation endorsement: number	8 994	8 791
% of total candidates	26,1%	23,6%
Total number of passes	27 683	28 381
Percentage pass rate	80,4%	76,3%

Graphic: Mugamad Jacobs

## Distribution of A Symbols per subject

Number of A symbols	Number of Candidates	
	1996	1997
6 or more	35	39
5	88	84
4	171	216
3	266	389
2	683	735
1	2 285	2 335

# We'll disrupt private schools, warn Cosas

Sowetan 8/1/98

(52)

By Russel Molefe

**T**HE Congress of South African Students (Cosas) in Gauteng has threatened to render private schools ungovernable, claiming that these schools received "huge subsidies" from the Government and big business at the expense of public schools.

The move is set to shock the education fraternity because ill-discipline, particularly among the pupils, was deemed as having played a role in last year's disastrous matric results which saw a significant drop compared to 1996.

But, Gauteng education spokesman Mr Aubrey Mashiqi said blaming the pass rate on the subsidising of private schools "was a misunderstanding of issues".

"The subsidy amount on private schools, compared with what the (provincial) government invests in public schools, is very little. Cosas can't use this as a reason and it is a misunderstanding of the reality," Mashiqi said.

Addressing a media briefing in Johannesburg yesterday, Cosas said the action may form part of the "week of action" which it declared from January 26-30. The actions, whose full details are to be released next week, will include:

- Marches and picketing of big business for its lack of commitment towards the education of disadvantaged pupils;

- Possible disruption of classes at private schools which "enjoy huge subsidies at the expense of public schools" and

- The removal of stolen school furniture being used in shebeens in the townships.



Congress of South African Students' provincial executive member Frank Moliya (right) emphasises a point at a media briefing in Johannesburg yesterday. The organisation threatened to disrupt classes at private schools because of Government's "unequal subsidies" policy. The disruption may form part of a "week of action" call by Cosas from January 26-30. Cosas chairperson Tshidi Mokoena (centre) and provincial executive member Sakhile S'bambo listen attentively.

PH: LEN KUMALO

The Gauteng ministry of education last year announced a 30 percent cut in subsidies to private schools. This was later reduced to 10 percent after strong criticism from these schools, some of which reported that the move would force them to close down.

Cosas chairperson Miss Tshidi Mokoena said the fact that some businesses sponsor sport with millions of rands and far less on education on a racial and discriminatory base was a sign of rendering education useless.

Cosas' provincial executive member Mr Sakhile S'bambo said all members of the organisation were expected to "respond to the call to action. As an organisation we have the right to raise our concerns."

Another Cosas provincial executive member, Mr Frank Moliya said: "If we don't have schoolbooks in time, why are we expected to sit in the classrooms. We will go out and make demands and this will be part of the week of action."

On teacher activism being blamed for using "classrooms as a cheap bargaining ground" and ill-discipline among pupils, S'bambo said teachers were workers and had a right to strike.

"They cannot just agree if they are given a R20 wage increase. Cosas has a code of conduct for all its members which has already been introduced to schools for discussions and possible amendments."

Pan Africanist Student Movement of Azania president Mr Ignatius Molapo said: "As much as we welcome the union of teachers as an organised sector, it has become difficult for non-aligned teachers to manage school, especially where union activism is strong."

The Gauteng branch of the South African Students Congress (Sasco)

yesterday committed itself to making education better for all in South Africa.

"We appeal to parents, pupils, teacher organisations, the government and the private sector to support our programmes, which are geared towards improving matric results," said deputy chairman Sehula Ramabu.

Sasco said it would launch programmes such as Saturday schools, winter schools and the establishment of parent-teacher associations in order to address the current crisis.

"Sasco believes that pointing fingers and blaming each other won't help anyone. Instead it will deepen the crisis."

### Political points

"We see such an exercise as a strategy to score political points at the expense of the future of the youth," he said.

Meanwhile, the National Youth Commission (NYC) has urged matric pupils who have failed their examinations to return to school immediately and complete their education, reports Saint Moliakeng.

"There is no reason or excuse for anyone not to go back to school. That is a patriotic duty incumbent upon all our youths, for it would be in their interests and those of the country," chairperson Mahlengi Bhengu said.

Azanian Youth Organisation publicity and information secretary Mr Phuti Semanya advised pupils to form study groups among themselves to make learning easier.

Semanya blamed the Government for not taking action against teachers who did not report for school during slayaways, the late provision of books to pupils and the carrying of firearms by pupils.

● See also pages 2 and 3.



Jubilant matriculants at Holy Trinity High School in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, celebrate their success in last year's examinations on the school premises yesterday with Brian Mathato (third from left) who obtained distinctions in mathematics and North Sotho. The school has obtained a 100 percent pass rate for more than a decade. PIC: MCKEED KOTLOLO

# Govt blamed for appalling matric results

*Sowetan 8/1/98*

Retrenchments and insecurity of teachers in many schools caused poor results

By Morgan Naldu

THE GOVERNMENT must rid itself of incompetent education officials, give teachers greater job security and re-introduce corporal punishment in schools if better matric results are to be achieved.

This was the overwhelming response of academics, politicians and other groups in the wake of a poor showing by most provinces in the matric examinations.

Leading educationist Dr Solomon "SK" Maseke said South Africa was reaping the fruits of 40 years of apartheid education and then poor planning in the recent overhaul of the education system.

"Many of the officials and people in charge have never been in classrooms as educators and it's therefore difficult to change what you don't understand," Maseke said.

Maseke said education authorities country-wide should hold a post-mortem of the matric results and teaching methods to determine problem areas.

"We need to learn from past mistakes. The Government's way forward will only become apparent if we can first determine where we have faltered and what went wrong," he said.

He said a committee should be formed by the Education Minister and tasked with probing the poor results and working on solutions.

He said if pupils do not study hard they should not expect good results.

His thoughts were echoed by the national chairman of the Black National Conference of Review, Mr Lybon Mabasa, who called for the re-introduction of corporal punishment in schools.

"Government needs to look at the issue of discipline and punishment, especially since pupils know that nothing will happen if they violate rules or take matters into their own hands," Mabasa said.

He said the Government needs to acknowledge blame for leaving teachers in an unstable

environment and for not ensuring a prompt supply of textbooks.

The uncertainty over teachers' employment had forced the teachers unions to spend more time away from classrooms, adversely impacting on pupils, Mabasa said.

The Inkatha Freedom Party in Gauteng blamed local MEC for education Mrs Mary Metcalfe for the poor provincial pass rate.

IFP provincial secretary Mr Basil Douglas said Metcalfe's so-called "culture of learning" was a total failure and accused the department of demoralising students and teachers.

The United Democratic Movement's Mr Izak Retief called on the Government to review its "unsettling policies regarding the appointment of teachers".

He said that the teacher retrenchment schemes had wreaked havoc with teacher morale and drained schools of their brightest teaching staff.

## Education summit

The National Party called for a multiparty education summit to discuss the matric results and education in general.

Mr Vusi Nkumane of the Pan Africanist Congress said the fundamental cause of last year's poor matric results was the Government's wasting of funds and resources and repeated the PAC call for a national education crisis convention.

Calling the matric results "appalling", the Democratic Party's youth leader Mr Siphon Moganedi said the erosion of discipline at schools and the lack of resources had been serious problems.

The Pan Africanist Youth Congress accused the Government of having no willpower to transform education and said the high number of failed matriculants will put pressure on the employment sector.

While the African National Congress was pleased with the plunging and conclusion of the matric exams, it was "disappointed" at the decline in the pass rate.

# Dept is to blame - Sadtu

By Victor Mecoamere

MALADMINISTRATION in the Gauteng department of education had contributed to the province's poor matric results, the Gauteng branch of the South African Democratic Teachers Union said in Johannesburg yesterday.

Solutions to this and other factors was an urgent educational summit, "the (acceleration of the) transformation of education regarding (the) redistribution of resources", and a commitment to the culture of learning, teaching and service by "all involved in education".

"There is a glaring incapacity, inefficiency, and incompetence in the administrative wing of the department," said Sadtu provincial secretary Mr Jabu Ngwenya.

"This is evidenced by the late supply of stationary and textbooks which in most disadvantaged schools has made it almost impossible for effective teaching and learning to take place."

Ngwenya said Sadtu expected the same to occur this year.

"There was a commission of inquiry following the examination leakages in 1996, an action that was not taken following similar leakages in 1997," said Ngwenya.

He said this was notwithstanding the "millions of rands spent on upgrading security measures around the question papers".

Ngwenya said other factors which affected the results were meagre resources, low morale and lack of discipline among teachers and lack of motivation among pupils as well as "the confusing structures of examination papers sent to schools by some examiners which were changed when the actual papers were written".

"The continued lack of resources in the majority of schools had a detrimental effect on our education," said Ngwenya.

"Laboratories, libraries, typewriters and even chalkboards are luxuries enjoyed by some institutions, let alone computers and language labs. In fact, some schools don't even have their own buildings."

Ngwenya said uncertainties linked to job security had led to the low morale among teachers.

**How to reach Sowetan ...**  
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 Durban (031) 309-1341  
 Cape Town (021) 403-2756

# Protests against education crisis planned

Kevin O'Grady

THE Congress of SA Students (Cosas) in Gauteng plans to target businesses, private schools and government offices with pickets and marches at the end of the month to protest against the poor matric results and the state of education in general.

The announcement yesterday came on the eve of a news conference in Cape Town by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu as the furore over the lower matric pass rates intensified.

Provincial Cosas chairman Tshidi Mokoena said the organisation was "greatly disappointed" by the drop in the matric pass rate in Gauteng and said this was a sign of a lack of com-

BD 8/1/98  
mitment by government, pupils, teachers, parents and business.

Mokoena said the protests — from January 26 to 30 — would be in support of Cosas's demands for businesses to become more involved in sponsoring schools and for government to stop subsidising private schools.

She said the business community had "abandoned its responsibility to education" by failing to invest in schools and by continuing to sponsor private and former Model C schools.

Cosas also wanted government to allocate more funds to education and use "100% of its education budget for public schools only". It should be biased towards the poorest schools in the allocation of funds, Mokoena said.

(52)  
Cosas wanted the provincial education department to come up with a "comprehensive and implementable programme of action", aimed at improving conditions of learning and teaching, by the end of March.

Cosas provincial executive committee member Frank Molea said the "week of action" would also target she-beens and taverns near schools.

"It is pathetic to see teachers and students leaving during school hours, drinking liquor at these places and coming back to school. In the end, this results in violence," Molea said.

Pearl Sebolao reports that another student organisation, the SA Stu-

Continued on Page 2

## Protests

Continued from Page 1

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dent's Congress (Sasco), committed itself to programmes such as Saturday schools, winter schools and the establishment of parent-teacher associations to address the education crisis.

Meanwhile, the National Party has objected that its Western Cape education MEC and the Inkatha Freedom Party's KwaZulu-Natal education MEC had been excluded from a meeting between the SA Democratic Teachers' Union and Bengu on Tuesday.

The NP said it was perturbed to note that Bengu had met only African National Congress (ANC) provincial education ministers and Sadtu to discuss the retrenchment of teachers.

Bengu said he had not convened the meeting. It was a continuation of dis-

cussions initiated at the ANC's national conference in December at Sadtu's request. Sadtu had wanted to discuss the effect that the termination of contracts of temporary teachers would have on education.

Bengu said the only purpose of the meeting was to discuss how provinces planned to manage the situation.

He said Sadtu's demands that provinces suspend the termination of contracts until March could not be met, as the provinces would not be able to finance the continued services of those teachers.

However, from the management plans the provinces had submitted it was indicated that at least two thirds of temporary teachers who had had their contracts terminated might be re-employed at the beginning of the school year, Bengu said. The rest — about 3 000 — might be given preference "should the situation change".

# It's time for us to

# do our homework

ARG 8/11/98

(52)

## Matric results show task ahead

How accurate a barometer matric results are to measure the state of a country's education is difficult to say. But it's the only measure we have and looking at our results for 1997, education in South Africa is on the skids.

The African National Congress's promise of a free education for all is the most honourable gift any government can give its children, but the reality of South Africa is that there is no money to make this happen right now.

Understandably, there is little public comprehension as to why the Western Cape, for instance, has to lose teachers when so many of South Africa's pupils are in overcrowded classrooms being taught by under-qualified staff.

A handful of these children are in Cape Town's townships, but most are in the vast and desperately poor rural areas such as the Northern Province, and they performed dismally in this last run of matric exams.

Pupils in these schools, which are scattered in the unmapped hills of this country, do not have pens to write with, so how dare we blame them for not doing well in matric?

Perhaps in one classroom here or there, there might be a dedicated teacher like Sydney Potter in the movie *To Sir With Love* who manages to get his pupils to pass against all odds, but most have teachers who

### INSIDE STORY

The poor matric results are a symptom of a country which is struggling to come to grips with social reform, reports special writer CAROL CAMPBELL



themselves have poor and unfinished education. The Western Cape has to lose teachers so that the Government can employ teachers where it needs them.

The redeployment of teachers to these rural areas, which was disastrously implemented and badly organised, could have worked if all nine education departments had the administrative expertise to measure their needs and then put the plan into action.

Instead, the Western Cape, which has a sophisticated administration compared to the Eastern Cape, for instance, was the only province to get its act together. The names of

teachers who could be redeployed were on a list and ready to go but they could not be dispatched because rural provinces did not know how many they needed or where.

In schools which, for the first time, were given posts such as deputy principal or head of department, there were murmurings of resentment from black teachers.

"At last we have a promotion post in our school and the Government gives it to a white. White bosses against" they said.

Calling for Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu's resignation is a waste of breath. Dr Bengu wants nothing more than to deliver on election promises and give every child, yes, including whites and coloureds, a top-notch education. He can't, because this country's purse is closed. We have no money.

He has become an international beggar, asking for money from business, foreign donors and even parents prepared to pay fees.

The Government has no money because the apartheid regime borrowed heavily out of Government and parastatal pension funds to pay for projects like Mossgras and the border war.

We do not owe some faceless foreigner millions, we owe ourselves our pension money, and if this debt is not serviced it will be pension funds

which collapse and the aged who are left destitute after a lifetime of saving. To borrow more to pay off debts is to get ourselves into a debt trap that can only have disastrous consequences.

Any family which borrows and borrows and borrows eventually will have its furniture seized by the bank when it can't pay up.

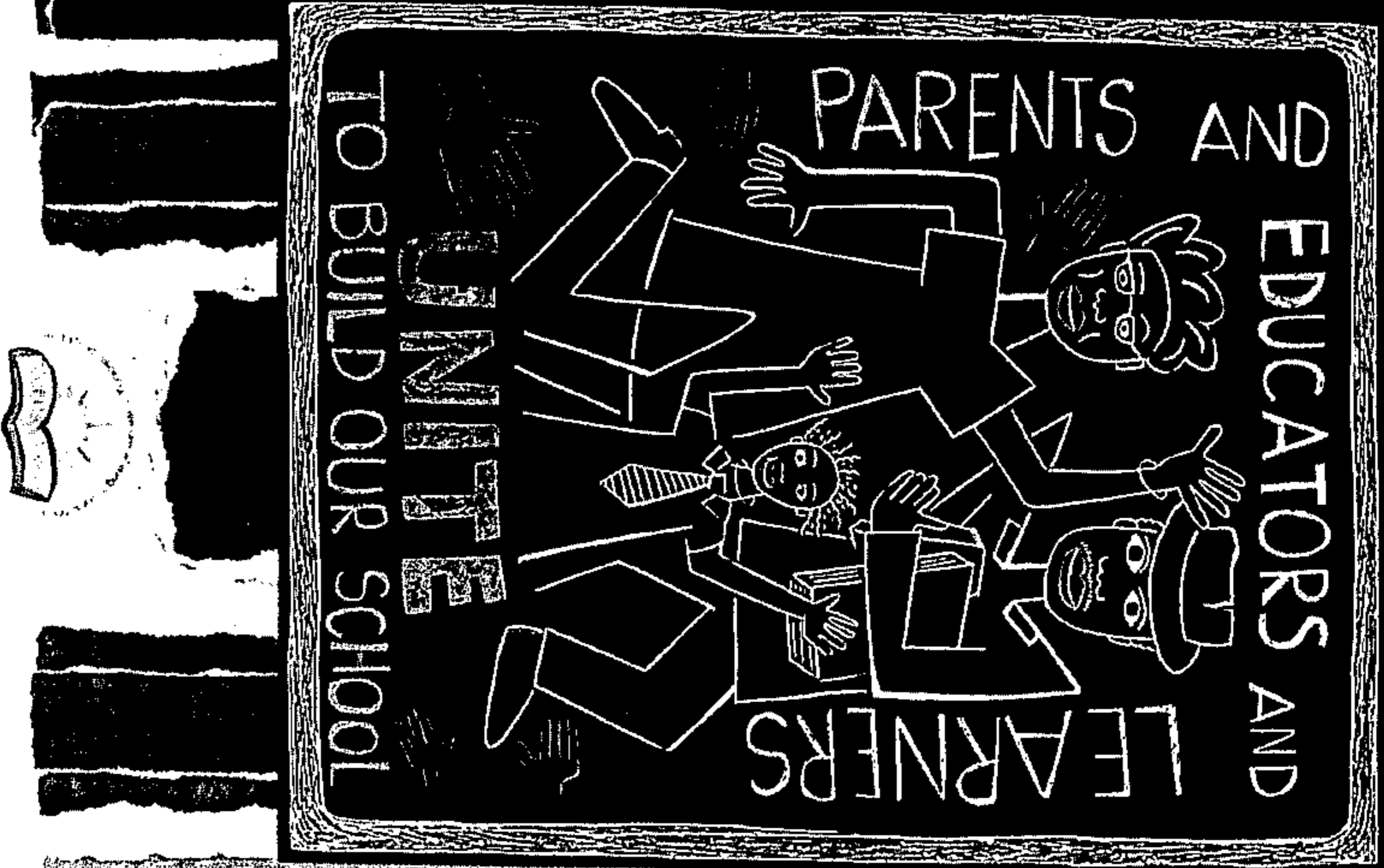
When this happens to a country, it means the World Bank has to move in and run the government's finances, and then they are ruthless. They don't care about individuals and tragic social stories, they just want their money back.

Dr Bengu and the rest of the ANC had no idea what they faced when they took control in 1994. They imagined coffers of money which could simply be redirected from white to black. Instead, they inherited a country with potential, but which was severely handicapped by its past.

The matric results which have been publicised over the past week are a symptom of the real pain of change. It's not easy, but we can all take a lesson from those pupils who scored the highest marks in the province for their matric finals.

Traceyann Ruddy, the Wellington pupil who came first, told me that in the run up to the exams she was studying more than 10 hours a day.

If an 18-year-old can work that hard for her future then we all can.





Matric exams in progress . . . testing time for the schooling system

**PUBLIC SCHOOLING**

fm 9/1/98 (52)

# Matric failures point to deeper malaise

Education authorities' failure to overcome inherited deficiencies raises questions about their ability to implement Curriculum 2005

**W**orsening matric results — in decline for at least a decade — are symptomatic of a steadily disintegrating public education system. The underlying causes could threaten the successful implementation of government's radical new approach to schooling, Curriculum 2005.

"Let's not talk of factors specific to a particular year or province in trying to explain away poor matric results," says National Professional Teachers' Organisation of SA executive director Andrew Pyper. "They are the product of a pupil's entire school career, not just of what did or did not happen in his or her matric year."

"What's needed is to identify root causes. Vague talk about the culture of teaching and learning is not helpful."

A major factor in the poor matric showing is a lack of professional support for teachers, says Department of Education's most senior official responsible for schools, deputy director-general Ihron Rensburg.

Those include providing in-service training for teachers and monitoring what is going on in the schools. He suspects there is a growing gap — at least in black schools — between what is taught and what is sought by matric examiners. Black schools

have never had adequate professional support services, he observes, and the situation worsened last year as provincial education departments further reduced them in an attempt to operate within budget.

Lack of information about what's happening on the ground, and the inability to make management decisions from such information, is one of the biggest problems facing public schooling. That was the essence of a report prepared by the national Department of Education for the Department of Finance, released last month. It gave a sobering picture of shortcomings in information systems and management capacity at provincial level, where nationally determined policies are carried out.

The shortcomings it describes were inherited, of course, from the apartheid era's fractured education system, with 17 different departments of education, most of them seriously underfunded, undermanaged and demoralised. These shortcomings are now being addressed for the first time, says economist Luis Crouch, who has been consulting to the national Department of Education over the past two years.

This inherited disaster, the report observes, has resulted in many teachers being underemployed; in salaries threatening to

run ahead of taxpayers' capacity to pay them (not a new phenomenon, as Crouch says, but "a long-run, structural problem"); and "serious problems of over-enrolment in the school system" at both Grade 1 and 12.

The report highlights "serious gaps in the research base on education, which make informed decision-making difficult. There is inadequate empirical information, for example, on the factors in the SA education environment which are most significant in improving learning."

The report says certain steps would substantially reduce costs: excluding below-age children from Grade 1 would save R1bn a year; preventing pupils from repeating Grade 12 (formerly Standard 10) year after year would save R150m; making underemployed teachers work more periods each week would also produce savings.

This raises the question of whether government has placed too much emphasis these past three-and-a-half years on policy-making and drawing up an entirely new approach to teaching (Curriculum 2005).

Should more have been done sooner to overcome shortcomings in education management? There is, after all, no point in producing policy if there is no capacity to implement it effectively.

Crouch, who has been a consultant to education departments in 15 countries, offers no easy assurances on how rapidly SA might achieve real improvements. He likens any education system to an oil tanker that, because of its size and inertia, responds very slowly to changes ordered on the bridge. Steps taken now to improve spending will only begin to show an effect, he believes, two or three years hence and even longer before real benefits come through.

Which raises the question of whether Curriculum 2005 should be put on hold. Radical innovations in education are notorious for the demands they make on school principals and their colleagues, yet most schools are not coping at all well with the existing curriculum.

Rensburg believes the 300-odd schools which formed the pilot project for introducing Curriculum 2005 to grade 1 provided enough practical experience to warrant pushing ahead with its introduction to all grade 1 classes this year. Present plans are to introduce it to grades 2 and 7 next year and to grades 3 and 8 in the year 2000.

Those plans could, however, be speeded up — or slowed down. Rensburg says the experience of the pilot project has many thinking the curriculum should be introduced simultaneously to all three grades in any given phase of schooling (junior primary, senior primary and junior secondary).

John Collings



# Mbeki turns his <sup>(52)</sup> back on Cosas

By Joe Mdhlela

THE African National Congress (ANC) president Mr Thabo Mbeki yesterday distanced his organisation from threats by the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) to disrupt private schools following the disastrous matriculation results.

At a Press briefing held at the ANC's headquarters in Johannesburg, Mbeki said the ANC would not support such a move. However, he said he was prepared to have the ANC engage Cosas on the matter.

Mbeki said the call to render private schools ungovernable showed a lack of complete assessment of the education crisis in the country.

"Many among our youth could not secure their matriculation exemptions precisely because our educational system still carries within it pupils and teachers who have still not overcome the dismal effect of apartheid education.

"The way to address the matter is not to disrupt private schools. It will be important for Cosas to go to school as the ANC would like to discuss the matter with them," Mbeki said.

As the ANC prepares to celebrate its 86th birthday and hold a national rally at Moutse in Mpumalanga tomorrow, Mbeki was proud of his organisation for the strides it has taken to make it possible for "more of our people to have houses this January 8 than did last January 8".

"A great number of people have the benefit of clean water and modern sanitation," he said.

The newly-elected ANC president said it was gratifying to note that large numbers of people also enjoyed access to health-care and that more children were entering the school system.

Mbeki said he was aware that there were many problems still to be tackled by his organisation and this included the undermining of the judiciary system and emphasised that there was still a lot to be done to clean up the criminal justice system "so that it acts in a manner consistent with the demands of our democratic system".

Mbeki said former state president PW Botha's appearance before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission remained crucial to questions relating to the former government's state security machinery, parts of which could still be used by those opposed to change, reports Sapa.

Source: 9/11/98

# Bengu - 'beat legacy of poor results'

*Sowetan 9/1/98 (52) 9/1/98*  
Education Minister says many of the matric candidates were poorly prepared for exams

**E**DUCATION MINISTER Sibusiso Bengu yesterday said he was disappointed with the 1997 matriculation results.

He told a news conference in Cape Town that it was important to bear in mind that analysing examination results was a complex issue. He said no single factor could be blamed for poor performances by schools, teachers, or pupils - but it was important to draw attention to some of these factors.

The minister said many of the matric candidates were poorly prepared for the examinations and at some schools no learning or teaching took place at all last year.

As long as this went on there was little doubt that many pupils would continue to fail and this could not be allowed to happen, he said.

The generation of pupils now entering grades 10, 11 and 12 started school during the mid-1980s when many of their schools were under siege as a result of apartheid violence and destabilisation, Bengu said.

Their teachers had had the same experience of disrupted education.

Bengu said: "Clearly, special efforts will be

required from these learners and teachers to overcome this legacy, rather than remain victims."

This was only the second matric examination run on a non-racial basis.

"Accordingly, we are still setting national benchmarks for the performance of learners and for the learning system.

"We are therefore gaining understanding of the interventions which are necessary for ongoing improvement at an early stage," Bengu said.

"National standards for matric examinations had been maintained and improved during 1997. Successes in the administration of the examinations severely curtailed illegal access to examination papers by pupils.

"Phasing out lower-grade subjects increased the requirements for success. And the expansion of the standardisation process to include oral, practical and year marks also raised the floor for success for all candidates.

"The results confirmed the policy direction embarked upon and the department would continue to strengthen programmes aimed at short-term interventions while ensuring long-term systemic transformation. - Sapa.

# Revitalising education

(52) Sewetam 9/1/98

**W**HAT a circus the debate over 1997's poor matric results has turned out to be. With only two of the nine provinces achieving something to be proud of, the rest of the country has contracted the pass-the-buck syndrome.

Pupils blame teachers, teachers blame the Education Department, education officials blame budget constraints and the ill influence of trade unions, while the unions slam the Government for the redeployment and retrenchment policy that went horribly awry.

And then of course there are the politicians. Never short of rhetoric and pontificating press releases, some political parties feign indignation at the poor results while others beseech the Government to form a task team to probe what went wrong.

Perhaps for South Africans to fully comprehend what went wrong, however, they need to first ascertain what went right with the 1997 matric examinations.

In KwaZulu-Natal, the provincial education department had reasonable cause to be pleased.

"The examinations were conducted smoothly and efficiently; there were no leaks of papers and the final announcing of results also went smoothly," education spokesman Nagoor Bissetty said.

"Looking at our results, we achieved the third highest pass rate and it is therefore extremely unfair to pass criticism on our provincial officials," Bissetty said, referring to the wave of criticism and calls for the resignation of KwaZulu-Natal education MEC Dr Vincent Zulu.

In Gauteng and North West, educational officials, while dismayed at the overall drop in the pass rate, were heartened by the performances of many schools from disadvantaged and rural areas where individual school pass rates increased dramatically.

Western and Northern Cape emerged with the best overall statistics, providing a benchmark for other provinces to try and emulate in the future.

While such positive factors emerged from the examination results, there can also be no doubt about the multitude of negative aspects.

For educationists, 1997 was a year punctuated by chalkdowns, threats of chalkdowns, teachers' uncertainty over their jobs, retrenchment and redeployment of teachers and an education department leadership that often appeared to be bungling through seemingly insurmountable problems.

It is imperative, however, to go further back when attempting to give some perspective to the matric results.

What many commentators and detractors are forgetting is that South Africa is still emerg-

The poor matric results are because of years of racist education policies. **Morgan Naidu** argues that Minister Bengu must convene a summit soon ...



**Gauteng educationist Dr Solomon Matseke ... "education in South Africa is in the hands of people who do not know what to do".**

ing from its apartheid past in all aspects of life.

The scourge of Bantu Education, further entrenched by the Group Areas Act and the tri-cameral system, left a chasm in the learning capabilities between South Africa's multicultural children.

Schools that were disadvantaged and given a pittance disguised as school budgets are suddenly competing on an equal footing with learning institutions that have been long established.

## Disadvantaged pupils

Leading Gauteng educationist Dr Solomon Matseke believes that the Education Department bungled the process of putting disadvantaged, largely African schools and communities on a par with their more privileged counterparts.

"One can trace the mishandling of the disparity problem right back to 1942 and we are now reaping the fruits of that poor planning in changing our education system," Matseke says.

He maintains that the Education Department should have adopted a "horses for courses" policy where real educationists, rather than political activists and former exiles, were given key positions in the department.

"My belief is that education in South Africa is in the hands of people who do not know what to do," he says.

There is another theory, also endorsed by Matseke, that could account for such a poor showing by matriculants.

When South Africa was in the throes of apartheid rule, the drive and impetus of schoolchildren and teachers was at an optimum.

One of the most effective means of taking a stand against white minority rule was the education of black people to become excellent scholars and ultimately great leaders of mettle.

The drive, impetus and commitment in obtaining a good education and ensuring that black teachers were not merely teaching but conscientising pupils appears to have dwindled.

That commitment has been replaced by lawlessness that now sees pupils and teachers going on strike and carrying weapons to school.

It is that same lawlessness and lack of discipline that has prompted calls by many, including the Black National Conference of Review, to bring back corporal punishment.

Whether or not corporal punishment is reintroduced, education authorities are faced with a number of crucial issues to deal with before the next matric examinations.

The first priority would be to make the culture of learning, teaching and discipline theory a reality. KwaZulu-Natal has already taken progressive steps by appointing senior education officials to study the strengths and successes of schools that excelled in the examinations. These will then be adopted in the schools with lower pass rates.

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, who answered critics at an examinations briefing this week, must ensure that his national and provincial departments start getting their act together and give teachers definite answers about their future.

Many calls have been made for a national education summit and this would be an excellent vehicle for brainstorming new ideas to ease our education problems.

Such a summit should guard itself against being used as a platform for political parties to tout their 1999 election manifestos.

It will be an intense juggling act but if Bengu and his colleagues can instil some confidence in the coming education year and achieve a marginally better matric pass rate, they will have registered a significant achievement.

## Plan to target private schools rejected

Star 9/1/98

(52)

The National Youth Commission yesterday criticised plans by the Gauteng branch of the Congress of South African Students to target private schools in the province for mass action.

"While we respect the right of organisations to engage in peaceful forms of protest, we believe that no particular sector of society, or set of institutions should bear the brunt of blame for the recent matric results," said commission chairwoman Mahlengi Bhengu.

Cosas announced on Wednesday it planned to hold a week of action between January 26 and 30.

During this period it intended picketing businesses, removing

stolen school property from shebeens, and disrupting classes at private schools with the intention of making them ungovernable.

Cosas this week accused private schools of receiving "huge subsidies" from the Government and the private sector at the expense of public schools.

The commission retorted by saying subsidisation was only one element of a complex problem that could be remedied only through a holistic strategy involving all stakeholders in the education sector.

"We urge all parties to keep the interests of improving the educational prospects of all youth central to the unfolding political exchanges," Bhengu said. - Sapa

# Bengu threatens bad teachers

## Your place is in the classroom, not the shebeen, says education minister

52 Stan 9/1/98

By Edwin Naidu

The Government will axe teachers who are not committed to teaching and those who drink during working hours, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

This move is just one of the steps the Government intends taking to avert a repeat of the disastrous matric results, in which only 47% of pupils passed - down from 55% last year.

Other steps include programmes to upgrade the skills of teachers and drastically slash spending on personnel and administration costs, which eat up 80% of the country's R40,2-billion education budget.

Bengu said in an interview with The Star and at a Cape Town press conference that overspending on personnel and

the insufficient allocation of resources for learning materials and the training of teachers would also be dealt with as a priority.

Bengu has previously made similar undertakings, and critics have pointed out that he has not fulfilled them.

Bengu said the Government would also encourage communities and school governing bodies "to get rid of dead wood at our schools".

"If there are teachers who are not in schools, teachers who are seen at shebeens... I have no reason to believe those teachers are committed," he said.

Bengu said any action against teachers would be taken in accordance with labour laws and the South African Council of Educators, which was in place to maintain standards and monitor unprofessional behaviour.

"In some instances, no learning or teaching has taken place at all in some schools this year. For as long as this situation prevails, there is little doubt that many students will continue to fail, and this cannot continue."

He said there was instability in the top management of some provincial education departments, and this resulted in low morale among educators.

"This situation must be drastically improved if we are to inspire confidence and spur on to higher performances our teachers, learners, parents and the wider public."

Denying that the Government was solely to blame for the poor results, Bengu said a major factor that had to be considered was that the generation of pupils now entering grades 10, 11 and 12 started school during the mid-1980s, a time when many of their schools were

under siege as a result of apartheid violence and destabilisation.

He said the phasing out of lower-grade subjects also increased the requirements for success, as did the expansion of the standardisation process across all race groups to include oral, practical and year marks.

He added that if teachers had put in extra effort during the 1997 school year, they could have enabled pupils to show better results.

South African Democratic Teachers' Union deputy president Edwin Pillay said Sadhu had always viewed education as a necessity, while Bengu had created the impression of it being an expense.

"He has failed all of us by meekly accepting the education budget without putting up a fightback for a bigger slice," he said.

## 'Good schooling profitable'

By Edwin Naidu

As headmaster of a school in northern KwaZulu Natal 30 years ago, Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu was a firm disciplinarian who did not tolerate one iota of ill discipline among pupils and teachers, he told The Star yesterday.

The result of his strict management style during his eight years at Dlangezwa High School from 1968 to 1976 was that his matric pupils consistently achieved a 100% pass rate - something he is far from achieving as head of the country's education system.

The absence of this strictness is what Bengu believes is a major contributor to the high failure rate last year.

Bengu said that as a principal he ensured that his teachers were punctual, prepared their lessons and went the extra mile with pupils, who had to be punctual, complete all homework, and work hard to pass tests.

During that era, numerous black schools had achieved good results because principals

had strong management styles. He urged principals to exercise strict discipline and run their schools along business lines to ensure better performance from teachers and pupils.

Principals should realise that the management of a school was similar to running a business, so that work had a profitable effect.

"Work must be done in such a way that the overall picture is realised and that teachers are given sufficient time to finish the syllabus," he said.

Every single hour spent at school had to be used to maximum benefit for the pupils.

"Everyone at my school was committed towards achieving good results and making a difference in society. This has not changed even after my departure," he said.

Dlangezwa's current deputy principal, Bheki Simelane, said yesterday the matric pass rate for 1997 was 87%.

"We are still very close to Bengu. We promised him we would do well and always strive to do better," he said.

# Bengu says schools should fire teachers who lack commitment

Kevin O'Grady

CAPE TOWN — Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu took a tough line yesterday over last year's matric results, saying schools should fire teachers who failed to show commitment to improving the success rate.

He released final results, scotching reports that Mpumalanga had improved its matric pass rate. The 3,6% increase announced was not comparable to other provinces as it included part-time pupils. Other provinces took

only full-time pupils into account. On this basis Mpumalanga's pass rate had dropped from 47,4% in 1996 to 45,7%.

Bengu said he was disappointed with the results, particularly in the light of his assurances last year that they would not worsen from the 54,7% pass rate of 1996. Last year's national pass rate was 47,1%, with provincial declines ranging from 19,6 percentage points in North West to 1,7 percentage points in Mpumalanga. The exemption rate dropped from 15,6% to 12,4%.

Bengu stressed that there was no

single reason for the poor performance, but warned teachers who lacked commitment: "Our system cannot keep you. This government cannot continue to pay salaries to people who do not do their work."

Education deputy director-general Thron Rensburg said school management and governing bodies having power to fire teachers would be "an important factor" in improving results.

He said improvements to the standards of exams and their administration could have been partly responsible

for the worse results. Improved security around exam papers reduced numbers of pupils with prior access to them, possibly resulting in more failures, while phasing out lower grade in grade 12 could have added as much as 2% to the failure rate. Expanding the standardisation process to include oral, practical and year marks could have made as much as a 5% difference.

Bengu said a number of "very basic education matters" needed medium-term attention if better matric results were to be expected. These included:

- Provincial underfunding of education, relative overspending on personnel and underspending on learning materials and teacher development;
- Human resource management, including difficulties in resolving the redeployment of teachers and the high vacancy rate in school management posts; and
- Leadership instability in education departments, which caused flagging spirits and management difficulties.

See Page 2

# Poor performance of class of '97 no cause for joy — Bengu

(52) CT 9/1/98

## **TROYE LUND**

THE poor performance of the matric class of 1997 was no cause for joy, even though they achieved more As, Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu said.

The main reason for his harsh words about the dismal 47% national pass rate was that he had told the public that in performance candidates had reached the bottom in 1996.

The 1997 result of 47% dropped from the 1996 figure of 55%.

It was important to bear in mind that analysing exam results was a complex issue, Bengu said at a news conference in the city yesterday.

He said there was no single factor for poor performances by schools, teachers or pupils — it was important to draw attention to some of these factors because they could not be allowed to continue.

To start with, many of the matric candidates were poorly prepared. "At some schools, no learning or teaching took place at all last year. As long as this continues, there is little doubt that many pupils will continue to fail. This cannot be allowed to happen," Bengu said.

Another factor was that the generation of pupils now entering grades 10, 11 and 12 started school during the mid-1980s, a time when many of their schools were

## Steps to improve matric results

STEPS which Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu intends to take to rectify last year's poor matric performance are

- Transforming the national curriculum to ensure that the potential of all students is identified and supported at an early stage.

- Introducing more and meaningful exit points in the learning system through the creation of a single, co-ordinated 'further education' band.

- Institutionalising quality assurance management systems and quality indicators at key grades in the general and further education bands.

- Building a partnership in school governance between the government and the community.

under siege as a result of apartheid violence and destabilisation. Teachers were also affected by this, he said.

"Clearly, special efforts will be required from these learners and teachers to over-

come this legacy, rather than remain victims. Accordingly, we are still setting national benchmarks for the performance of learners and of the learning system.

"We are gaining important understanding of the interventions which are necessary for ongoing improvement," Bengu said after stressing that this was only the second matric exam run on a non-racial basis.

National standards for the matric exam, Bengu added, had been raised during the 1997 exam. Phasing out lower-grade subjects had also increased the requirements for success as did the expansion of the standardisation process to include oral, practical and year marks.

Bengu said the 1997 results confirmed the policy direction embarked upon, and the department would continue to strengthen programmes aimed at short-term interventions, while ensuring long-term systemic transformation.

"But, SA is creating an education system for the next century that will give the next generation of learners an environment that will make it possible for them to compete and win in global society, instead of being victims of it," he said.

He added that the budgetary and management challenges that were depriving schools of essential resources would be addressed by 1999.

# Bottom line is that it's not nearly as bad as it seems

(52) Star 10/1/98

The matric results were shocking last year. For the first time, more pupils failed than passed. But is schooling really much worse than it was before?  
**KAREN MACGREGOR** reports

In a "normal" society it would be reasonable to assume, as many people have in their panicked reactions to the matric results, that falling school marks are the result of rapidly declining educational standards.

This is only partly true for South Africa's class of 1997.

The matric pass rate declined from 54,7% in 1996 to 47,1% last year. SA Institute of Race Relations researcher Herme Forgey points out that this means 32 000 fewer pupils got their matric in 1997 than in 1996, even though 52 000 more wrote. The proportion achieving a university pass was 12,4%, down from 15,6% in 1996.

But it is highly unlikely that the 7,6% decline in the pass rate translates into 7,6% decline in standards. Not that much changed on the ground in schools last year. Rather, many factors combined to paint a picture that is more worrying than it is worthy of panic.

This is not to argue that education in South Africa is in anything less than a crisis: the question is whether the crisis has deepened.

Large parts of the system have been chaotic for decades and are likely to remain so for many years to come: in fact, education was relatively stable in 1997. There is not enough money for schools, but that's not new: resource levels did not hugely decline last year.

The Government, and especially the provinces, have a lot to answer for, including leaving crucial management posts vacant, mismanagement, and failing to deliver books and other basic needs to schools. But that too, sadly, has happened before.

So what does explain last year's radical drop in matric marks?

Not surprisingly, there is a correlation between poor conditions and poor performance. Two of the provinces that scored the lowest marks – Northern Province at 31,8% and Eastern Cape at 45,4% – were identified by last year's School Register of Needs as suffering the worst conditions in schools.

Only KwaZulu Natal, also singled out as very badly off, achieved a relatively decent 53,1% score. Together these three provinces have 60% of South Africa's more than 11 million pupils.

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu argued this week that no single factor could account for the poor performance, but stressed that the current crop of senior pupils began school during the turbulent mid-1980s. The system was transforming, he pointed out, and the Government was still setting national benchmarks for school performance.



**NO SINGLE FACTOR TO BLAME:** Minister Sibusiso Bengu

Standards for the matric examination process itself were raised last year, which could account for the decline.

Bengu argues that expanding the process to include oral, practical and year marks – a definite improvement to the system but one which raised the requirements for success – could have lowered marks by up to 5%.

There were improvements in the preparation and distribution of 1 600 papers, as well as in invigilating, writing, and the capture, analysis and release of results. There was also less cheating among the country's 556 246 matric candidates, and generally better marking, he said.

In other words, the 1997 matric results may be the worst ever, but they may also be the most accurate reflection yet of performance in South African schools.

Chaotic conditions and widespread cheating in 1996 – the first nonracial matric exams – threw doubts over marks that year, while glaring differences in standards between the racially based education departments before 1996 undoubtedly also distorted marks.

Importantly, last year was also the first time the "lower grade" option was scrapped. Many pupils who may well have passed on lower grade probably failed on standard grade in 1997. Bengu argues that this could have lowered the pass rate by up to 2%.

Forgey and Dr Fred Calitz, executive officer of the SA Certification Council, believe that expanding pupil numbers could also be placing heavy pressure on the matric system and contributing to declining performance. It is also possible that growing numbers of poorly prepared pupils are being promoted up the system: they would have little chance of passing matric.

Finally, the outcry from parents could help to ensure that measures to improve accountability and teacher performance have public backing. With some luck, they might also spur parents into better supporting their children.





**RANDOM BRANDAN**

# The mystique of SA's matric

(52) ARG 10/11/98

The matric results for 1997 were shocking. For the first time, more pupils failed than passed. But is schooling really much worse than it was before? **KAREN MACGREGOR** reports

In a "normal" society it would be reasonable to assume that falling school marks were the result of rapidly declining educational standards. This is only partly true for South Africa's class of 1997.

The matric pass rate declined from 54,7% in 1996 to 47,1% last year. SA Institute of Race Relations researcher Herme Forgey points out that this means 32 000 fewer pupils got their matric in 1997 than in 1996, even though 52 000 more wrote. The proportion achieving exemption was 12,4%, down from 15,6% in 1996.

But it is highly unlikely that the 7,6% decline in the pass rate translates into 7,6% decline in standards. Not that much changed in schools last year.

This is not to argue that education in South Africa is in anything less than crisis: the question is whether the crisis has deepened.

Large parts of the system have been chaotic for decades and are likely to remain so for many years to come: in fact, education was relatively stable in 1997. There is not enough money for schools, but that's not new: resource levels did not hugely decline last year. There was disruption to the teaching corps and declining morale in schools. But only a tiny fraction of teachers took packages and those who left were generally well qualified, so their loss was mostly not from the poor schools that turned in the worst performances. Even lack of discipline, a major problem, has been equally serious in previous years.

The Government, and especially the provinces, have a lot to answer for, including leaving crucial management posts vacant, mismanagement and failing to deliver books to schools. But that, too, has happened before. So what does explain last year's radical drop in matric marks?

Not surprisingly, there is a correlation between poor conditions and poor performance. Two of the provinces that scored the lowest marks - Northern Province at 31,8% and Eastern Cape at 45,4% - were identified by last year's School Register of Needs as having



To the victors ... from left, Aslam Dalvi, Monique Williams, Zureida Khan, Saleema Royker, Nadira Mohamed and Rameez Harris, all from Belgravia High School, celebrate their A-aggregate matric results

the worst conditions in schools.

Only KwaZulu Natal, also singled out as very badly off, achieved a relatively decent 53,1% score. Together, these three provinces have 60% of South Africa's more than 11 million pupils.

Interestingly, there does not appear to be a link between conditions and the rate of decline: the three worst off provinces did not experience the radical lowering of marks of the North West (a 16% drop), Northern Cape (9,2%) and Free State (8,8%).

John Pampallis, director of the Centre for Education Policy Development, believes technical factors in the examination process itself are at the root of the drop in marks. "I can't see any other reason," he says. "If anything, conditions in education were a bit better in 1997."

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu concurs. He argued this week that no single factor could account for the poor performance. The system was transforming, he pointed out, and the Government was still setting national

benchmarks for school performance.

Standards for the matric examination process itself were raised last year, which could account for much of the decline.

Professor Bengu argues that expanding the process to include oral, practical and year marks - a definite improvement to the system, but one which raised the requirements for success - could have lowered marks by up to five percent.

There were improvements in the preparation and distribution of papers, as well as in invigilating, writing, and the capture, analysis and release of results. There was also less cheating among of the country's 556 246 matric candidates, and generally better marking.

So, the 1997 matric results may be the worst ever, but they may also be the most accurate reflection yet of performance in schools.

Importantly, last year was also the first time the "lower grade" option was scrapped. Many pupils who may well have passed on lower grade probably failed on standard grade.

Professor Bengu argues that this could have lowered the pass rate by up to two percent.

Mr Forgey and Fred Calitz, executive officer of the SA Certification Council, believe that expanding pupil numbers also could be placing heavy pressure on the matric system and contributing to declining performance. While in the mid-1980s there were only about 70 000 matric candidates, last year, more than half a million pupils wrote matric.

Aside from the burden such huge increases place on resources in the system, it is possible that growing numbers of poorly prepared pupils are being promoted up the system and then have little chance of passing matric.

Adjustments - using what is known as the O-Jive curve - made to matric marks were as radical in 1997 as they were the year before. The raw marks were raised or lowered by up to 10%, according to Dr Calitz. The SA Certification Council sets and monitors matric standards across the country, and adjusts results.

Interestingly, a look by Dr Calitz at the performances of pupils in the former Department of Education and Training between 1983 and 1994 revealed that fairly wild fluctuations in marks were nothing new for the bulk of South African pupils.

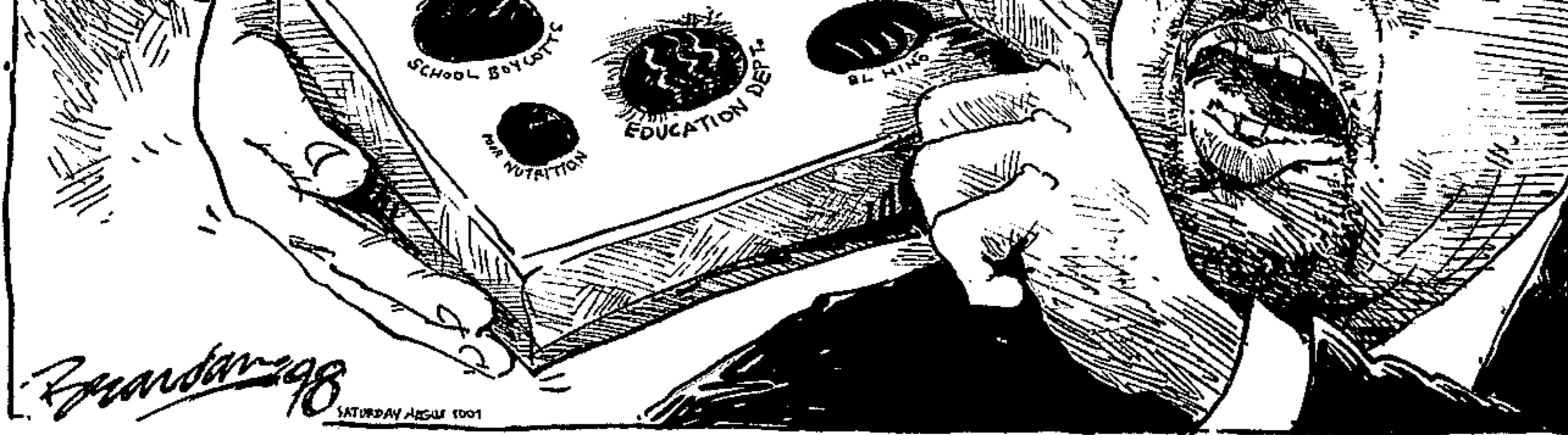
While there appears to be an overall decline in performance, DET pass rates fluctuated from quite good in the early 1980s and then declined again. Over time, this amounts to a "peculiar" statistical irregularity, which Dr Calitz says he cannot explain.

Perhaps it points to a problem with the matric system itself - a possibility Dr Pampallis believes should not be discounted. "Perhaps the matric exam system is not quite the objective measure of performance it is currently believed to be," he says.

These factors help put the results in perspective, but do not let the education authorities, both national and provincial, off the hook. Inevitably, they will increase pressure on the African National Congress regarding the education leadership of Professor Bengu.

On the other hand, the results may strengthen his hand when dealing with unions. The outcry from parents across the spectrum could help ensure that much-needed measures to improve accountability and teacher performance have public backing. With some luck, they might also spur parents into better supporting their children.

Verwoerd sowed seeds of this year's poor exam results



**RANDOM BRANDAN**

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While there appears to be an overall decline in performance, DET pass rates fluctuated from quite good in the early 1980s and then declined again. Over time, this amounts to a "peculiar" statistical irregularity, which Dr Calitz says he cannot explain.

Perhaps it points to a problem with the matric system itself - a possibility Dr Pampalis believes should not be discounted. "Perhaps the matric exam system is not quite the objective measure of performance it is currently believed to be," he says.

These factors help put the results in perspective, but do not let the education authorities, both national and provincial, off the hook. Inevitably, they will increase pressure on the African National Congress regarding the education leadership of Professor Bengu.

On the other hand, the results may strengthen his hand when dealing with unions. The outcry from parents across the spectrum could help ensure that much-needed measures to improve accountability and teacher performance have public backing. With some luck, they might also spur parents into better supporting their children.

## Verwoerd sowed seeds of this year's poor exam results

The prophets of doom - and isn't this country just awash with them since the elections of 1994? - will be chortling heartily and rubbing their hands in glee at the disappointing matric results just released.

To be sure, and I want to state it right at the outset, the Department of Education is not blameless in this whole sorry affair. But that is only a small part of the story. The fact of the matter is that the seeds for this type of educational setback - not disaster and certainly not collapse - were sown way back in the mid-1950s when racial discrimination became the legal determinant structuring syllabuses.

H F Verwoerd planted poison ivy and why should we expect it to have sprouted roses?

The prophets of doom, many of them Mr Verwoerd's spiritual offspring, now suddenly are oblivious of what they supported all along. When our leaders warned more than 40 years ago what the results of these mad schemes would be, they were simply locked up for their trouble - figuratively and literally - and the "traditional way of South African life" continued apace.

Today, one hears ludicrous and completely asinine whines, such as "but we never knew what was happening" and "the blacks are now in power and everything is falling apart". Indeed, we find it harder by the day to come across a single voter who once endorsed apartheid!

If these people are to be believed - and I do not believe a single one of them - then Mr Verwoerd and his fellow madmen voted themselves into power and by some inexplicable miracle kept increasing their majority at every successive election.

In attempting to right the wrongs it inherited from a soulless and completely abominable government, President Mandela's administration perhaps moved a bit too fast - and that was when the mistakes were compounded.

It has been a mere 12 months since education was brought under one roof and the syllabus completely integrated. Considering the millions of pupils and teachers - and not least

the classroom assimilation of cultures which Mr Verwoerd's successors and supporters had steadfastly resisted - it was always going to be a tall order getting the new system to run smoothly.

The matric results are not very good and that is a fact. But, in the overall light of what has gone before and the honest attempts to correct deliberate wrongs which were created by those with demonic interests to serve, we still have a lot for which we must be thankful.

In conversation with one white Johannesburg woman this week - she wanted to know from me whether, in view of the results, it was worth her remaining in this country instead of going "to England and good schools with security for me and my children" - I was not at all surprised to find that our country is still host to numerous Judases.

The woman typified the "you" people and "your Government" mentality that ensures

the perpetuation of divisions in South Africa and the continuation of polarisation. In other words, the policy which the Nationalists entrenched in the collective psyche of white South Africa has now created a mindset which has dangerous implications for our future.

I asked myself what effect this woman's delusions and prejudice would have on her children? What still bothers me is the attitude of many white South Africans who do not consider themselves citizens with obligations to this country and its people, but are merely here for what they can get out for themselves.

Hopefully, we can now learn from mistakes made in an honest effort to right deliberate wrongs, but teachers, pupils, parents and the authorities - virtually everybody with genuine intentions for the country and its future, will have to put in a lot more.

And what did I say to the woman wishing to take flight? Bon voyage, I would never miss her in the least and no one would find me crying if she never came back.

■ Jon Qwelane is editor-in-chief at Mafube Publishing

**JON QWELANE**  
JUST JON



# Parents' lack of interest blamed for poor results

By SIFELANI MLAMBO

FINDING PEOPLE to blame when things go wrong is the easiest thing in the world.

The country is currently reeling from the disappointing black matric results, and many are calling for heads to roll.

As usual, scapegoats are being sought and people are not being brave enough to acknowledge responsibility for the deep mess in which education finds itself.

The government, parents, teacher unions and pupils are all passing the buck.

Parents' lack of interest in their children's educational performance has been cited as a major factor in 1997's disappointing results.

They should play an active role in their children's education and be a link between themselves, the teacher and the pupil.

"Parents should play their role by keeping a watchful eye on the performance of their children," Gauteng MEC for Education Mary Metcalfe said this week.

Efforts by the government and teachers are futile without the cooperation of parents, she said.

She said many parents neglected to participate in school governing bodies where important issues such as pupils' academic development and issues such as student discipline should be discussed.

She said parents needed to assist in restoring a culture of learning before better results could be achieved.

Metcalfe said the Gauteng Department of Education's major challenge for 1998 would be to strengthen school governing bodies and to ensure that parents participated in these elected bodies.

Teachers and their unions have also been identified as culprits for the grim matric results.

The South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) are accused of encouraging their members to do more toyi-toying than teaching. (Several of the union's leaders have sent their children to private schools where matric results were far better.)

Teachers are also alleged to have been absent from school

without reason, leaving pupils to do as they wished.

Sadtu has in the past used its powerful membership to disrupt classes in its quest for better salaries and working conditions for its members.

This at the expense of pupils and the entire learning process.

The commitment of some teachers to teaching has been questioned, and a number have been charged for misconduct, Metcalfe said.

"This year we will crack the whip and any teacher who is not prepared to do his or her job will have to go," she said.

Students, on the other hand, have put the blame squarely on the shoulders of their teachers and on the government for their failure.

They have complained that some schools have not received books on time, and claimed that the government was spending more money on private schools than on previously disadvantaged black schools.

Metcalfe this week denied the charge.

She said private schools received far less money from the government than public schools, and added that it would cost the education department more money to place the children at private schools than at government schools.

The reasons given by student organisations for truancy by pupils were that teachers stayed away from school and also that there were no books from which to learn.

The provincial education departments have admitted that adequate books are not always available because of budgetary constraints.

According to Metcalfe, from this year parents will have to assist with stationery and text books. "We are going to supply only 70 percent of stationery to schools and the rest will have to be paid by parents," she said.

It became clear from a City Press investigation that those involved in education should avoid pointing fingers and do their bit as part of the whole to bring about an adequate educational system.

# Education department, unions at loggerheads

By SIFELANI MLAMBO and DESMOND BLOW

A SERIOUS rift between the Department of Education and teachers' unions is looming over this year's poor matric results.

Minister of Education Professor Sibusiso Bengu has warned teachers to pull up their socks or be fired.

Teachers' unions are claiming the Minister and the government are to blame, not their members.

Sadtu has cited maladministration in the education department as contributing to the poor results.

They have blamed the education departments for the late supply of stationery and textbooks to schools — and not the incompetence of some school principals in placing orders.

Leepile Taunyane, president of the National Professional Teachers' Association, blamed the Cabinet for lack of money.

The Suid-Afrikaanse Onderwysunie (SAOU) blamed the "reckless" retrenchment of competent teachers and the lack of funds and support material for the poor matric results.

Student organisation Cosas has also blamed the Ministry for the poor results, claiming they are not convinced the minister is committed to improving standards in previ-

□ To Page 2.

## Education departments, unions at loggerheads

□ From Page 1

ously disadvantaged schools.

Bengu complained that because of teacher absenteeism and incompetence in some schools only 40 percent of the matric syllabus was taught, making it impossible for the pupils to pass.

Gauteng MEC Mary Metcalfe this week also warned that she would act strictly against both teachers and students who are not disciplined.

City Press understands that plans are already in place for checks to be kept on schools and that action will be taken against teachers who do not act professionally, but that education authorities are hopeful that unions will be responsible and will cooperate in bringing about better education.

Plans to improve education this year are expected to be released tomorrow.

Among them City Press understands will be the appointment of District Education Co-ordinators who will visit schools and check on principals, teachers, pupils and lessons, and report on weaknesses and strengths.

At present although a register of attendance is kept for both teachers and children, no note is made if the teacher or pupil leaves school before the day's schooling ends.

The planned register this year will note the time pupils and teachers leave classrooms.

The co-ordinators will monitor the register as well as the progress of the syllabus.

Metcalfe believes she will have the support of the unions and communities in these steps. Schools will also be sent disciplinary actions to be taken against pupils for various misdemeanours.

The Gauteng Education Department will also consider a suggestion that if a pupil does not attend a certain number of classes in a year, he or she should be prevented from writing matric. This will also reduce the number of failures.

CP 11/1/98

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# Matric results in KwaZulu are scandalous - ANC

28/11/1998

(52)

**O**NE African pupil was among the best 20 matric students in KwaZulu Natal and although this is no worse than most other provinces, it did not prevent the ANC from describing the result in the province as "scandalous and a shame."

The student, Phakamani Romny Mdletshe, is from Umtata's Mlokothwa High School and came top in one of the eight regions of the province.

"Umtata region is an exception precisely because there are only African students in that region," the ANC said.

In a statement party spokesman Dumisani Makhave said: "The results confirm one thing, that both the national and provincial governments must move with speed to redistribute the resources in favour of African schools."

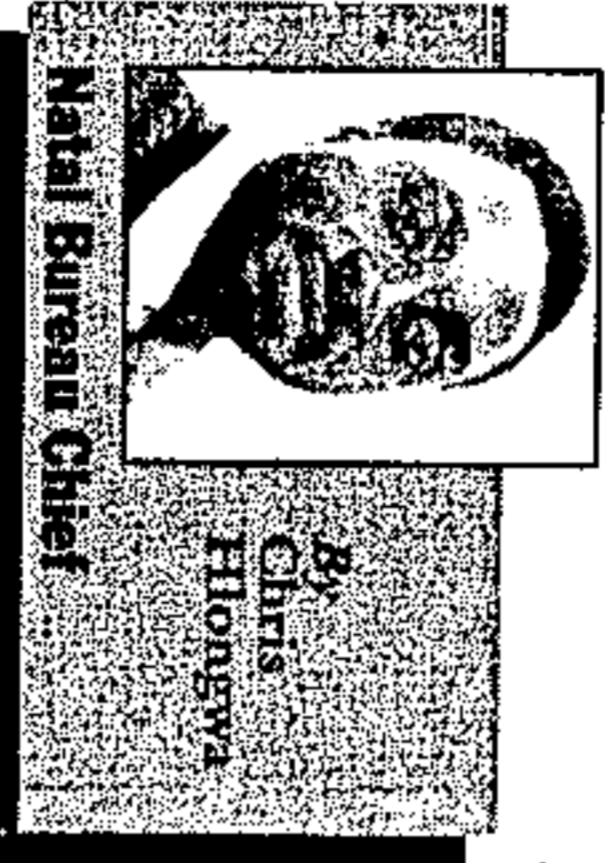
He noted that finance of R6 billion had been budgeted for the provincial education department, but that this was inadequate.

"Unless the country is bold enough to redistribute education resources in favour of underprivileged African schools, the disastrous matric results among African students will continue," he said.

While there were other factors for the dismal failure of African matric students, "the buck must still stop at the provincial Departments of Education and Culture," he said.

He also called on student organisations to ensure that students and pupils maintain "maximum discipline and that a school is first and foremost a place for learning and not anything else."

He added: "Teacher



ANC KwaZulu-Natal spokesman says the government must be bold and redistribute education resources.

ANC KwaZulu-Natal spokesman says the government must be bold and redistribute education resources.

unions/organisations must ensure that their members rise above sectarian interests and uplift the culture of teaching.

He poured cold water on the call of the Pan Africanist Congress for a "black caucus" to discuss the poor matric results among African students.

"It is rather too rich for the PAC to come with such a suggestion. Its sole representative in the provincial Parliament, Joe Mkhwanazi, was supposed to be the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education and Culture by 1996 after Roger Burrows of the DP.

"But Mkhwanazi abdicated that responsibility and Burrows continues to chair that important portfolio committee. The PAC cannot then be taken seriously on matters of education in the province."

Meanwhile, calls for the resignation of controversial Education MEC Vincent Zulu mounted this week, with the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu), saying Zulu had failed for three years to lead education in the province.

Another union, Natal African Teachers' Union slammed him for lacking "commitment, vision and enthusiasm" in the task of ensuring that previously disadvantaged students were still not handicapped.

Only 54 percent of the more than 102 000 fulltime candidates who wrote matric passed and a mere 18.4 percent obtained a university pass. The 1997 results are only one percent higher than the lowest recorded in 1993.

African schools that did well were Adams College High School in Umbumbulu, achieving an 100 percent pass rate for the third year in a row, Masibumbane, Mlokothwa, Siyavakela in Ladysmith, Sivananda in KwaMashu and Vukuzakhe in Umtata.



PREMIER INDABA... Northern Province premier Ngako Ramathodi has called for an education indaba to sort out his province's problems. The province produced the worst matric results with the failure rate of 68.20 percent.

## N Prov temporary teachers given six-month reprieve

28/11/1998

**N**orthern Province Provisional temporary teachers whose contracts terminated on December 31 last year to the report to the schools at which they were teaching when schools re-open next week.

Department spokesperson Bernard Matsane said all those teachers would be given six-month contracts to June 1998.

"During the six-month period of engagement, redeployment will be facilitated with a view to appropriate posts," said Matsane.

The provision does not include those temporary teachers who acted as substitutes for full-time teachers on leave, he said.

This week Northern Province Premier Ngako Ramathodi called for an urgent education indaba to find a solution to the province's very poor matric results and to prevent a recurrence of disruptive events in the schools.

The province produced the worst results ever with a pass rate of only 31.8 percent. A total of 86 000 pupils failed their matric, only 7 149 obtained university entrance and 33 247 passed without exemption.



N Prov spokesperson Bernard Matsane said all those teachers would be given six-month contracts to June 1998.

for to spend money on unproductive methods and systems, and the department will have to look at new and innovative solutions to the crisis.

"We will have to eliminate red tape and bureaucratic inertia, to ensure that text books and other aids are available to all schools in the province. We will no longer tolerate a system where money is simply thrown at bureaucrats and unproductive teaching staff."

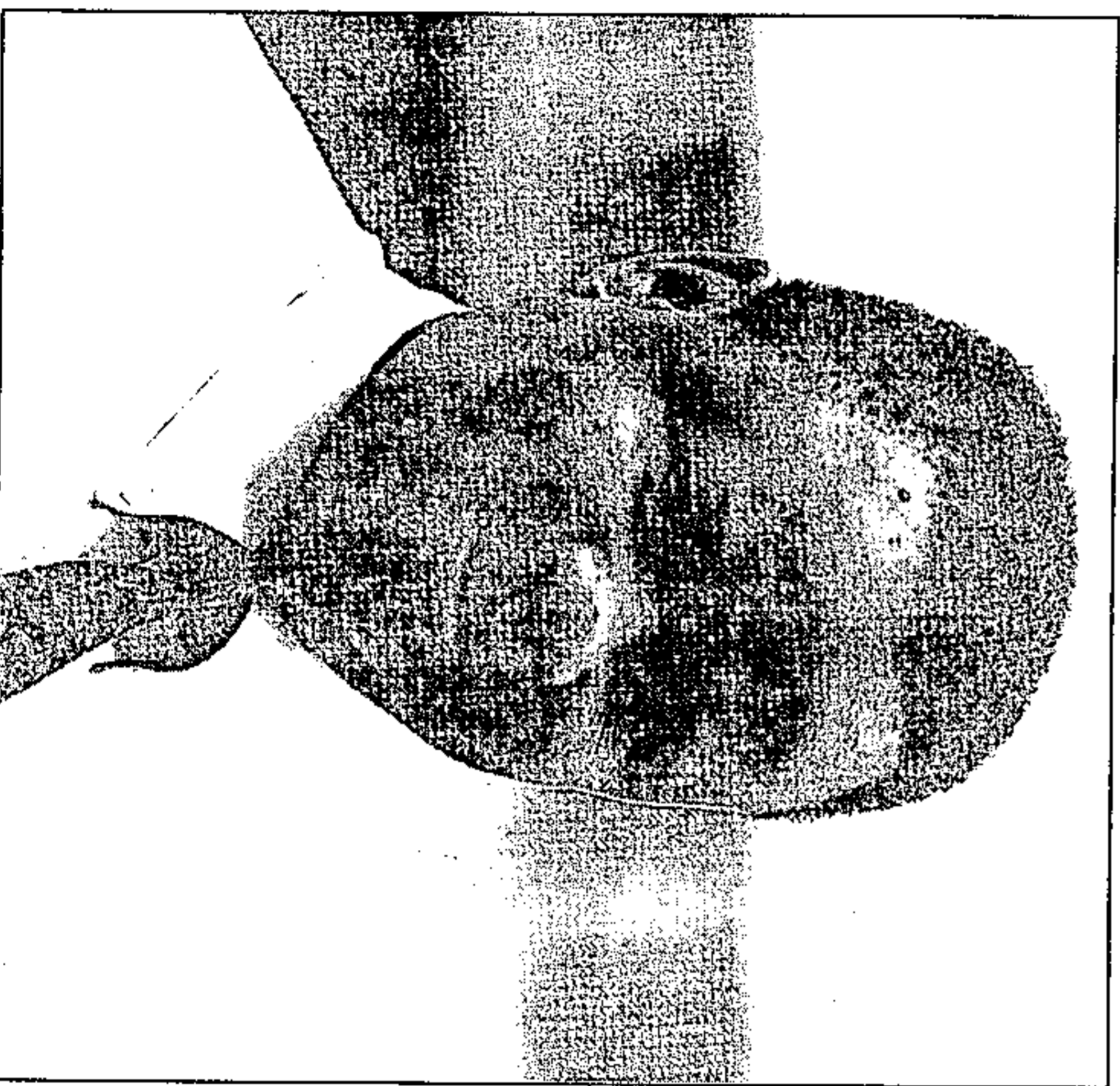
Ramathodi said the available funds had to be used productively to benefit students. He also called on teachers to dedicate themselves to teaching.

"Teachers should set an example to their pupils through the diligent manner in which they perform their duties," said Ramathodi.

He also called on the governing bodies and parents to fulfill their immense responsibilities towards the education of their children.

Ramathodi warned that days of school boycotts and disruptions of classes must come to an end. He said workable solutions were required throughout the province to raise the level of commitment from both teachers and students.

The meeting is expected to be held early next week after consultations with relevant departments.



MORE RESOURCES NEEDED IN AFRICAN SCHOOLS... Dumisani Makhave.

pline and that a school is first and foremost a place for learning and nothing else".

He added: "Teachers' MORE RESOURCES NEEDED IN AFRICAN SCHOOLS... Dumisani Makheye

## Da Gama to head two finishing schools

SHARON da Gama has been appointed as co-ordinator of the Motorola Rewrite and ABSA Schools, which will start operating from the premises of the Soweto College of Education in Pinville from January 26.

Da Gama holds a Masters in English and has been actively involved in education for several years. Her experience includes teaching at high school

level lecturing at the Rand College of Education and the Soweto College of Education.

She also held the post of National Moderator and sub-examiner in the former House of Representatives for English 2, Paper 1, Matric from 1988 to 1995. Da Gama has also been actively involved in Adult Education for a number of years.

The establishment of Motorola Rewrite School will offer historically disadvantaged matric students a genuine second chance to either pass or improve on their matric results.

The success of the Star Schools has always depended on the excellent calibre of its teachers, the managing director of Star Schools, Roger Briggs said.

### TENDER INVITATIONS: INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is an independent statutory body charged with managing elections at the national, provincial and local levels of government. The Commission is in the process of establishing its office and invites tenders for the goods, services and skills indicated hereafter:

1. Financial Services
  - a) Financial management services
  - b) Banking services
  - c) Internal audit
  - d) Payroll management
  - e) Motor finance scheme for senior staff
2. Management consultants
3. Human Resources consultants
4. Establishment of the Commission
  - a) Recruitment of staff
  - b) Public relations and media consultants
  - c) Advertising agents
  - d) Courier services
  - e) Security services
  - f) Telephone services
  - g) Staff training
  - h) Cleaning services
  - i) Travel agents
  - j) Printing and binding
5. Electoral Services
  - a) Municipal capacity evaluation
  - b) Electoral equipment audit
6. Legal Services

Tenders may be submitted for any element indicated or any combination thereof. For tender specifications, please contact the individuals listed below:

Financial Services: Ms G Louw  
Management Services, Human Resources and Legal Services: Mr H Sackstein  
Electoral Services: Mr V Mahne  
Establishment of Commission: Ms G Cohen

The closing date for the acquisition of tender specifications is 16 January 1998. The tender specifications will later allow information on compulsory briefing sessions and on the closing dates for the submission of tenders.

Contact details: telephone (012) 322-0480, fax (012) 322-6798, e-mail [iec@icon.co.za](mailto:iec@icon.co.za)

### TENDER INVITATION: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) PARTNER

Tenders are invited by the Independent Electoral Commission for an IT partner to assist in the planning, development, execution and capacity building of its IT function in support of the various electoral business functions. The successful IT partner and any of its subsidiaries shall, however, be excluded from any subsequent tenders resulting from the implementation of the IT business plan. For the tender specification and additional information please contact Melanie du Plessis at

telephone (012) 322-0480, fax (012) 322-0493 during office hours or e-mail [iec@icon.co.za](mailto:iec@icon.co.za)

**Closing date for acquiring the tender specification: 16/1/1998.**

**Compulsory briefing session: 23/1/1998.**

**Closing date for submission of tenders: 20/2/1998.**

percent pass rate for the third year in a row, Masibumbane, Mokothe, Sityawukela in Ladysmith, Sivananda in KwaMashu and Vukuzakhe in Umhazi.

A total of 86 000 pupils failed their matric, only 7 149 obtained university entrance and 33 247 passed without exemption. Ramathodi said his government can no longer afford to fund the matric system.

government and the community. "I appeal to all concerned to join hands with the provincial government to find a solution for these problems," said Ramathodi.

# It takes 12 years to finish matric

BY ZOLILE NGAYI

Traditional methods of teaching and running schools which were eroded during the struggle against the apartheid regime must be revisited if the matriculation pass rate is to be improved.

These methods, according to Morrisoane Moekeisi principal of E D Mashabane Secondary School, are dedication and a sense of purpose in life.

Moekeisi believes that most matriculants in black schools, by the time they sit for examinations are still not ready.

"A culture of not completing syllabus has developed in our schools and this compounds the problem," he told City Press.

E D Mashabane in Sebokeng, is one of the schools which had low pass rates in the last five years.

According to the Vanderbijlpark office of the Gauteng Department of Education, in 1997 the school topped its pass rate markedly to 30,47 percent.

"I know people have the misconception that in 1996 we attained a 100 percent failure rate. That is incorrect. Although it was initially reported that none of our pupils had passed when we collected our results we found that 7,35% had actually passed.

While acknowledging that matric results were bad, Moekeisi said: "Matric is not done in one year. It takes twelve years to do matric. People must realise that if pupils are not prepared adequately in the years preceding matric, there is no way that they are going to pass."

Moekeisi identifies a number of factors which have eroded the "culture of teaching" in black schools.

One of these is the scrapping of external examinations at Grade 7.

He says teachers simply get rid of problematic pupils by passing them and this leads to the influx of unprepared pupils to the higher grades.

"Some schools have small matric classes because they keep back the Grade 11s who are not ready."

"These days everything is left to principals alone.

"There is no longer inspection or a valuation of teachers by inspectors nor Heads of Departments (HODs)," he said.

According to Moekeisi, pupils are getting a raw deal as the lack of inspection allows teachers to relax and become lazy.

"Teachers do not prepare for their work any longer and without this there is no way anything can be achieved.

"Lesson and work plans were eroded when we were fighting to topple the old order," said Moekeisi.

He believes that the people who fought in tandem with teachers to topple the old order that is, unions and government officials, should mobilise teachers to return to the culture of teaching.

Moekeisi denounces the fact that it is now difficult for principals to discipline and dismiss teachers who play truant.

"Disciplinary measures are too limited to be effective. The process is lengthy and involves several procedures."

He continues that though in 1995 principals were told they were now empowered, they have been rendered almost powerless in the face of uncooperative assistants and teachers.

"When our staff was still mainly male, we could instill discipline easily."

"I am not sexist, but a male figure was a symbol of discipline.

"If you introduce compulsory extra classes who is going to see to it that pupils attend?"

"If you introduce corporal punishment who is going to enforce it?" said Moekeisi.



LET'S GO BACK TO OUR ROOTS... Principal Moekeisi advocates traditional customs to restore culture of learning. Pic: ANDRIES MCINENKA

# Govt must own up for matric mess

CP 11/1/98

(5a)

THE GOVERNMENT should be blamed entirely for the deteriorating matric results in South Africa, the Pan Africanist Congress said during the week.

PAC education secretary Vusi Nkumane said the government had since taking power in 1994 failed to deliver on its responsibility to ensure that citizens were properly educated.

He said contrary to black people's expectations that their own majority government would reverse the programmes of under-educating their people as previously planned by the apartheid government, it had failed.

"It would appear that this government is unwittingly completing the Verwoerdian job of eventually and finally under-educating our people," said Nkumane.

He said it was worrying to witness that the government was governing in confusion — one confusing policy after another.

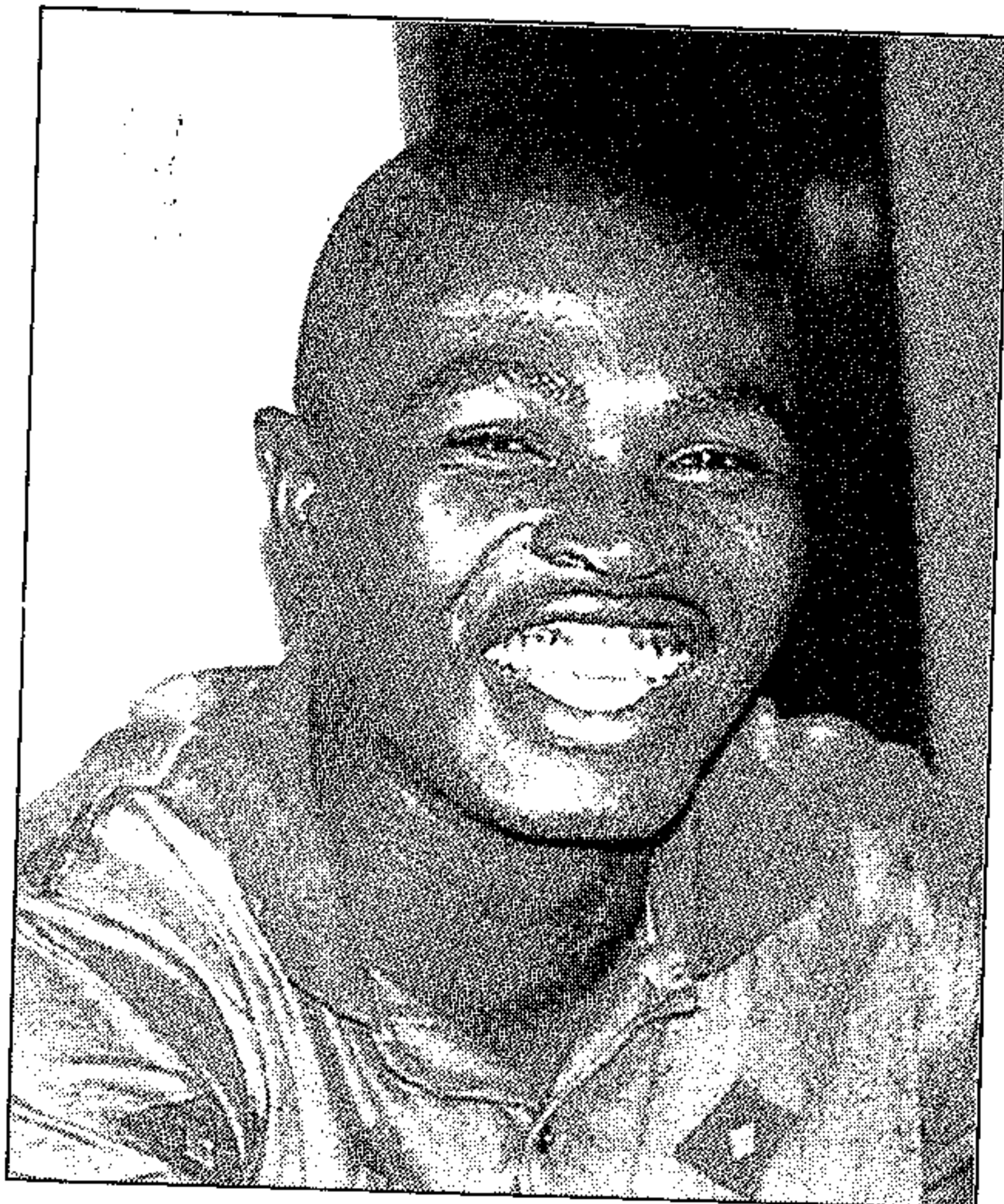
"To compound the problem (Gauteng education MEC) Mary Metcalfe chooses to lay the blame on apartheid.

"To us in the PAC this is an admission by Metcalfe that the government has not conquered apartheid," Nkumane said.

He said the PAC agreed with various teacher institutions and individual educationists, as well as political parties that the root cause for the high failure rate should be directed to the overall government performance.

Nkumane said it was no longer time to highlight and debate the causes for the lower matric pass rate, but it was now time to discuss the solutions with or without the falling government.

"Democracy holds it that the onus is on the people to decide what has to be done and let it be done," he said. — Sapa.



**A MATHS DISTINCTION...** Nhlanhla Msomi, who passed his matric with flying colours, proves that he is serious about education.  
Pics: SOLLY MOELA



**RIVALS NO MORE...** Chairperson of Cosas, Martin "Bushy" Mzane (left) and chairperson of Paso, Michael Moleko, holding the peace award after they signed a peace agreement.

EP 11/1/98

(52)

# Better marks as boycotts end

By PERCY MAKHAMEDZHA

**N**hlanhla Msomi of KwaThema on the East Rand scratches his head and says: "I wanted to become a Chartered Accountant, now I will settle for Cost and Management Accounting because I do not have enough funds to go to university".

Msomi, who has been a pupil at Nkumbulo Secondary School, has become a household name in the area because he has passed his matric with flying colours, notching a distinction in mathematics Higher Grade.

He was one of the 99 pupils who sat for the 1997 examinations at the school, which has produced the second best results out of seven schools in the area.

"I wanted to prove that given our circumstances, we were not going to give up. I also wanted to show that inside the township there are people who are serious about education," he enthused.

He said the best way to deal with schooling was to listen to the teachers, aim for one's goals, and prepare well.

The KwaThema education fraternity is celebrating the end of school boycotts that nearly derailed matric examinations.

For the past five years student bodies have been fighting each other because of political differences.

The matric results in KwaThema were satisfactory considering the five-week

school boycott a mere three weeks before the examinations started.

The best result was the 45 percent pass rate obtained by the students of Tlakula Secondary, a school infamous for being at the heart of the violence.

A total of 29 students obtained matric exemptions, 12 of whom attended Phulong Secondary School.

According to the Greater Springs/Greater Nigel and Devon Director of Education, Margaret Webber, each of the schools improved their pass rates despite the unfortunate circumstances which have prevailed over the past few years.

In percentage terms, results improved by 36 at Tlakula, 18 at Nkumbulo, 14 at Laban Mothlabi, 10 at Phumulong, eight at Zimisele and two at Kenneth Masekela Secondary School.

The principal of Nkumbulo Secondary School, Linda Maseko, said there was hope that the culture of learning was being re-established.

The school boycott between September and October was caused by two former rival student bodies, the Congress of South African Students' Organisation (Cosas), and the Pan Africanist Students' Organisation (Paso), who were both demanding the release of detained students and the suspension of all pending investigations into the student killings six years ago.

More than 50 students were arrested with some being sentenced to long terms in prison for murder and illegal possession of firearms.

Paso and Cosas allege that they were supplied arms to fight each other by known policemen and councillors. Both organisations are willing to appear before a special hearing at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The students agreed to go back to classes to write examinations after the MEC for Education, the MEC for Safety and Security, the Minister of Correctional Services, the student bodies, teachers and parents negotiated a pact that no students would be arrested after September 10, 1997.

The chairperson of Cosas, Martin "Bushy" Mzane, said "We want to bring back discipline and respect to our schools." His counterpart, chairperson of Paso Michael Moleko, said "I congratulate those who saw the light and worked hard to pass their examinations. I encourage those who did not pass to work harder this year and make KwaThema proud." Both Cosas and Paso have resolved to distance themselves from methods which disrupt education in the future.

Webber said that the year 1997 ended in a manner which, together with the above results, signals that 1998 would see the start of "normal" schooling in KwaThema.

# Counting the high cost of failures

(52)  
CHRIS BARRON

AFST 11/1/98

MATRIC exam failures last year have cost the government more than R900-million.

It spent R1,7-billion putting 555 267 pupils through their matric year at state schools — at an average cost of R3 186 a pupil. But 294 291 matrics failed.

The government also spent an average of R1 635 a pupil to put an estimated 6 000 pupils through matric at private schools, including inner-city private schools attended mostly by black children. More than 90 percent of these pupils passed. So failure at private schools cost the state R981 000.

According to figures from the national Department of Education, it costs the government R31 246 to put each pupil through school from Grade 1 to 12 (matric).

But, says the Education Foundation, fewer than 35 percent of these pupils pass Grade 12 at the first attempt.

A 1995 survey found that it took an average of 18 years to produce one Grade 12 graduate.

As pass rates have dropped since then, one can assume it is costing the government at least R47 368 to get a child successfully through matric.

Placing South Africa's matric results in some kind of international context is difficult because the exam systems in other developing countries, such as Korea and Singapore, are so different that no meaningful comparisons can be drawn.

However, results from the Third International Mathematics and Science Study conducted in 1994, 1995 and 1996 show that in these two subjects, at least, South Africa is way behind Singapore, which scores 643 points to our 364 in maths, and 607 to our 326 in science.

Of the 41 countries assessed, Singapore came first in maths and South Africa — the only African country represented — bottom. Korea comes second. In science Singapore is top again, with Korea fourth and South Africa last.



TO ASK what went wrong with matric is to imply that it was better in the past, and might well be worse in the future. These assumptions should certainly be contested.

For a minority, the examinations have been the climax of 12 years of substantial, acceptable schooling, but for the majority they epitomise an irrelevant system dominated by gross disparity of provision.

At a recent conference in Chicago Peter Drukker, an authority on organisational management, responded sharply to a speaker who was advancing valid and politically correct reasons for the appallingly low achievement in inner-city American schools. Drukker said the speaker was doing the poor no favour by making excuses for them. He argued there were schools in the most difficult areas that were successful simply because they had discipline and high expectations.

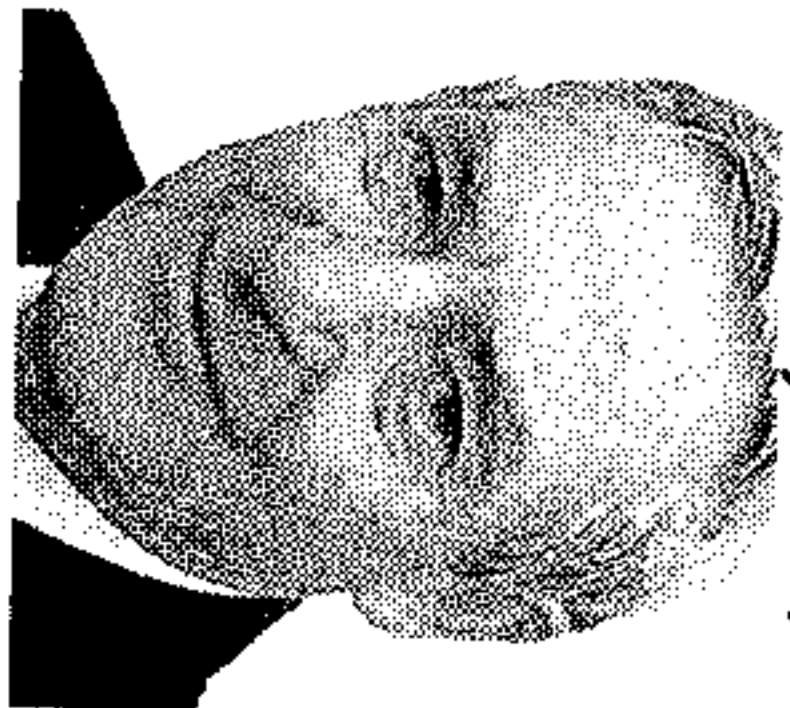
We have our own examples of this. Adam's Mission School obtained a 100 percent pass-rate by insisting that teachers and students were at school, that they worked, and that all attended a two-hour study period after school each day. However, important as this obvious lesson is, it would be wrong to say that it was the end of the story.

The furor around the matric results is best understood in human terms. The scale of failure is enormous. In Northern Province, for example, 86 000 young people failed. In Kwazulu Natal, half of the candidates entered for mathematics higher grade scored less than 14 percent, and they were presumably a select group of around a fifth of those who wrote their final school examinations. There was simply no substance to their learning.

Every human society educates its young, for on this depends its very survival. For individual parents there is another, deeper emotion. Parental love has about it intimations of immortality, experienced in

# Teach our children well from the start and it will pay off later

The achievement of good matric results starts in the first three years of primary school, says MARK HENNING



a longing for happiness for one's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Where this is weakened, the nation is in harm's way.

Some teachers have attributed the appalling 1997 results to just such parental neglect. But the reasons for the calamity are more complex, and there is no reason to be so pessimistic. Most parents have normal desires for their children, despite the burdens of poverty and unemployment so many carry.

An optimistic sign is that a factor in the poorer results is the SA Certification Council's refusal to raise marks by more than 10 percent in the standard annual statistical adjustments. This refusal and its acceptance indicate an understanding that real learning over a long period is required if matric qualifications are to be more than useless certificates of occasional attendance.

The present poor results are merely a symptom of an underlying malaise. In our best schools (which include urban and rural, privileged and deprived schools), children have achieved the desired objectives of creativity, enthusiasm for education, and a willingness and ability to continue learning. Good

teachers who have worked with children there have overcome the weakness of a system dominated by an external exam. They have made their students active participants in the learning process. Youngsters have learnt to use knowledge, think creatively and continue learning on their own, with enthusiasm.

But in most schools there has been a pattern of rote learning from the first years. This is hard to break, and has led to a loss of interest and a deadening of curiosity on the part of both teachers and students.

The achievement of good matric results starts in the first three years of primary school. There, children start on a journey of developing the high-order intellectual skills of reading, writing and numeracy. They do this while learning how to think and work, and get on with others.

In assessing what went wrong with matric, the starting point has to be an analysis of this foundation level (if not of even earlier years).

If the matric exams are to have any rigour, there can be no instant cures higher up, although there may be palliatives.

It is also likely that we have gone further astray in the schooling of

children from eight to 13 years. There is now a great deal of scientific evidence that the acquisition of knowledge and the development of understanding in these years is closely linked to the growth pattern of the central nervous system. Children need more organised structures than those generally provided to enable them to develop satisfactorily.

Existing teaching strategies, assessment and promotion regulations have not taken this sufficiently into account, making later success less likely. Many who wrote matric were simply not prepared for work at that level, and were misled into believing that they were.

We have undervalued the importance of teachers of quality. In good schools, fine teachers show a remarkable pride in their work. Daily, such teachers demonstrate the quality of their own education and the zest they have for personal growth. Ask principals of famous schools of their biggest concern, and they invariably cite the continued supply of such dedicated staff.

Students from good schools have consistently achieved sound results while at the same time developing critical judgment, forming critical skills and shaping artistic sensibility. Creativity, enthusiasm for education and personal initiative are difficult to measure, but they are understood and nurtured by good teachers.

The quality of students entering the profession and the training they receive is another critical factor in the analysis of what has gone wrong with matric. The teacher-training audit completed last year showed

how poorly served South Africa has been in this regard (with a few notable exceptions). This sorry situation cannot be rectified overnight; indeed, there must be serious questions raised about the short- and medium-term supply, given the low morale among students and lecturers in teacher-training colleges.

The financial problems facing provincial education departments and the severance package and redeployment schemes have affected morale, while economic and transitional tensions have played their part, together with widespread youth unemployment.

The outcry over the results is an indication that all is not lost.

At both national and provincial level there is an acute understanding of the needs of the country. The Department of Education has introduced policies on which there has been wide agreement. There is a vision, shared by many of all races, of a South Africa in which the quality of life will improve, with diversity not leading to divisiveness. There is a realisation that continuous, effectively implemented education can help make this a better nation.

The matric disappointments will force politicians, officials and the public to reassess the priorities. A strong imperative for redress and transformation has understandably characterised departmental thinking, and will continue to do so. The organised teaching profession has flexed the muscle it has through the Educators' Bargaining Council to seek better conditions for teachers. Moves towards outcomes-based education are aimed at transforming schools so they fit into the national qualifications framework.

Now it will be realised that these giant leaps must begin with some small steps, like getting teachers and students into classrooms.

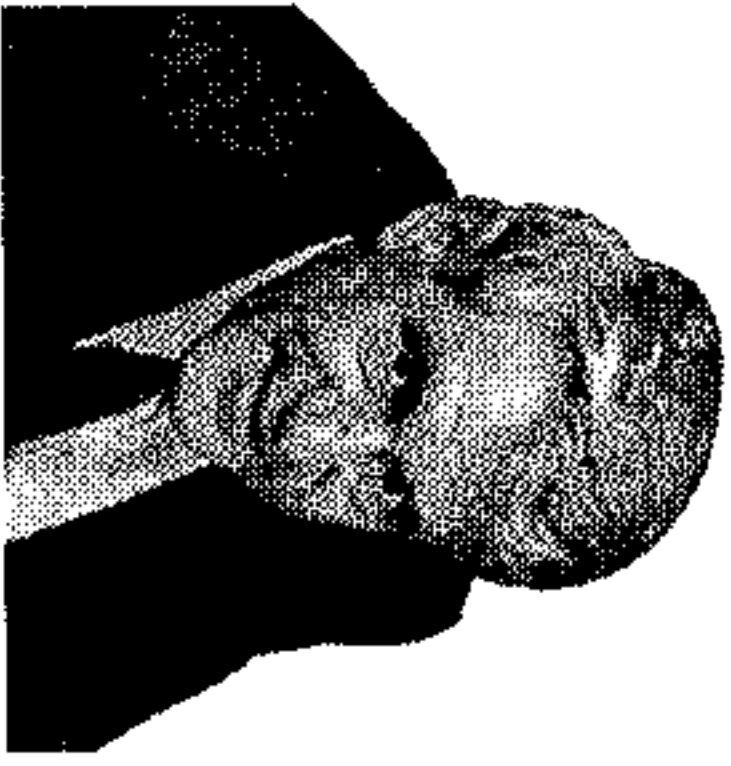
● *Henning is national director of the Independent Schools Council*

# So, what went wrong with

# the matric class of 97?

52

ST 11/1/98



*This year's bad results are merely the continuation of a trend which began in the 80s, writes Dr FRED CALITZ*

**T**HE main task of the South African Certification Council (Safcert) is to issue certificates at points of withdrawal from school and technical college education. It also has to ensure that these certificates represent the same standard of examination. To fulfil this special assignment it must monitor the Senior Certificate examinations of the various provincial education departments.

As part of its efforts to maintain standards, the council requires that question papers be submitted to external moderators for approval. Unfortunately, this procedure alone cannot guarantee the same standard for different examining bodies, or from one year to the next.

To identify possible variations in standard which may still occur, raw marks are compared with desired or expected mark distributions. Where significant deviations are observed, raw marks are adjusted to bring them closer to the desired distributions.

As custodian of examination standards, Safcert exercises strict control over mark adjustment.

When the provincial education departments conducted their first examinations at the end of 1996, Safcert expected the candidates to perform at about the same level as in 1995, and determined its desired distributions accordingly.

This expectation did not materialise, and substantial upward adjustments of marks were required to bring the pass rate to 52 percent, two percent lower than in 1995.

Although these adjustments were still acceptable, some of them were straining against the limits of what could reasonably be allowed.

Fearing a further decrease in achievement in 1997, Safcert determined new, slightly less favourable, desired distributions. The raw marks for 1997 showed that Safcert's fears were justified. Acceptable adjustments yielded the weaker results which have just been announced. It was clear that further increases in the raw marks to try to match the results of 1996 would have meant a definite lowering of examination standards. Safcert also took a firm stand that adjustments of marks could be used only to compensate for variations in the standard of the examination, and not to correct deficiencies which arose in the classroom. Although Safcert's function is to determine standards; to measure the level of achievement against these standards and to issue certificates — and not to address deficiencies in the education system — a Safcert official cannot avoid observing and being concerned about what is happening. What follows is, however, a purely personal opinion, and not the official view of the council. So, what went wrong? What is being observed is not a sudden problem. It is a continuation of a trend

which started in the 80s: a steady increase in the number of candidates of the former Department of Education and Training from about 72 000 in 1985 to 230 000 in 1991 to 341 000 in 1993, accompanied by a gradual but steady decline in performance from 48 percent passing in 1985 to 41 percent passing in 1991 to 38 percent passing in 1993. The number of candidates countrywide increased from 272 000 in 1988 to 560 000 in 1997. Such increases put a tremendous strain on resources, and a high degree of dedication is required to maintain success rates under these conditions. This dedication exists in only a relatively small number of schools. The bulk of the pupils are subjected to conditions where resources are inadequate, the standard of teaching is low, there is hardly any discipline and morale is low, so that the standard of learning is low. Contributing to these woes is the fact that pupils are advanced from one grade to the next indiscriminately, so that the teacher is confronted by learners who lack the necessary pre-knowledge but must be prepared for the final examination anyway. Another factor to be considered

is subject choice. In 1997 more than 80 percent of candidates from six of the nine provinces offered subject sets which could lead to university admission, with the accompanying preponderance of subjects on the higher grade. In a seventh province this figure was 70 percent, and 50 percent in the other two. Offering subjects on the higher grade to so many pupils not only puts a severe strain on already limited resources, but also lessens their chances of success, and does not really prepare them for anything other than academic study. In this context it can definitely be said that the study material is irrelevant. How can matters be put right? There is no instant solution to the problem, and a tremendous effort will be required just to stop the decline and then to bring about a gradual improvement. It is not good enough to merely pay lip service to this idea: it should be realised that the magnitude of the effort which is required is perhaps bigger than anyone can envisage. As a first step, discipline must be brought back into the classroom — strict discipline directed towards teachers. Teachers and administrators alike need improvement of resources (spends on money being available, and as finances are limited, such improvements will only be realised over a lengthy period. In the meantime, teachers, learners, administrators and parents will have to give their wholehearted support to making do with what is available. Everyone will have to become involved in creating a culture of learning and teaching, and improving the standards of

these activities. The relevance of what is being taught should be emphasised to a far greater extent. It is true that Curriculum 2005, with its accent on outcomes-based education, is intended, among other things, to address the relevance of study material. It should, however, be borne in mind that Curriculum 2005 is only in an experimental phase at this stage, and many complications will still have to be overcome before it will be in full swing, so that the present system must continue for quite some time. In some circles it is felt that the heavy emphasis placed on the once-off Senior Certificate examination should be toned down by using continuous assessment as part of the final results, thereby enhancing a candidate's chances of success. This is not an instant solution either, as there is a real probability that such a course of action can result in a lowering of standards while teachers are being trained to apply the appropriate standards to the continuous assessment. It is already quite a task to train selected teachers to become markers in the final examinations, and much more will be required to train all teachers to become proficient in assessment. To establish a solid educational system is clearly going to be a mammoth task which will take anything up to 15 years to accomplish. In the meantime, matters will get worse before they improve. ● *Calitz is executive officer of the South African Certification Council* □ Visit [www.suntimes.co.za/edu](http://www.suntimes.co.za/edu) to have your say on the exam results or to check matric results

# Deciding between true and false proves

GILLIAN ANSTEY

(52)

ST 11/11 98

JUDGING from their answers, many pupils "did not have a clue" about their subjects, markers of matric exam papers said this week.

A history marker from Kwa-zulu Natal said: "A few of them were totally off the point. Where

did their answers come from?"

A marker in the Eastern Cape said some biology higher grade essays were "nonsensical jumble", with "quite a few" pupils attaining less than 15 percent.

Markers said many pupils had simply rewritten the questions.

A maths higher grade marker from Gauteng said he had marked a number of papers that had scored zero, one, two or

three marks out of 200.

Most of the markers said they felt "despondent" and "saddened" by the lack of knowledge displayed by pupils.

A marker of science standard grade papers said only 10 to 20 percent of what he had marked showed any understanding.

But he said it was "not the pupils' fault" as many of them had not had hands-on experi-

ence of experiments.

He said another problem was that pupils did not understand what had been covered in Grade 11.

"I don't think Grade 11 is treated with the seriousness with which matric work is tackled."

While there was evidence that pupils had heard of scientific terms, there was little understanding of what they meant.

"They're learning off by heart,"

he said.

A marker of biology higher grade papers in the Eastern Cape said: "They would know there was such a thing as an alimentary canal, but they didn't know where it was in the body. Essays were just a jumble of words, nonsensical stuff."

He compared it to learning a few Russian words "and then try-

ing to hold a conversation".

An accountancy standard grade marker in Kwazulu Natal said knowledge of just the basic accounting procedures would have ensured a 40 percent pass.

But, she said, "it seems as if no learning was going on. I got angry while marking because the children are obviously teaching themselves. There's no teaching taking place."

An English teacher who

marked the literature paper said pupils referred to characters who did not exist in the prescribed books. And, when pupils had to answer true or false in the language paper, they gave different types of answers.

"It is not a language problem but a lack of preparation," she said. "In some cases they hardly wrote anything. Many did not

read the books. In all the years

I've marked, the students have done the worst in this one."

But a Western Cape teacher who marked the English higher grade essay paper said she had not realised the standard was so high.

"I didn't know you had to be so good to do well." She said some pupils were "extremely talented" writers.

too much for some

(52)

# Firms fight for top scorer

ST 11/11 98  
DINA SEEGER

SOUTH Africa's top matriculant for 1997 has become the focus of a bursary battle between five prestigious companies.

Yet, until last week, the 17-year-old from Klerksdorp feared he would have to apply for an urgent bank loan so he could register to study actuarial science at the University of Pretoria this month.

Eugène van der Westhuizen achieved 10 distinctions for his matric exams — the highest number of distinctions so far this year.

Despite an outstanding school record, Van der Westhuizen's seven bursary applications were rejected when he sent them in to various companies at the beginning of 1997.

But since the Sunday Times wrote about his predicament the phone has not stopped ringing, he said.

The matriculant has now been offered five bursaries and has been contacted by two universities which are willing to give him financial assistance.

Potchefstroom has offered him R19 000 for fees and accommodation and the University of Pretoria is prepared to give him a merit bursary of R7 000.

"I have set up interviews with different companies. I will look at each offer and decide which bursary to take," he said.

Van der Westhuizen's father, Nic, said he was pleased the companies had realised their mistake.

"I know how hard my son worked and yet he was turned down. Now he can choose whichever bursary he wants."

# Teachers told to pull up socks

## Lessons to be learnt from the class of '97

CHARIS PERKINS

IT'S time for principals, teachers and pupils in historically disadvantaged classrooms to pull up their socks and get down to some hard work.

That was the message this week from a "disappointed" Minister of Education, Sibusiso Bengu, and his provincial counterparts as they reeled under a shocking report card for the class of 1997.

Education ministers in all provinces said there had been little or no study in many classrooms, despite the launch of a national culture of learning and teaching campaign.

"While we acknowledge the hardships faced by many schools, pupils are not committed to learning and teachers are not committed to teaching," said Nostimo Balindlela, the Eastern Cape's education minister.

At many of the schools that turned in bad results, teachers did not teach or set tests, they arrived late for school and left early or they got drunk in class. On the other side of the desk, pupils mimicked their tutors. Some took drugs and guns to school.

"We've had cases where teachers became drinking partners with their pupils," said Zacharia Tolo, the Northern Province's education minister. Kwazulu Natal MEC Dr Vincent Zulu estimated there was "no dis-

ipline" in as many as 40 percent of the schools in his province.

Teachers were demoralised and underqualified, while pupils were "still in the mode of the days of the struggle", he said.

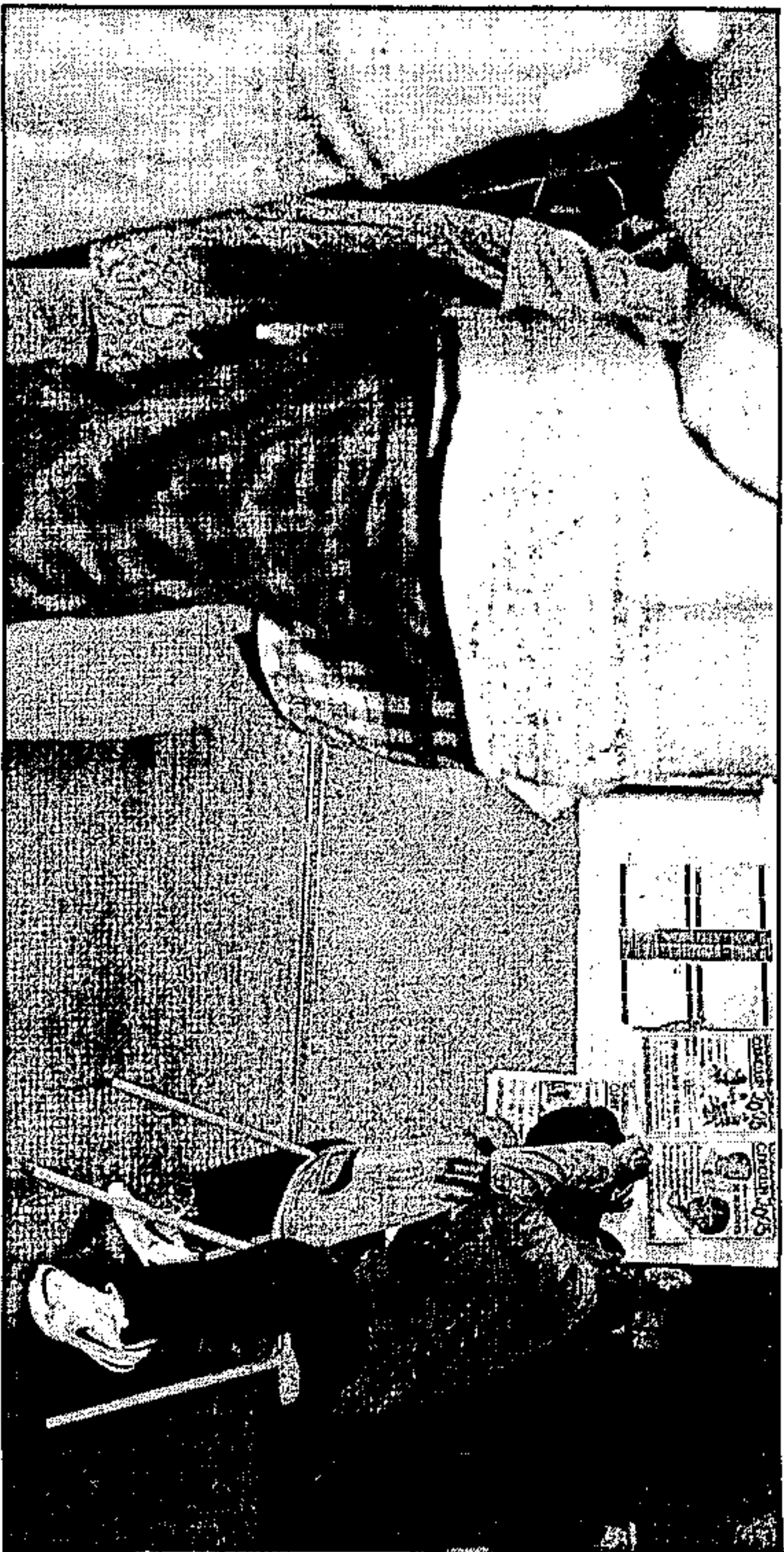
"You have to remember that last year's matrics started school in 1985," said Mary Metcalfe, education MEC for Gauteng.

Said Balindlela: "Teachers have lost interest because where we come from has been very demoralising."

But teachers were also demoralised by a lack of resources and uncertainties created by changes, said ministers.

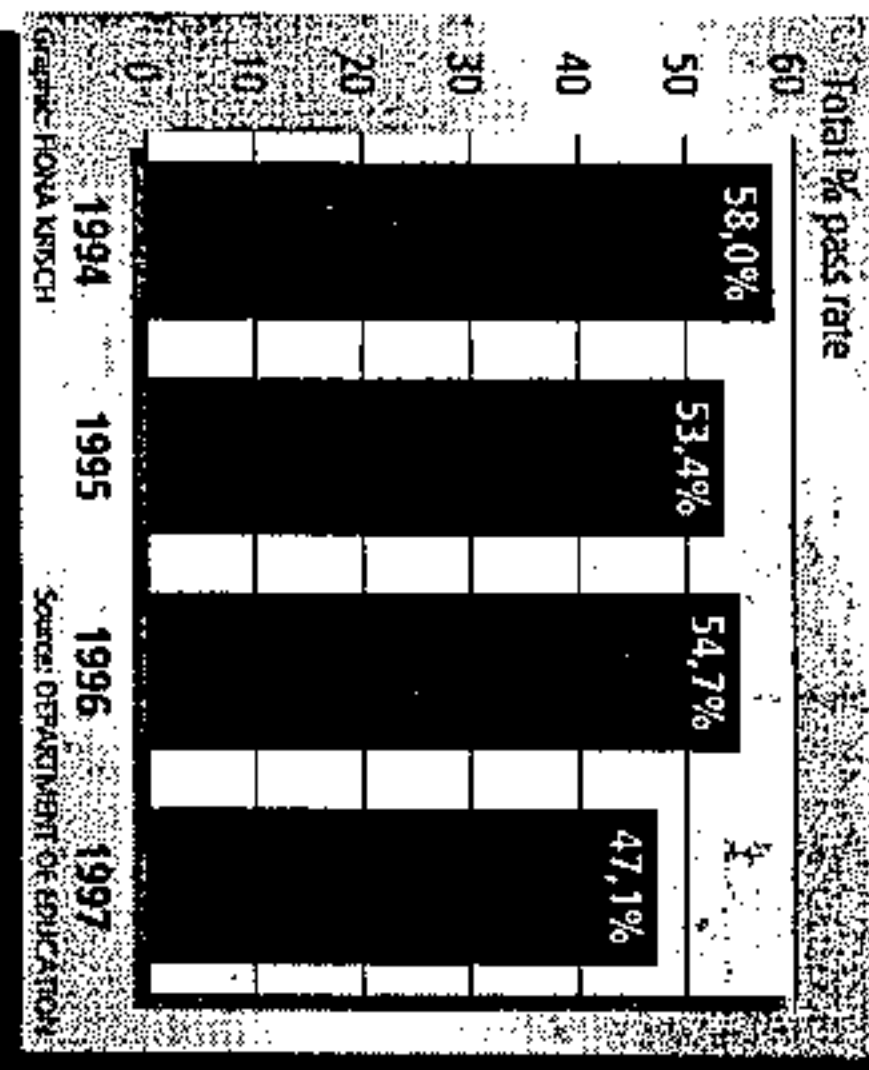
"For teachers, this has been a period of very rapid change and that can be destabilising," said Metcalfe.

In the Western Cape, for example, 5 948 teachers took voluntary severance packages last year. And the department has to



PLUMBING THE DEPTHS OF FAILURE: The education system seems to be failing pupils as the pass rate drops to 47,1 percent. Authorities blame teachers and a lack of resources for their shocking report card. Picture: JULIANI VAN DER WESTHUIZEN

### NATIONAL PASS RATE TREND



### THE DECLINING PASS RATE

Province	1996 PASS RATE	1997 PASS RATE	CHANGE %
Western Cape	80,4%	75,3%	-4,1%
Northern Cape	69,9%	63,7%	-6,2%
Mpumalanga	50,9%	45,7%	-5,2%
Kwazulu Natal	61,7%	54,0%	-7,7%
Gauteng	55,6%	51,5%	-4,1%
North West	66,0%	50,0%	-16,0%
Eastern Cape	49,7%	46,0%	-3,7%
Free State	51,1%	42,3%	-8,8%
Northern Province	37,0%	31,8%	-5,2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54,7%</b>	<b>47,1%</b>	<b>-7,6%</b>

Graphic: RONALD KIRSCH

lose another 6 000 out of a total of 34 000 this year.

"Such uncertainty can be demoralising," said the Western Cape education minister, Martha

Olickers.

Zulu said the effects of the national policy of voluntary severance packages had been "horrific", leading to a loss in Kwazulu

Natal of 4 000 teachers, many of whom were highly experienced and qualified, and draining over-stretched coffers. Ministers cited a desperate

## WHAT THE MINISTERS SAID

**EASTERN CAPE:** Nostimo Balindlela I want us to believe we have planted the seeds for change and some will still come up. **GAUTENG:** Mary Metcalfe People are looking for simple cause and effects but the situation is more complicated. **NORTHERN CAPE:** Tina Joemat From a segregated system,

suddenly all learners are expected to run the same race. Some trained on Taran tracks, others on no tracks. **MPUMALANGA:** David Mabuza I want to appeal to teachers. It is a crime to be drawing salaries and not teaching. **KWAZULU NATAL:** Dr Vincent Zulu This is a terrible job — and I

don't get support because I'm from the wrong party. **FREE STATE:** Mxolisi Dukwana It was, of course, not the best news to announce a drop of 8,8 percent in the pass rate. **NORTH WEST PROVINCE:** Zacharia Tolo I admit we did not do much to motivate teachers or appreciate the conditions under which

they are working. I admit we showed little interest in how WESTERN CAPE: Martha Olickers The education minister is not tough enough. **NORTHERN PROVINCE:** Dr Joe Phaahla His spokesman said he could not be reached because he was "suffering a bereavement".

shortage of funds combined with a critical need for more classrooms, facilities and teacher training as other factors which led to the poor results. In the Free State, for example, only 355 out of 2 900 schools have libraries, only 5,4 percent have computers and most do not have science laboratories. "In many of our schools, results correlate with resources," said Metcalfe. "But many schools, despite problems, have done well. When staff pupils and parents are prepared to go that extra mile, the circumstances are not overwhelming." Said Olickers: "It's a simplistic point but it is true that many successful people in South Africa started their education under a tree." Among them is Tolo, who was appointed in November. "I started school under a tree in Zeerust and we never had mercury in our laboratories. But I passed matric," he said. Said Zulu: "We just have to go back to basics. Teachers must prepare, they must teach, they must go to school." "The secret," said Balindlela, "is in the classroom. We want committed teachers, committed pupils and committed parents." The Western Cape, which produced the highest pass rate of 77 percent, proves them right, believes Olickers. "The secret of our success? The teachers were dedicated. They kept focused and managed to keep students focused."



**SOLUTION FOUND . . .** Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi's welfare ministry has undertaken to pay over 60 000 pensioners on January 20 (Tuesday).

## Pensioners wait, as do 'cheating' pupils

By ANDILE NOGANTA

THIS week is crunch time for two embattled Eastern Cape government departments.

The Welfare Department has to make good on promises to scores of pensioners, while the Department of Education seeks to resolve an impasse it created by withholding over 2 000 matric results last Tuesday.

The Department of Welfare has undertaken to pay over 60 000 pensioners on January 20 (Tuesday). This comes after pensioners were turned away from paypoints two weeks ago.

Welfare Minister, Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, recently admitted that the Eastern Cape needed R801 million from central government - to save the cash-strapped welfare department.

But it was touch and go whether money would be made available until frenetic behind-the-scenes talks between Fraser-Moleketi, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, Premier Makhenkesi Stofile and MEC Mandisa Marasha yielded results to set free the funds this week.

The resolution of the crisis averts an embarrassing legal action by the Human Rights Commission.

The provincial welfare department came under fire from vari-

ous quarters for not paying the grants to the elderly, with the statutory watchdog committee calling it a "violation" of the pensioners' human rights.

The Commission then issued government an ultimatum - pay up by January 20 or face court action.

□ There were also widespread rumours last week that parents of students who did not receive their matric results might take legal action against the Department of Education.

The department is withholding the results of 2 578 students - suspected of cheating - until the Provincial Irregularities Board, consisting of representatives from the legal section and senior exam centre officials, meets.

In a strongly worded statement, the department said the board will call in "the chief invigilators of affected centres and other officials, to establish the truth".

Angry parents and students, however, say the department cannot substantiate allegations of irregularities against students.

Reacting to claims that some students did not know that their results would be suspended, education's Hennie Franzsen said the department had informed all affected students in advance.

"Students cannot claim they didn't know because all students who were suspected of cheating were sent letters," said Franzsen.

# Clouds gather as black schools celebrate results

## Teachers praised for hard work, long hours

**NORMAN JOSEPH**  
STAFF REPORTER

Black schools in Cape Town fared better in the matric exams than even they expected. While the pass rate nose-dived at some schools, a survey by the Cape Argus showed that most overcame economic hardship and achieved reasonable results.

The overall matric pass rate in the province was 76,3%, a drop of 4% on 1996.

Principals lauded the efforts of teachers who worked long hours and over weekends to counter setbacks such as teacher shortages, protests and gangsterism.

But they fear this year will end in crisis, with poor results, after the disappearance of temporary teachers.

Many schools declined to have their pass rates published because they

feared this would lead to a drop in pupil enrolment this year as parents opted to send their children to schools which did well. The provincial education department was also unforthcoming.

Department spokesman Tony Eaton said he could not comment on the pass rates of black and coloured schools, because "we operated within administrative regions and not along racial lines".

In its snap survey, the Cape Argus established that more and more parents were moving their children to former white schools which they perceived to be better equipped.

Of the nine township schools approached, only two showed a drop in pass rates - but these drops were big.

At Fezeka High School in Guguletu the number of pupils who passed plummeted from 71% to 47%.

Principal Beks Baloyi praised the

efforts of his teaching staff, expressed concern over the rationalisation process and declined to comment further.

At Masiyile High in Khayelitsha the pass rate nose-dived from 60% in 1996 to 30% last year.

Principal Tembeka Ndingi said the sharp drop could be attributed to two years of "troubles" at the school.

Ms Ndingi said the midyear exams were written late and from July to October her teachers worked long hours and over weekends to make up for lost time.

But the news was better at Luhlaza High School in Khayelitsha where a pass rate of 83% in 1996 went up to 87%.

Principal Mzwandile Hewu said the success was a direct result of hard work by teachers and pupils and stability at the school.

At another Khayelitsha school, Bulumko High, the pass rate soared

from 52% in 1996 to 73% last year. Principal Victor Mboleka also attributed the success to hard work at weekends.

At Khulani High in Langa 33,3% of pupils passed last year compared with 31% in 1996.

Principal Mathemba Nduma said he had 18 temporary teachers and foresaw a crisis from April when they had to leave.

Formerly coloured schools fared generally better. At Belgravia High the pass rate jumped from 93,7% to 100%.

Grassy Park High had a pass rate of 91% compared to 96% and Livingstone High 98% compared to 100%.

Things didn't go so well at Excelsior High in Belhar where the pass rate was 70%, down from 96% in 1996.

Principal Graham Jennecker said former Department of Training and Education pupils in his school had experienced a few problems.

# Grade 1s tackle fourth 'R' as new school era begins

CAROL CAMPBELL  
SPECIAL WRITER

**A new era in South African education begins in the Western Cape tomorrow with a new curriculum for Grade 1 pupils aimed at teaching them to question, analyse and reason.**

They are the first in the Curriculum 2005 programme, which focuses on overall performance in the classroom rather than the ability to pass tests by giving facts parrot-fashion.

This year's Grade 1s will not end their schooling in 12 years with matriculation, but instead will receive certificates from the new National Qualifications Framework.

This will measure a pupil's intellectual development from Grade 9 (Standard 7), and even pupils who have not sat in classrooms from the age of six can still be eligible for certificates if they have reached the appropriate standard.

The 2005 curriculum has been tailored for South African needs after

(52) ARG 19/11/98  
extensive research overseas. Its architects expect teething problems, and have warned schools to be prepared to learn by trial and error.

The system is also intended to take some of the pressure off the matric year, which many teachers believe is unbalanced.

It is being introduced only in Grade 1 this year to give the national Education Department time to train more teachers.

Nicol Faasen, chief planner of curriculum services for the education department, said Grade 1s would still be taught the three "Rs" (reading, writing and arithmetic), but a fourth, "reasoning" would be added.

The teacher would be an important cog in the new wheel. Instead of doing all the research for a class and then offering it to them to memorise, the teacher would encourage pupils to find facts in libraries, on a computer or in the community.

The new system was "outcomes-based", leaving pupils better equipped for the working world.



# Matric failures out in cold

MANDLA MNYAKAMA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

APR 21/1988

Hundreds of Cape Town pupils who failed matric will not be allowed to repeat Standard 10 at their old schools.

Many principals have adopted this policy because matric classes are already full.

They also fear scores of failed matrics back in class would affect the smooth running of schools, cause chaos and upset teachers, who were already battling with big classes.

Principals said the pupils should enroll at finishing schools and study only the subjects they failed, rather than repeat all six subjects.

The desired teacher-pupil ratio of 1:35 has been ignored in township schools because of the desperate need

to place pupils, while teachers have often held classes after school or at weekends to help pupils.

But this year things are different.

At Oscar Mpetha High in Nyanga East, where 49% of the 149 matric pupils passed, a spokesman said the school would try to help pupils, but faced a shortage of space.

At Langa High, where 27% of the 275 pupils passed, 12 who failed had applied to register.

Principal Poobalan Murugan said he would have been willing to accept them if there was more space.

Masyile High School in Khayelitsha, which had 700 matrics last year, would not accept the 500 who failed.

Principal Thembeke Mdingi said it would be impossible to accommodate them along with the 200 Standard 9s who had passed.



BRENTON GEACH

**Angry:** parents and pupils at Delft's Simunye One High School wait in vain for registration. The school has been closed because of a dispute over ownership

# 25 matrics face probe on cheating

ARG 21/1/98  
 MANDLA MNYAKAMA  
 SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

More than two dozen 1997 matric pupils in Guguletu have had their results withheld, pending an investigation into allegations of cheating in the home economics exam.

The 25 pupils from the I D Mkhize High School were unable to register yesterday to repeat matric or to apply to colleges as they did not know whether they had passed.

They said they would take to the streets to protest.

Letters sent by the Western Cape Department of Education to their homes accused them of cheating, they said.

When they went to the school to re-check their results they left disgruntled and despondent.

"We are not happy at all, because the department says that because we are under suspicion, they can't register us," said one of the pupils.

Department spokesman Tony Eaton confirmed that the investigation was taking place.

# Gunmen grab pupils' fees

MOSES MACKAY  
 SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

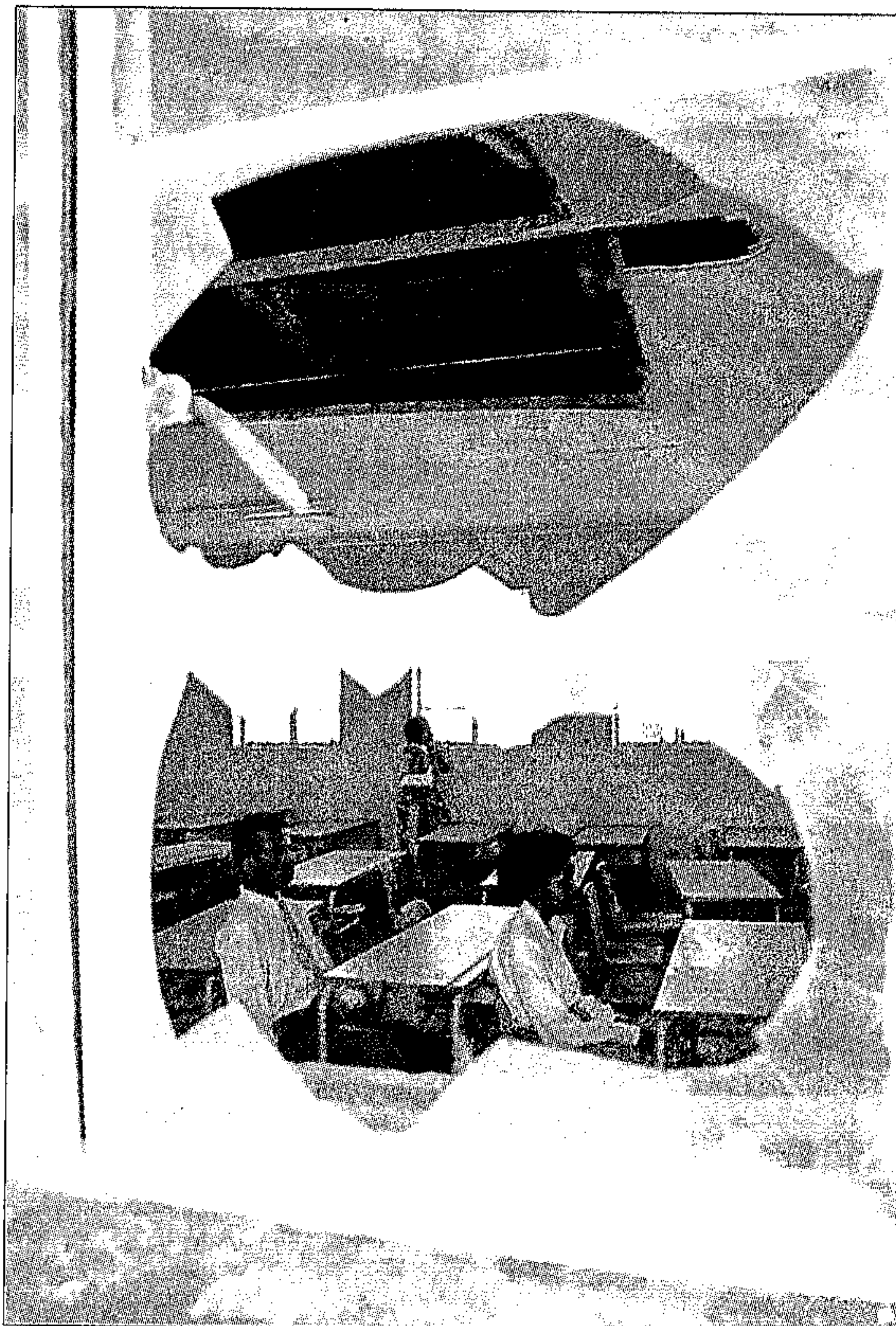
Five armed men have robbed the Oscar Mpetha High School in Nyanga of about R5 000 in pupil registration fees.

Principal Dumile Mawisa said the robbery took place about 3pm yesterday after the school closed for the day.

The front gate was locked but the gang came in through a broken fence at the back of the school. Two of them walked into the staffroom and demanded the money.

Mr Mawisa said the fence had fallen several times because neighbours hung their washing on it and it was damaged by soccer teams playing on the school field. The school would call a meeting with community organisations about fencing and security.

Anyone with information about the robbery should call the Nyanga police at 386 3434.



BRENTON GEACH

Damaged: pupils at Fezeka High in Guguletu returned to a vandalised school

# Chaos tops curriculum

MOSES MACKAY  
 SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The first day of the academic year was chaotic in many Cape Town schools.

In many areas there were long queues and not enough books and registration was painfully slow.

■ At Fezeka High in Guguletu, principal Bucks Baloyi said the school had been hit hard by burglaries last year and damage by vandals meant some classrooms were without electricity yesterday. Few matric pupils turned up for registration.

■ At Masiyile High in Khayelitsha pupils had to wait for hours to register. Principal Thembeke Mdingi said more pupils than expected had turned up to register.

■ In Delft, angry parents and pupils waited in vain for the Simunye One High School to open. There is a dispute between shack dwellers and Delft residents over the ownership of the school, which the Western Cape Education Department is trying to resolve. The department says the school will stay closed until a solution is negotiated.

Gcinikhaya Ngqagu, a member of SA National Civic Organisation in Delft South, said residents had decided to employ unemployed teachers from the community as they were against the employment of retired and old teachers. A resident said he was not against the redeployment of teachers.

"What we don't want is the principal to come from another area."

# SA can't afford the cost of matric failures

**The bill for taxpayers comes to a staggering R1-billion a year - without tips**

(52) *CP 8/2/98*

**THE SITUATION** where poor results are recorded year after year in the matric exams should be seen for what it is: a national disaster which demands urgent attention. The 1997 results came as a complete shock, as it had been expected there would be an improvement on those of 1996.

The cost of failing can be measured in different ways, such as:

- The cost of conducting the exams;
- The cost of keeping those who failed at school for another year; increasing the total pupil enrolment;
- Providing additional classrooms and facilities to accommodate the increased school enrolment; and
- Personal costs, and the cost to the country of the loss of one year in the economically active lives of those who failed.

While some of these costs can be calculated fairly accurately, others can't. Lack of reliable data, and the fact that hidden costs are not easy to pinpoint, make this impossible.

The following calculations have been made partially on the basis of data provided by the Department of Education. Some of the calculations have been estimated on a conservative basis and have taken into account factors such as the total expenditure on education and the total pupil enrolment.

**Direct examination costs**

The Department of Education requested the heads of examinations in the various provinces to supply information on the approximate cost per candidate writing the Std 10 examination. The information supplied is indicated below:

**PROVINCE APPROX COST**

Eastern Cape	R387,00
Free State	R390,00
Gauteng	R312,00
KwaZulu-Natal	R463,00
Mpumalanga	R390,00
Northern Cape	-
Northern Province	R350,00
North-West	R480,00
Western Cape	R480,00

\*The Northern Cape did not supply the required information.

The average cost per province per candidate amounts to R384. This figure will be used for working out the provincial cost of running the exam in the Northern Cape.

The national cost of candidates who failed amounts to R110 433 547 (R110,4-million).

- The cost of keeping failed candidates at school for another year.

In the absence of reliable statistics on the per capita cost of matric pupils per year, the following calculations have been made to arrive at an approximate figure.

The total school funding, including the salary bill, amounts to about R30-billion a year. With a school en-

The poor matric results

constitute a national disaster - and it's high time

we found out the causes, says **LM TAUNYANE,**

President of the National Professional Teachers' Association of SA.

rolment of almost 12 million pupils, the expenditure is about R2 500 a pupil.

It may be assumed that for matriculants the cost is almost 20 per cent higher. A figure of R3 000 per pupil can be regarded as a conservative estimate.

It must also be assumed that not all matriculants who failed will return to school. Some will pass supplementary exams, while others may leave school. Based on the assumption that 250 000 of the failures decide to return to school, the direct cost of accommodating them at schools would be R750 million.

The cost of extra accommodation for the increased enrolment

Based on a teacher/pupil ratio of 1:40 and class sizes of 50, the increased enrolment of 250 000 pupils will necessitate 5 000 additional classrooms being made available and 6 250 extra teachers. At R20 000 a classroom, a further R100 million would have to be spent - not on eliminating backlogs or eradicating discrepancies, but merely on accommodating the additional enrolment.

The conservatively estimated cost of the above-mentioned categories would be as follows:

Exam costs: R110 million.  
Cost per pupil: R+750 million.  
Providing additional classrooms: R+-100 million.  
Total: R960 million.

The actual cost could be up to R1 billion.

The cost in lost earnings

The cost in lost earnings by 250 000 potential earners is enormous and difficult to calculate, but would at the very least be more than R1-billion (based on a mere R4 000 per capita income over 12 months).

A conservative estimate of the cost of matric failures appears to be more than R2 billion. If the loss in earnings is taken into consideration, the price the country is paying is

SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR FULL-TIME CANDIDATES FOR 1997 (INFORMATION AS ON 8 JANUARY 1998)

Province	No of candidates who wrote	No of candidates failed	%	No of candidates passed	Unit cost	Cost of candidates failed
Eastern Cape	76 701	41 899	54,6	34 801	R387	R16 214 913
Free State	40 035	23 083	57,7	16 944	R390	R 9 002 370
Gauteng	75 709	36 702	48,5	38 998	R312	R11 451 024
KwaZulu-Natal	104 751	48 975	46,9	55 459	R463	R22 675 424
Mpumalanga	37 983	20 498	54,3	17 236	R390	R 7 994 220
Northern Cape	7 604	2 760	36,3	4 844	R384	R 1 059 840
Northern Prov	127 722	86 849	68,2	40 480	R350	R30 397 150
North-West	48 534	24 285	30,0	24 249	R305	R 7 406 925
Western Cape	37 197	8 816	23,7	28 381	R480	R 4 231 680
	556 246	293 857	52,9	192 395		+ 110 433 547

far too high. That is why Napotosa is insisting that a scientific inquiry be conducted to determine the true causes of the poor results.

The major problem Napotosa has with the debate surrounding the matric results is that the reasons given for the poor results are all based on assumptions.

In the absence of a proper scientific investigation into the problem, it is virtually impossible to dismiss any of the possible reasons. Under these circumstances it is also impossible to recommend what remedial steps should be taken.

Napotosa believes a scientific investigation could well reveal the following:

- That too many students are trying to pass subjects in the higher grade;
- That it is useless to look only at what happens in matric classes. One must also look at work which is done in the preceding years. It would appear that better guidance for students, parents and teachers is necessary;
- It would also appear that, while

lack of facilities is a problem, there is also concrete evidence that some schools which are under-resourced, are achieving good results. Why is this so?

An investigation into the age of students who have failed the exam could be useful in determining remedial steps. Should certain schools not be set aside for over-age pupils?

The following factors all seem to be probable reasons for the poor results:

- The national department and provincial departments' severance packages allowed hundreds of able teachers and school managers to leave in droves, causing a severe brain-drain;
- The collapse of the teaching and learning culture, especially in previously disadvantaged schools; it is the departments' and community's responsibility to restore discipline and order among teachers and pupils in such schools;
- The uneasy relationship between the department, the teacher unions and teachers due to job insecurity as a result of redeployment

and possible retrenchment.

- Lack of in-service programmes to improve teachers' classroom competence;
- Lack of a teacher education system to boost quality control on basic issues such as checking whether teachers prepare their lessons, and set homework of sufficient and good quality;
- Lack of proper assessment of pupils' assignments, tests and exams from Grade 1 to Grade 12. This results in children being promoted from one grade to the next without being properly evaluated;
- A complete breakdown of authority, discipline and the work ethic in many schools, complicated by criminal activities in and outside schools;
- The current system of internal promotion encourages automatic promotion if a student has failed once in a phase;
- Lack of guidance services in many schools; and
- Meaningful involvement of governing bodies and parents in their children's education is lacking in many schools.

# SA can't afford the cost

*The bill for taxpayers comes to a staggering*

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# Bloody battle starts over schools

MTG 9-15/1998

(52)  
As blame for the poor matric results is bandied about, schools are set to reopen with no hint of a resolution. **Andy Duffy reports**

**S**tate schools open their doors next week on the eve of a potentially bruising and bloody battle between the government, the provinces and their union allies over the floundering education system.

The dismal 1997 matric performance is seen in many quarters as merely a taste of what is to come in state education as the battle plays itself out.

The national Department of Education this week set itself firmly on course to push through permanent staff cuts among teachers, and to take far more control of the cash-strapped provinces' education management and spending.

Education officials believe the matric performance — all provinces bar Mpumalanga suffered a fall in pass rates — provides Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu with the excuse to take a far more aggressive approach.

The South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu), one of the ruling party's most powerful union allies, warns that a political split is looming with Bengu.

A crisis meeting concerning retrenchments, called earlier this week, between Bengu, the seven ANC education MECs and Sadtu only served to widen the gulf between the conflicting parties.

"The political polarisation between the unions and education authorities is growing," says Sadtu general secretary Thulas Nxesi. "The government is hell-bent on reducing numbers. We'll take them head on with this one."

Sadtu had been hoping for rather more sympathy from Bengu, given the outrage concerning teacher retrenchments at the African National Congress's conference in Mafikeng last month.

But Bengu's officials say the department has spent far too long in

the past three years worrying about labour relations. Spending on staff remains the critical problem facing state education.

Bengu attempted to equalise resources by redeploying staff or offering generous

retrenchment packages. The policy, since scrapped, led to thousands of teachers leaving state schooling, and thousands more sitting in limbo on an unused redeployment list.

It also helped force up personnel costs, leaving little money for vital training or building of schools. Roughly half the R4.6-billion cost overrun facing the provinces this financial year is down to overspending on provincial education.

The provinces decided late last year to dump 20 000 temporary teachers in a desperate attempt to cut costs. But the goalposts shifted at Bengu's crisis meeting this week, after provinces disclosed that they could find the money to rehire 17 000 temporary teachers in time for the



The lucky ones: Matric pupils celebrate in Durban after learning that their results were positive. PHOTOGRAPH: RAJESH JANTILAL

new school year.

The trade-off is that they can retrench permanent staff through the year — a plan that has the national department's blessing.

The about-turn triggered another skirmish with Sadtu, which dismissed it as a public relations stunt.

The plan is also a stark example of the confusion pervading state education — one of a litany of reasons forwarded for the poor 1997 matric showing.

Education officials in the Northern Province, which again posted the lowest pass rate at less than 32%, say there is no culture of teaching or learning in the province. Sadtu's local representative blamed the lack of commitment among his own members. "We must go back to the drawing board," he said.

But the national education department also pinned the blame squarely on mismanagement, from the provinces down to the principals.

"We have constantly focused on the need for labour peace," said national Department of Education deputy director general Ihron

Rensburg. "This has caused us to drift away from more basic and fundamental educational issues. The results are a reflection of a combination of problems that we have not got to the bottom of... All in the end contribute to a sense of absence of leadership."

In his press conference on Thursday, Bengu detailed a string of "very basic education matters" that needed urgent attention, including overspending on staff and weak provincial performance.

"The fluidity on the top management of our political and administrative structures in a number of our provincial departments during 1997 was both cause and precipitant of an educational leadership instability



Sibusiso Bengu: The government cannot continue to pay salaries to teachers who do not do their jobs. PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH MOTAU

resulting in flagging spirits and management difficulties," he said.

The national department, constrained by the Constitution, has also been forced to sit back as provinces spent the bulk of their budgets on staff. Bengu has had no

control over the management of the voluntary severance programme, and could only wince as the Northern Province and the North West province announced they had between them paid 18 principals to leave the service.

However, plans are now well-advanced to ring-fence a large slice of the provinces' education budgets over the next three years to pay for key policy initiatives, such as training and the new Curriculum 2005. This would effectively bind the provinces into Bengu's programme, and leave them no option but to axe staff.

**A**nother national department proposal is to establish a R1-billion reserve, administered from Pretoria, to fund provincial and local education management training and quality control.

Bengu also used the press conference to warn poor performing teachers and education staff that they will face the sack.

"The government cannot continue to pay salaries to people who do not do their jobs," he said. "That message must go out there to all the key role-players in teaching."

Sadtu and the National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa (Naptosa) both voiced concerns about launching the new curriculum, which kicks off in grade one from next week.

Nxesi said teachers are just not ready; Naptosa said Bengu should consider slowing down.

"To run into a new curriculum when you don't know what you did right or wrong under the old system is really playing with fire," said representative Andrew Pyper.

Rensburg said the department remains committed to the new curriculum, although it is prepared to listen to Naptosa's arguments about the phase-in.

Next week's launch across all the provinces has only been made possible because the national department set up a R25-million emergency plan to provide training and learning materials. That initiative will run only for the first three months of the year.

# SA matrices are worst

(52) *Sowetan 25/2/98*  
SOUTH African matric pupils performed the worst of 22 countries participating in an international maths and science study, the Human Sciences Research Council said yesterday.

HSRC president Mr Rolf Stumpf told journalists in Pretoria that South Africa would not become a meaningful global roleplayer until the matter had been addressed.

"I suppose that in a cynical way there is a good side to this," Stumpf said. "We can only improve – we can hardly do worse."

The South African part of the Third International Mathematics and Science Survey

conducted in 1995 involved 2 757 grade 12 pupils from about 150 classes countrywide.

They wrote a paper containing maths and science questions, and completed questionnaires about their socio-economic and demographic conditions.

The results, which were announced internationally yesterday, revealed that South African matrics had a low level of general mathematical and scientific understanding and skills.

They achieved an average literacy score of 352 points compared to the international average of 500. – *Sapa*.

# Matric system 'the end of hope', says Nzimande (52)

Star 25/2/95

By JOVIAL RANTAO

Cape Town - Dr Blade Nzimande, chairman of the influential parliamentary portfolio committee on education, has called for the scrapping of the matric system, which he described as the destruction of the human potential of the nation.

Nzimande's statement came amid revelations that South African matric students had performed the worst out of 22 countries participating in an international maths and science study.

He said the senior certificate should be replaced by a new, flexible and accredited system which would take into consideration other ways of gaining qualifications, such as vocational training, adult education and through work experience.

There were 3,5 million matriculants who could not be employed because of the generalised nature of their matric, he said.

"Matric is the only gateway to tertiary education and the job market and it narrows everyone to go that route. It does not prepare you for any kind of employment. After spending

12 or 13 years in school, people have nothing. They're not trainable. We're producing people who are illiterate.

"This is why we have a high failure rate at universities and technikons. People are not adequately prepared. It's the single biggest obstacle, that results in the destruction of the nation. Matric is an end of hope and not the creation of hope. This is criminal," Nzimande said.

He said the system should be replaced by a much more flexible system that would allow pupils to choose their career routes from Grade 10.

Nzimande also said the current matric requirement to study three languages served no purpose.

Dr Ihron Rensburg, a deputy director-general in the department of education, said there were no plans to phase the senior certificate out. But discussions on the final assessment of pupils were still under way.

Rensburg said the department would contemplate phasing in a new, flexible system with next year's Grade 10 pupils, so that the matrics of 2001 stood a better chance in higher education and the job market.

# Strong call for matric system to be scrapped

of 25/1/98



**MATRIC DOES NOT** prepare students for employment and should be scrapped, says Blade Nzimande, **JOVIAL RANTAO** of our Parliamentary Bureau reports.

could not be employed because of the general nature of their matric qualifications.

It was also revealed yesterday that the majority of students who had accumulated debt at universities had failed to make any progress in their studies.

Dr Nzimande said: "Matric is the only gateway to tertiary education and the job market and it forces everyone to go that route. It does not prepare you for any kind of employment. After spending 12 or 13 years in school people have nothing. They're not trainable."

"We're producing people who are illiterate. This is why we have a high failure rate at universities and technicals. People were not adequately prepared. It's the single biggest obstacle that is resulting in the destruction of the nation. Matric is an end of hope and not the creation of hope. This is criminal."

He said the system should be replaced by a much more flexible one that would enable pupils to choose their career routes from Std 8.

Nzimande said the current matric requirement that pupils study three languages served no purpose.

"You don't have to study three languages unless you want to specialise in linguistics. Why did I have to study Afrikaans in addition to English and Isizulu?"

Dr Ihron Rensburg, a deputy director-general in the Education Department, said there were no plans to phase the senior certificate out. Discussion on how the final assessment of pupils should be conducted was still under way.

Rensburg said the department would contemplate phasing in a new, flexible system with next year's Std 8 pupils so that the matrics of 2001 stood a better chance in higher education and the job market.

In a submission to the education portfolio committee the department said essential non-salary items such as school building and maintenance, books and stationery, school visits by advisers, teacher development, adult education and curriculum reform were inadequately funded because the bulk of the provincial budgets were spent on salaries.

Government has agreed that growth in spending on personnel needs to be curtailed and additional resources should be assigned to key quality-enhancing initiatives and improved management.

Education deputy director-general Dr Trevor Coombe described the current situation in education as "untenable".

He said a unit would be established in his department to monitor



**HIGH HOPES:** James Roscoe (left), Theodore Schilder and Adrian Aeyman celebrate passing their matric at St Columbus High, now closed, last year.

for the procurement of books and other materials by provincial departments.

The formation of the text books and stationery committee was in line with a cabinet directive that national line ministers take responsibility for the improvement of management and services in provincial departments.

The unit would advise, oversee

and monitor the planning, budgeting, ordering, tendering and the supply of books.

Coombe said funding of the provincial education departments would not be sufficient to cover all the non-salary requirements.

"There are trade-offs to be made, but they should not be made at the expense of books and other materials," he said.

The committee heard yesterday that the non-delivery of text books was one of the major problems faced by education during the current financial year.

Other problems included provincial budgets being unable to cover personnel spending, provinces paying double for teachers on the redeployment list who could not be moved because of a

court decision, as well as for temporary substitutes for those teachers, and the lack of power of provinces to cut staff they could not afford.

Coombe said the department planned to engage the teachers' unions and the provincial departments to discuss teacher productivity and discipline. Provinces would be encouraged

to complete the redeployment process and plan and execute right-sizing in relation to their medium-term expenditure targets.

Education director-general Professor Chabani Manganyi said problems in education could not be resolved by one minister and had to be addressed by "the whole country".

**FILE PICTURE**



# SA's pupils bottom of the class

Dustin Chick

(52) BD 25/2/98  
PRETORIA — SA's matric pupils performed dismally in the third International Study of Mathematics and Science, coming last of the 22 countries taking part.

The results, which were released yesterday, were comparable with the below-average results of standard fives and sixes released at the end of 1996, which put SA last out of 41 countries.

Rolf Stumpf, president of the Human Sciences Research Council, said it was important that meaningful and profound change to education policy be made in the light of the extremely poor

performance by SA pupils. Overall findings showed low levels of maths and science literacy, and that a holistic understanding of these subjects was not emphasised in the current curriculum.

On an average score level of 500, SA maths scored 352, while science was marginally lower at 349. The maximum score was 800. Local students had difficulty with graphic interpretation, problem solving and conveying information in writing. Other countries below the international average included Germany, Russia and the US. Better performers were the Netherlands, Australia and Sweden.

# Cape kids tops but SA flops in science test

*Last in worldwide study*

ANDREA BOTHA  
STAFF REPORTER

(52) (18)

AKT 27/2/98

Although South Africa came last in the Third International Mathematics and Science Study, a number of Western Cape pupils did extremely well.

The study showed South African matrics had the worst grasp of maths and science in the 22 countries that took part. But national research co-ordinator Sarah Howie said although only a small group of pupils from the Western Cape had participated, some of them had the highest results in the country. The names of schools are confidential.

"In the Western Cape, only 25 students took part, and they were all from disadvantaged schools," she said

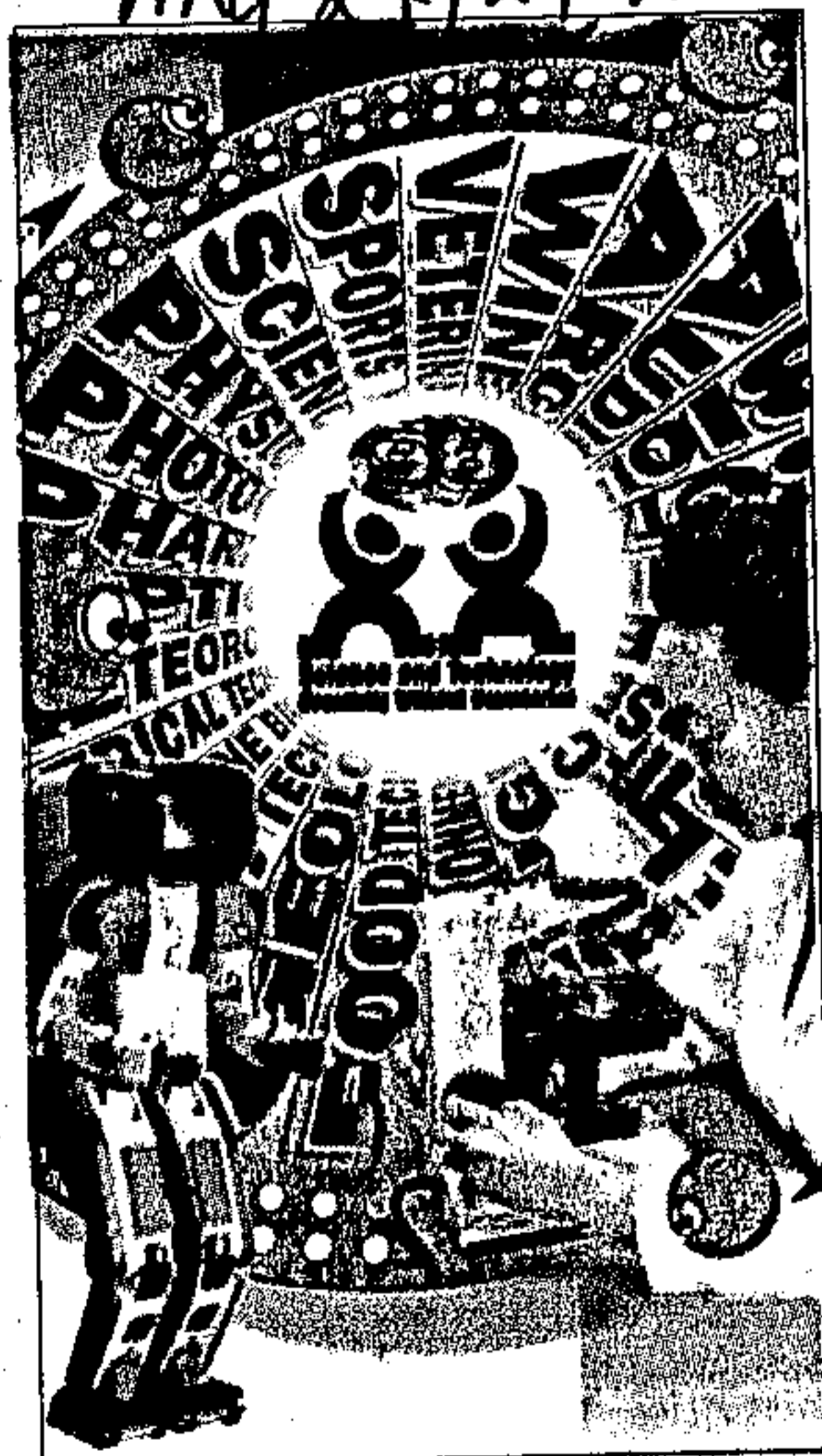
South Africa was the only African country that participated in the study.

She said it was still important to measure the South African result with the rest of the world's, as the country wanted to be "globally and economically competitive".

Political turmoil and teachers' strikes had made the survey difficult in this province, but pupils at disadvantaged schools had achieved the highest results in the country.

The results could not be compared with other provinces as they were not representative, she said. Nearly 3 000 children from 150 schools wrote the tests for the project, which began worldwide in 1994.

Sweden came top, with the Netherlands, Denmark and Canada also doing well. The US was fourth last. South Africa was the only country where most of the pupils had to write the test in their second or third language.



Celebrate the Year of Science and Technology with the Cape Argus on Wednesday when we publish a full colour chart in which we invite you to find your niche in this exciting field. The chart is packed with ideas for job-seekers and it also has all the details of the provincial programmes aimed at encouraging everyone to get involved in the opportunities created by science and technology. Match up your needs with South Africa's needs and you could be a winner and land the job of your dreams.

# Matrics in timetable muddle

Sowetan  
27/2/98

Only informed of supplementary papers after examinations started

By McKeed Kotlolo

**S**EVERAL candidates in Mpumalanga who failed last year's matric examinations, were dealt another blow when local education authorities failed to deliver their timetables for their supplementary examinations.

The examinations started last Thursday with geography second paper and many candidates in Mpumalanga did not write because they had not received their timetables.

The majority of the affected candidates were in the Siyabuswa and Kwamhlanga areas in the former KwaNdebele.

Liaison officer for Mpumalanga education department Mr Peter Mamenza said his office was investigating the matter.

The affected school principals told

*Sowetan* previously they received personal timetables about two weeks before the examinations.

Candidates at Siyathokoza High School at Senotlelo village had their timetables delivered to school on Thursday afternoon - a few hours after the geography paper had been written.

As a result, they did not sit for the geography first paper on Friday, which carried about 33,3 percent of the total marks.

At the nearby Mokebe High School the principal visited the local circuit office on Wednesday afternoon - a day before the examination started - for a different matter when he was given the timetables by an official.

On Thursday morning principal Mr Matome Sekoaila sent pupils to the homes of other candidates to inform them about the examination that was starting that morning.

# IFP promises '80% to 90%' matric pass rate if elected in 1999

(52)  
Farouk Chothia

60 2/3 / 98  
DURBAN — Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) national chairman Ben Ngubane has pledged that an 80% to 90% matric pass rate will be achieved in schools if his party is elected to power at central government level in next year's general elections.

Ngubane told the crowd attending an "election rally" in Durban's Lindelani informal settlement yesterday that an 80% to 90% pass rate was the "minimum expectation" of the IFP.

The party believed the pass rate could be achieved within a relatively short period of time through the "networking process with various sectors of the community, including qualified and experienced education specialists", Ngubane said.

He said last year's national pass rate of 47% reflected a "near chaotic" situation in education.

There was a lack of discipline among pupils and some education officials. At schools where a 100% failure rate was recorded, teachers and inspectors did not deserve salaries.

Ngubane said it was fruitless to complain about the lack of facilities as some poorly resourced schools had recorded 100% pass rates.

A "back to basics" campaign had to take root in schools. Parents had to ensure that children attended classes.

Ngubane said education — along with crime, unemployment and housing — would be the main issues for the IFP in the election campaign.

He said that despite claims to the contrary by the safety and security department, crime seemed to be out of control in SA. Crime was the flip side of poverty, therefore, unemployment had to be addressed. Ngubane said that if elected to power, the IFP would promote entrepreneurship on a scale never seen before.

Schemes would be devised to enable school pupils to run small businesses on an extramural basis with the help of business developmental organisations.

# SA matrices behind in maths and science

SA's matric-level students drastically lag their counterparts in Europe, US and Australia in their knowledge of basic science and their ability to solve everyday mathematical problems.

That, tragically but by now unsurprisingly, is the story told by the latest results from a worldwide research programme known as Third International Mathematics and Science Study, which has been testing various cohorts of students in about 40 countries and 30 languages — under the auspices of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement.

The new data came from tests taken in 1995 by students in their final year of high school. The tests were designed to gauge the "mathematics and science literacy" of all students at that level, regardless of whether they were specialising in maths and science.

The intention was to measure the "yield" in these subjects of each participating country's elementary and secondary education systems.

Twenty four countries took part; 21 produced data that met the study's minimum criteria for being considered representative and comparable. SA, where 2 757 students in 90 schools took the test, was one of them thanks to the efforts, praised by the study's organisers, of the Human Sciences Research Council.

The average score in the 21 was 520 out of 800. SA's average was 328, dead and distantly last; the average of the top 25% of SA scores was 412. SA's best and brightest are subpar.

The ranking is not meaningful. SA is the only representative of the developing world in the bunch, and it is the only country where the ruling elite deliberately set out to ill-educate the majority and where, to exacerbate things, schools became a terrain of revolutionary struggle.

What matters is that the SA education system is turning out people poorly equipped in absolute terms for any job — bricklayer, carpenter, mechanic, let alone accounts department clerk — that requires an ability to manipulate and make sense of numerical information.

In response to the question: "If there are 300 calories in 100 grams of a certain food, how many calories are there in a 30-gram portion of that food," only 45% of SA matric-level students could identify the right answer — 90.

Just 35% could pick the correct response to this elementary probability problem: "From a batch of 3 000 light bulbs, 100 were selected

South African matric-level pupils performed dismally in a recent worldwide study of basic knowledge of mathematics and science. Washington correspondent Simon Barber looks into the issue

at random and tested. If 5% of the lightbulbs in the sample were found to be defective, how many defective lightbulbs would be expected in the entire batch?" (The answer is 150).

A total of 94% got this wrong: "A soap powder is packed in cube-shaped cartons. A carton measures 10 cm on each side. The company decides to increase the length of each edge of the carton by 10%. How much does the volume increase?" (331cm<sup>3</sup>).

Another question consisted of a bar chart showing sales of CDs and a pie chart breaking out sales in percentages by age group. Students were asked to use the information in the charts to calculate how much a particular age group spent on CDs. Only 8% answered correctly.

On the science part of the test, only 25% could give an example of how an illness might be transmitted from one person to another. Just 35% could explain why a stone might break a window when a rubber ball of the same mass and trav-

elling at the same speed might not.

Ninety-five percent did not know why an electric bulb put out less light energy than it consumed in electrical energy. What made these results all the more dismal was that 69% of the students were actually studying maths at the time they were tested, while all but 8% were studying a least one science subject; 43% were studying three.

In addition to taking tests, students were surveyed about themselves. Several results were heartbreaking. For example, 58% thought they were "doing well" at mathematics in school, while 73% thought the same about their performance in science. Their average scores (367 and 349 respectively on maths and science) did not bear out their optimism.

These young people (although in SA the average age of the sample was 20) presumably thought they were doing well because their teachers told them so. That points to several conclusions. Teachers' stan-

dards are low because they are not properly trained or equipped; they do not know what excellence is, or if they do, conditions are such they have despaired of aiming at it. In some cases they may feel intimidated by their pupils and dare not tell them the truth.

SA schools appear to be scary places for students. 37% reported having been the victims of theft at least once during the previous month, while 24% said they had recently been threatened with violence by fellow students on one or more occasions.

No other country posted numbers close to these, not even the US, where urban schoolyards can be rough.

The people who have to be really scared, though, are those responsible for higher education. Of the SA sample with an average score of 357, 75% said they planned to attend university, while only 11% were interested in vocational training. Just 6% said they did not intend to con-

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tinue their education. Interestingly, this group had the highest average score: 390.

Some will argue that the test results call for massive expenditures on classroom computers. They can point out that the 81% of SA students tested who "rarely or never" had access to a computer achieved an average score of 345, while the 6% with daily access scored 420. However, the results of the other participating countries show no firm correlation between scores and computer access.

Far more robust is the connection between students' achievement levels and the number of books in their homes. In all 21 countries, the more books at home, the higher the scores.

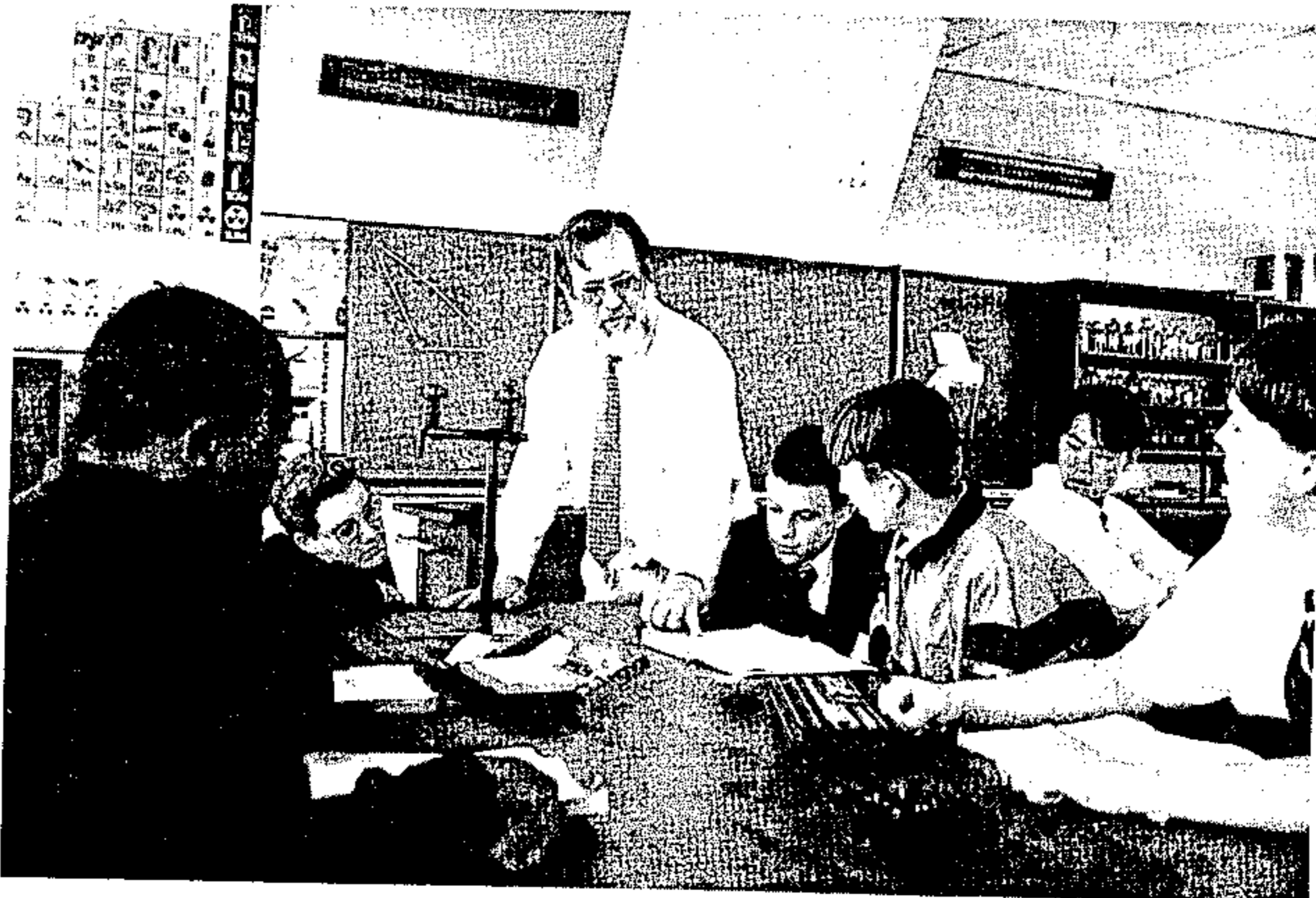
In countries other than SA, the proportion of students reporting fewer than 10 books in their homes was 6% or less. In almost every country, more than a third of respondents claimed bookcases stuffed with 200 volumes or more. By contrast, 31% of SA students said they lived in households possessing fewer than 10 books. The score of the 6% of South Africans with more than 200 books at home was 418.

Of course, the number of books in a home is likely to be a proxy for parents' education levels, and here again the connection with children's academic performance is statistically rock solid. Students whose parents had degrees did better than those whose parents had only secondary school diplomas, who scored higher than those whose parents merely finished primary school.

Finally, it is difficult to look at the study's statistics without concluding that SA students are being betrayed. These children seem to be working hard. They do not watch a lot of television. They have little opportunity to fritter away their youth on computer games. They claim to put in an average 4,8 hours a day doing homework (the US average is 1,7 hours). But they do not seem to be learning basic stuff, even though SA spends a higher proportion of GDP on education than any industrialised nation.

This is something that has to be put right, and quickly, or else the idea will catch on that South Africans are inherently dimwitted.

Tell the US Agency for International Development to stop subsidising querulous nongovernmental organisations and the nice white boys and girls who make Sesame Street, and start paying for books, schoolrooms and the training of teachers, rather than bloodsucking educational bureaucrats.



SA's education system is turning out people poorly equipped in absolute terms for any job that requires an ability to manipulate and make sense of numerical information

# Saving education: the ANC puts its case

## Change the budget and direct money to those who need it, says Rasool

### INSIDE STORY

The African National Congress's decision to focus critical attention on the education crisis is based on our belief that it is possible to save education in our province.

We would be failing in our responsibility as the official opposition if we did not come forward with practical alternatives.

In the end, we believe the learners will be the losers if we fail to resolve the impasse.

It is not our intention to score cheap political points. As a constructive opposition, we intend to go beyond simply criticising the failings of the National Party.

This will not solve the problem.

Our mission is to save education in our province. In particular, we will propose to shift resources from traditionally white schools to coloured and African schools, particularly those in poor and working class communities.

The Cape Argus editorial of March 3, headed "Hands off our schools" might be a catchy phrase, but is misguided as it implies that our intervention will create a political battleground in the schools.

We say: judge our intervention by what we bring to the table.

What is the problem with education in the Western Cape?

**Inequalities persist.** Inequality within Western Cape education is a fact.

The stark reality emerges in a

Education in the Western Cape can be saved if the funds are spent properly, says Ebrahim Rasool, ANC leader in the provincial legislature

brief comparison of the 1997 matric results.

It is instructive to look at both the pass rate for the senior certificate and also the percentage of matric endorsements (formerly exemptions) achieved by these schools. Let us look at a sample of former DEC, DET and Model C schools in our province (see graphic).

It must be remembered that in a number of schools, especially those offering technical subjects, fewer matrics registered for the endorsement examinations.

Nevertheless, it is clear that inequality within education is a reality.

What emerges is a huge discrepancy in regard to the number of students who achieved an endorsement. The future for many is extremely bleak.

Boasts by former education MEC Martha Olickers, the Democratic Party's Mike Ellis and Premier Herinus Kriel that Western Cape results are the best, do not help us in understanding the real crisis.

The "gutter education" referred to in the 1980s and early '90s was the result of a systematic inequity in funding for white, coloured and African schools.

The differential amounts spent on our students has its roots in the policy of Bantustan education, espoused by Hendrik Verwoerd and developed by successive NP governments of Vorster, Botha, and De Klerk.

**There is no plan to achieve orderly transformation.**

It is true that the Western Cape, under National Party rule, had always received more money for education than any other part of the country. After the elections of 1994, the national minister of education set about re-allocating available funds in a fair and equitable manner. As late as 1996, each Western Cape child received R3 460 compared to the R1 913 received by children in the Eastern Cape.

Our contention is that this R3 460 did not reach each child in the Western Cape.

A failure to prioritise the budget towards the African and coloured areas has resulted in former Model C schools receiving more than R3 460.

In some cases, African and coloured students in the Western Cape receive less per capita than the R1 913 a student in the Eastern Cape.

It is clear then that a process of orderly transformation is required to establish equity among the provinces, but more importantly to build equality among all schools within our province.

The immediate crisis is the 10 000 r g retrenchment of close to 6 000 teachers.

It is clear that no plan exists to deal with the disruption which such a drastic step entails.

In January, it was announced that the province had to lose 83 000 temporary teachers because of the provincial deficit. After all these warnings, it transpired that 800 of these were, in

### INEQUALITIES IN WESTERN CAPE EDUCATION

NAME OF SCHOOL	% PASS: SENIOR CERTIFICATE	% MATRIC ENDORSEMENT
Garlandale	100	100
Belgravia Secondary	100	100
Athlons Secondary	100	100
Vista Secondary	36.3	36.3
Crystal Secondary	33.3	33.3
Perseverance	24.8	24.8
Luhazo Secondary	86.5	86.5
Bilimko Secondary	73.1	73.1
Thandokulu Secondary	71.7	71.7
Desmond Judd Secondary	18.3	18.3
Langa High	16.8	16.8
Mashabasane Secondary	15.0	15.0
Rustenburg Girls' High	100	100
Westford High	100	100
Fairbairn College	100	100
Quee Molen Technical High	90.4	90.4
Simon's Town High	84.5	84.5
Barrydale High	70	70

ment with the announcement that 6 000 teachers have to go?

The NP has the power to determine what percentage of the provincial budget is set aside for education. Since 1997/98, provinces receive a block allocation from the central Government. Each province then decides how much to spend on education, health etc.

The NP's spurning of assistance from the Government is highly questionable. Do the NP place federalism above the needs of education?

We believe the draft treasury figure of R3.4-billion for education spells disaster. We propose it is increased to R3.8-billion.

To save education, we have to reprioritise the provincial budget. It is the NP which chose to spend

R20-million on a provincial constitution, R4-million for new members and staff and R300 000 on carpets and curtains.

We already have identified a number of possible savings in other departments which could be transferred to education. Savings in welfare, transport and public works are possible.

As the ANC, we are calling for:

- A moratorium on retrenchments.
- An all-party stakeholder forum on the provincial budget.
- An internal re-prioritisation of the education budget to ensure redress and equity.
- An education budget of at least R3.8-billion.

In conclusion, we need to accept that additional financial resources will not solve all the problems and establish equity.

It will allow us the breathing space to save education. A conscious programme of redress is needed.

The department's resources must be focused in a single-minded attempt to achieve quality public education. This means support for governing boards, management programmes for senior staff, strengthening student and parent organisations and involving local government, labour and business.

Let us not lose this opportunity to save education.

AR 9/3/98

(Ga) says Rasool

# Exam system has failed SA

**BLADE NZIMANDE**

calls for debate on the senior certificate exam which he regards as outdated

**M**Y RECENT comments in the Education Portfolio Committee that the senior certificate examination was outdated and needed to be phased out have provoked considerable debate and interest from the public.

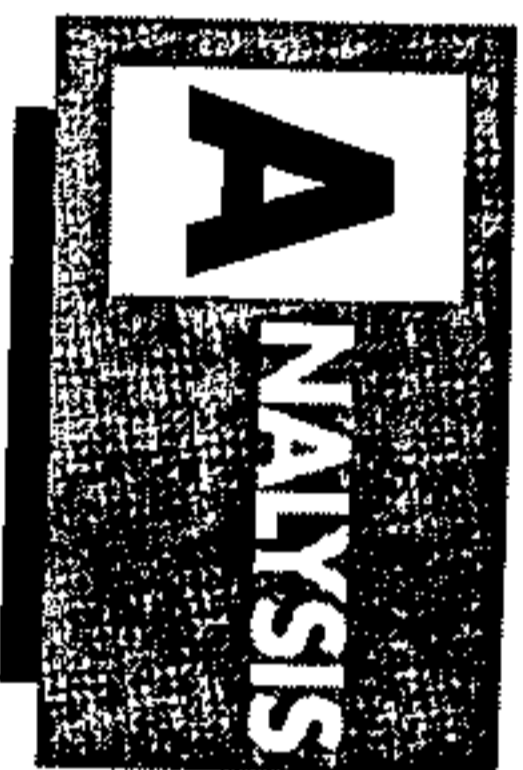
However, the lines demarcating support on the one hand and criticism on the other have been depressingly predictable. Inevitably, it is the spokesperson for the old establishment who have raised the same old fears about lowering standards, while from the black community there has been a largely positive response from those who look to the future to provide them with a more valuable and useful qualification.

The issue clearly needs to be debated so that we can move towards a better understanding and avoid knee-jerk reactions to any proposal for change. The national senior certificate examination is failing to meet the needs of the youth of our country and our goals of reconstruction and development.

It is rigid and out of step with the basic premises of our new qualifications framework that encourages multiple avenues for entry in to both higher education and vocational training. The senior certificate compels all students to take an academic route at the expense of a variety of vocationally oriented programmes.

Our dependence on the senior certificate does not recognise other forms of learning as a basis for entry into higher education. It therefore fails to cater for those who have acquired knowledge through work-based training or various high-quality adult education programmes.

However, it is even failing as an academic qualification. It is not preparing students adequately for the demanding world of higher education. The senior certificate is the end of all hope for many



**The outdated exam system has caused a tragic situation in which about 3,5-million post-matric students cannot find jobs or study further.**

of our youngsters. The ANC and government have identified the need for a new qualifications framework to unlock the potential of our youth.

The senior certificate will have to be phased out to make way for a new further education certificate. This is not some sudden shock reaction to the appalling matric failure rate, as some papers have suggested, but is part of a thoroughly researched and ongoing process of educational transformation that seeks to take our education system into the 21st century.

Of course, there will be space for all constituencies to engage in debate on how this is brought about, but what is not open for debate is whether or not we move away from the senior certificate examination.

A new further education certificate will seek to find a better mix between academic and vocational programmes. This would not prevent those wishing to pursue an academic path from doing so, but



Education is precious to the children at Wallacedene's Efflakeni primary school. Their classroom is made from two containers.

the new syllabus will provide a more flexible and responsive education that avoids the extremes of either pure academism or a narrow vocationalism. There will be a shift away from a single examination and towards selection of other indicators of performance, such as skills, levels of comprehension and analytical abilities.

The recently released report of the National Committee on Further Education proposes a thorough reevaluation of the present framework for education and training. Its aim is to foster mid-level skills and exit points, to facilitate the transition from school to the world of work and to lay the foundation for higher education.

The senior certificate is a creation of apartheid. But it seems some sections of society have become so dependent on these apartheid instruments that they are unable to shift to new thinking.

Instead they moan and groan and raise fears about the fall in standards. But what is there to fear?

Can standards really fall much lower than the present tragic situation in which an estimated 3,5-million post-matric students are not working nor in institutions of higher education?

We cannot continue to justify the present skills shortages while so many of our youth are not meaningfully engaged. This is a crisis of national proportions and needs to be addressed urgently.

The goal is to provide high quality and flexible education beyond grade nine. Our country is one of a few still stuck with a rigid qualification such as the senior certificate.

The ANC is determined that South Africa must meet the economic challenges of today, including our reconstruction and development goals. For the sake of our youth and country, we need a completely new certificate. Let the country debate this matter thoroughly.

● Dr Blade Nzimande is an ANC MP and chair of the portfolio committee on education in Parliament.

CT 12/5/98

(52)

# Freedom Front rejects Vryburg school closure

(52) Star 25/3/98

By JOVIAL RANTAO  
Political Correspondent

Cape Town - The decision by Parliament's portfolio committee on education yesterday to undertake a two-day visit to Vryburg, the strife-torn North West town, was preceded by emotional exchanges between the ANC and the Freedom Front.

In tabling a proposal for a multiparty subcommittee to be formed to investigate the racial clashes, angry ANC MP Randall van der Heever said events at Vryburg High School had a serious impact on the implementation of the Schools Act, its provisions on admission policies, and the required representivity of school boards and the safety of pupils.

"The situation there is very disconcerting. There's no creative integration, but a policy of parallel integration and racial segregation," Van der Heever said. He added that the ANC education study group supported the closure of the school and the disbandment of the school governing body.

Membathisi Mdladlana,

from the ANC, said: "I saw black children on TV bleeding. That blood is a worrying factor. It is not the first time this has happened.

"We saw it at Ruiterswacht, at Potgietersrus, Schweizer-Reneke and now Vryburg. People must not assume that because we want peace they can just go into a school and beat up our children."

Freedom Front MP Leon Louw, whose party came under attack for not condemning the attack on the children, said the cause of the racial clashes should be investigated before any stance was taken.

Louw said the FF was opposed to the closure of the school and the disbandment of the school governing body. "It's a short-term solution which will not help anyone. We can't see Vryburg in isolation. I support the establishment of a committee to visit Vryburg," he said.

The NP and the DP also supported the establishment of a committee.

► A divided town

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# Vryburg High to be desegregated after inquiry

**VRYBURG** — Vryburg High School would appoint a black vice-principal, hold anti-racism classes, and open its facilities to all pupils, North West education MEC Zacharia Tolo said yesterday.

Tolo was reporting on the findings of an inquiry into the causes of racial violence at the school since February 24.

The inquiry team found that black pupils living in the hostel at Vryburg High were segregated, school sport was not integrated and black pupils had no access to computer training facilities.

Hostel facilities are segregated, so much so that in the dining room the table reserved for black pupils has a differently

coloured cloth," Tolo said.

The team found that the English stream, which has only black pupils, has not had textbooks or an English second-language teacher since the beginning of the year.

The school is divided into two language streams — English has only black pupils, and Afrikaans is integrated. When school fees were increased to pay for extra teachers the fees were used only for the Afrikaans stream.

The task team commented on a dominant male ethic at the school, and said peer pressure was significant in aggravating tension.

Two separate schools operated in one school, and the pupils came into contact with each other only between periods.

The team found attitudes of extreme racism and prejudice and said black pupils in the hostel were bullied.

The catalyst for the trouble at the school was a group of black pupils' objection to the increase in school fees, but the team said the increase was justified. Black parents complained that were not properly informed and that the school's money was not being used equitably.

White parents told the task team the school's problems came from a lack of discipline among black pupils, which the

AD 26/3/98

parents considered to be almost a natural trait. "The team did a control study of Huhudi (Vryburg township) schools, and found a high standard of discipline and management," Tolo said.

The team said although white parents were demanding the expulsion of five pupils they could positively identify only one of them. The school was criticised for turning to the police and the governing body for disciplinary functions.

The governing body, which was dissolved over the weekend, did not reflect the demography of the community and excluded black labourers from elections. The report said a teacher at Vryburg

High may have planned and executed confrontations between parents and pupils on February 24, when black pupils were stambokked and white and black parents also clashed.

The team recommended opening all facilities to all pupils at the school, restructuring of the school governing body, anti-racism education classes, and signs of transformation, such as the SA flag and anthem, to be evident at the school. The team said a black deputy principal should be appointed.

After a month of violence the school was closed early for Easter holidays last week — Sapa.

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## Female matric pass rate at 44%, male pass rate at 51%

Primarashni Pillay

DD 14/4/98 (52)

FIFTY one percent of the males who wrote last year's matric examinations passed, compared with the female pass rate of 44%.

This was revealed in the March edition of Education Data News, the publishing arm of The Education Foundation. The article says that since females (56% of all candidates) outnumbered males (44% of candidates), more females passed.

"Of all candidates who passed, 52% were female and of all matriculation exemptions obtained nationally, 51% were obtained by females," it said.

For every 100 matric candidates, only 45 wrote mathematics exams and 25 wrote physical science, compared with 80 who wrote biology and 92 who wrote English second language.

A higher proportion of females sat for the biology and English exams, while a higher proportion of males sat for the physical science and maths exams. Of candidates who wrote these subjects, 46% passed mathematics, 65% passed science, 55% passed biology and 88% passed English second language.

In all these subjects, a far higher proportion of males passed than females.

Only four provinces achieved a pass rate of above 50% in mathematics. They were Gauteng (58%), KwaZulu-Natal (54%), Northern Cape (68%) and Western Cape (65%).

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# Paper proposes overhaul of curricula

Primarashni Pillay

A MAJOR overhaul of the curriculae of senior secondary schools and technical colleges, and a closer relationship between the two, has been proposed in the green paper on further education and training, which was released yesterday in Pretoria.

At the launch of the draft policy document, national education minister Sibusiso Bengu said the document aimed at fostering intermediate to high level skills for learners in the senior secondary school and technical college sectors; laying the foundation for higher education, and facilitating the transition from school to work.

The document also aimed at providing opportunities for lifelong learning through the articulation of learning programmes.

Iron Rensburg, deputy director-general of general and further education, said further education followed after learners had reached grade nine

and after the compulsory phase of schooling with the age limit of 15 years. "It is not compulsory education and has no age limit since the goal of further education is to promote lifelong learning and education-on-the-job," he said.

Rensburg said there was a lack of coherence and co-ordination in SA's further education system, as well as poorly articulated programmes and a distorted labour market.

Furthermore, large numbers of learners left the education system with only a senior certificate qualification and little hope of productive employment, self employment or entering the higher education system.

The green paper therefore, proposed joint curriculum development between senior secondary schools and technical colleges; as well as with private and correspondence colleges in line with an emphasis on relevance to local and regional needs.

The document said that at a school

level, learners must choose fundamental subjects like communication (languages) and mathematical literacy as well as core subjects like arts and culture.

However, subjects selected in the core area had to be supplemented with a practical aspect that was typical of a work situation, said Rensburg.

Furthermore, learners would be taught a broad range of skills so that they could get involved in a cluster of occupations. "Young learners will be exposed to a range of learning options which cut across the traditional divisions between academic and vocational learning, and between classroom/college-based and workplace experience," he said.

Stressing that the document aimed to steer the college sector into a situation where qualifications and the curricula were "much more relevant, appropriate, of a higher quality and responsive to the needs of local industry and the community", Rensburg said

programmes at these institutions were currently narrow and "out of tune with local needs".

The document said that some colleges may choose to focus their energies on self-employment, small business and community development, while others may adopt a specialised role of providing intermediate to high level skills required by an increasingly export-competitive manufacturing economy.

Also, the state would embark on a programme-based funding approach to technical colleges as opposed to funding them on the basis of student numbers. "Programme-based funding will be sensitive to the short and medium term needs of the economy," Rensburg said.

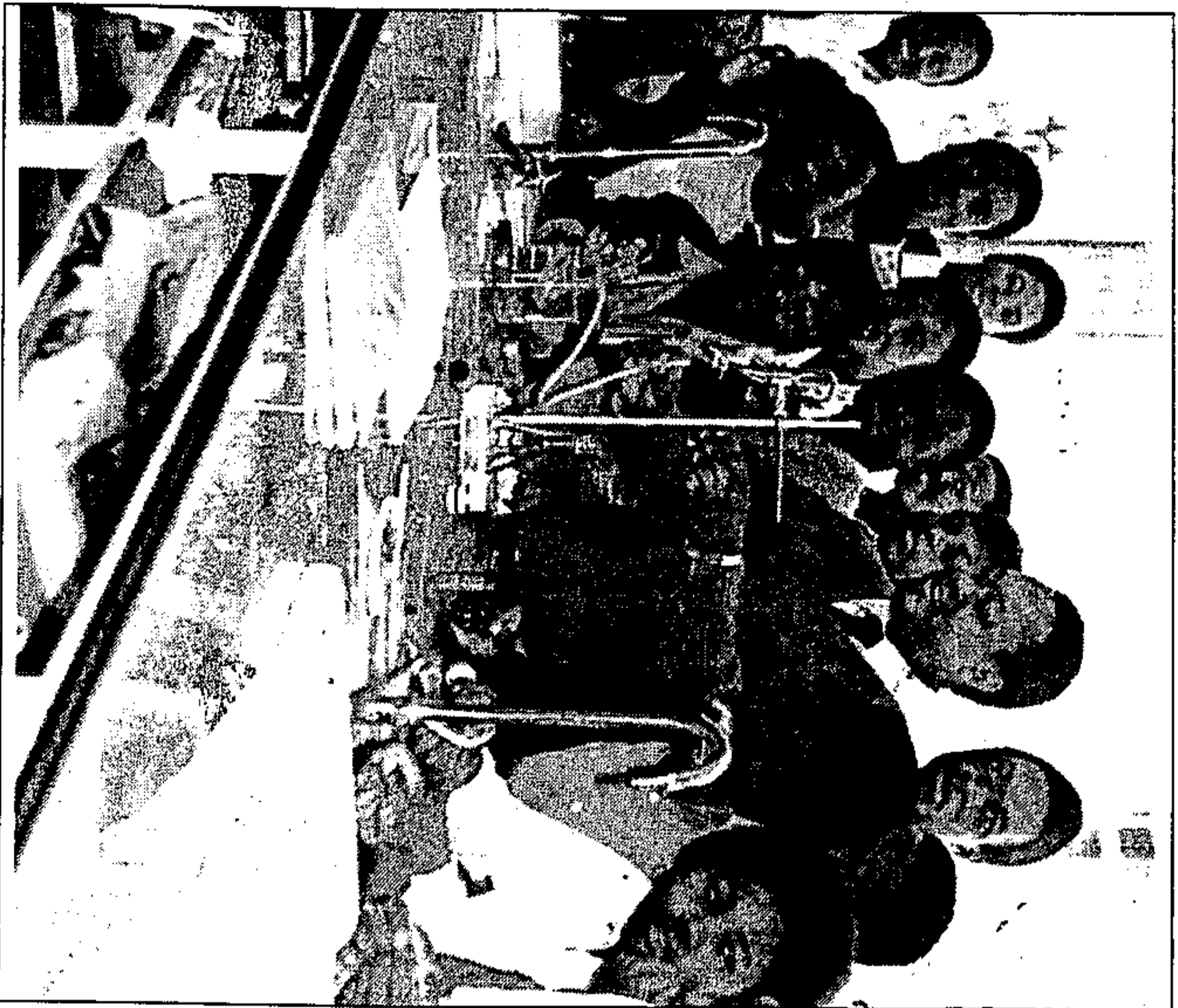
In the longer term this system of funding may be extended to schools.

The current bureaucratic management of colleges would shift to state steering in response to socio-economic needs, Rensburg said.

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Mathematical and scientific literacy is very low at schools, and less than half the country's mathematics and science teachers have specialised training.

# SA lags far behind in promotion of maths, sciences

By Mashupye Kgaphola

**A**NOTABLE feature of our country continues to be the low levels of mathematical and scientific literacy among the general populace.

A study conducted jointly by the Foundation for Research Development and the Human Sciences Research Council in 1995 revealed that South Africans lag behind many nations in scientific literacy.

Our education system was found in the World Competitiveness Report of 1997 to be even less effective in the teaching of science, in general, than the education systems of 45 other nations.

This situation is unhealthy for several reasons.

*Sowetan 17/4/98*

Most importantly, evidence abounds that nations that have progressed economically are those with populations that are significantly scientifically literate and qualified, and who therefore are able to enter the technological milieu.

Accordingly, it is widely accepted that we must improve the general scientific literacy of our people in order to boost our overall productive fortunes.

A resounding illustration of the enormity of the challenge for South Africa rests in our schools, where even among teachers both mathematical and scientific literacy is still very low.

A study undertaken in 1995 by the Education Foundation and Pro-civitas Education Consultants found that only 50 percent and 42 percent of mathematics and science teachers respectively had specialised training in these subjects.

These figures are clearly an indictment of the teacher training regime during the wasted years of Bantu education.

It is now well-known that apartheid education created barriers to and a fear for mathematics and

In so far as maths is concerned, one can use a few illustrations:

- Mathematics in the kitchen: The ability to follow recipes in cook books, to convert weights from pounds to kilograms/grams, litres to cubic centimetres and so on entails a certain level of numeracy and an understanding of proportionality;

- Mathematics at the bank: A sound personal finance management and especially an ability to function in a world awash with credit facilities, makes it increasingly necessary to understand interest rates, return on investment, accumulated interest, and so on; and

- Mathematics in the store: Many people today rely on credit accounts offered by shops and yet many are probably unaware of the actual cost of these concessions to them. While the cause here may be a general lack of economics literacy, this ultimately also feeds on mathematical illiteracy.

There are indeed many real-life situations in which some basic understanding and functionality in mathematics is an advantage, if not a necessity.

The myth that mathematics and

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These figures are clearly an indictment of the teacher training regime during the wasted years of Bantu education.

It is now well-known that apartheid education created barriers to and a fear for mathematics and science among blacks. As a result, an unwarranted awe developed for these subjects.

### Immediate challenge

Thus, the immediate challenge for our schools is to engender a culture of scientific pursuit and mathematical inquiry among teachers. For it is highly unlikely that we will enthrall young people to aspire to scientific pursuits unless we are first able to change the attitude of the majority.

In any event, the integrated teaching methodology that is implicit in Curriculum 2005 will also require a functional level of mathematical literacy from every teacher.

In this regard, we must realise that the most critical barrier created by the previous order has been at the level of attitudes. By effectively excluding black people from the pursuit of mathematics and sciences, there are very few role-models.

Equally, those who did seek to venture into these areas encountered mostly hostile learning environments, and thus many fell by the wayside.

In turn, such engineered failures were conveniently used and perceived as a validation that blacks did not have the intellectual acumen to handle such "complex" subjects.

This fallacy was passed on to generations of students through formal and informal channels. And, tragically, the fraud became an "established fact" over time.

It is therefore critical to have a holistic social approach to allaying the unfounded fear of mathematics and science among our teachers and the general populace, and hence the negative impressions of these subjects among our children.

The most readily recognised shortcoming of our education system has been its failure to make a connection between schooling and "real" life.

As a result, many teachers have lamented the burden of "students who do not appreciate" what they are taught, and learners in turn have felt bored with teachers "who just teach us irrelevant material".

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● Mathematics at the bank: A sound personal finance management and especially an ability to function in a world awash with credit facilities, makes it increasingly necessary to understand interest rates, return on investment, accumulated interest, and so on; and

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There are indeed many real-life situations in which some basic understanding and functionality in mathematics is an advantage, if not a necessity.

The myth that mathematics and science belong only to the "very clever" should be vigorously dispelled. In any event, not everyone in society should be a professional mathematician or scientist.

That scenario, in any event, is neither desirable nor attainable; after all, the world still needs its poets, philosophers and linguists.

What South Africa needs are innovative approaches to problem solving and policy formulation.

In this Year of Science and Technology, as proclaimed by the Government, we should aim to foster a technology culture within the teaching profession.

To this end we could set a target date, say three to five years, by which every teacher should attain a set minimum literacy in mathematics at least.

### Orientation programme

In that case, the Government could work out a programme which will be fused into the orientation programmes of Curriculum 2005. Of course, there will arise other secondary challenges from such a broad-based initiative, but such challenges should not be regretted.

For the individual teacher, the benefits will be manifold. As illustrated, the first level of benefits pertains to the actual life functionality of every individual in today's world.

In so far as tackling the subject material is concerned, many good teachers are often hampered by their lack of mathematical literacy.

Those who teach such varied subjects as economics, accountancy, biology, geography and so on will no doubt readily admit the relevance of this statement to their own situations.

But this applies even to less obvious situations in language, literacy and communication, human and social sciences, life skills and others.

The challenge ultimately, therefore, is to empower all teachers so that they can fully engage their students in the synthesis of knowledge.

(Dr Kgaphola is a senior analyst in Science and Technology Policy at the Foundation for Research Development.)

# Some township matrices still lack textbooks

## *'We need to get on with studies. Time is moving on,' says a teacher*

MOSES MTHEHELELI MACKAY  
STAFF REPORTER

It's two weeks into the second term and the long wait for text books by some township teachers and pupils is still not over.

A senior teacher at Fezeka High School in Guguletu, who did not want to be named, said that since the Cape Argus had published the news about

problems at township schools in February, schools had been sent stationery and textbooks.

But there were still not enough accounting and business economics books.

She blamed the book producers for the delay. "We should not blame the department all the time. It's the book producers who are delaying."

"We were told the books still had

to be printed. They take their time."

But, sometimes schools had to wait for funds from the department.

Teachers were forced to make photocopies of some textbook chapters for pupils.

"We need to get on with studies. The time is moving on."

Victor Mboleka, principal of Bulumko High in Khayelitsha, said the school had not received enough

textbooks. He said that in March the department of education had supplied them with a list of textbooks that were in short supply.

Matric pupils needed textbooks in physical science and Xhosa, while the grade nines needed general science textbooks.

At present, teachers lent pupils books during lessons and took them back when the class was over.

Mr Mboleka called on people involved in the provision of textbooks to speed up the process.

"Time is running out. If it goes on like this, it will have a negative impact on pupils' performance at the end of the year, especially for the matrics."

Dumile Mawisa, acting principal at Oscar Mpetha High in Nyanga, said his school was also waiting for

textbooks and stationery.

Although the school had received the books they had ordered, they needed more because of a dramatic growth in school numbers.

He believed the problem was being addressed and hoped that a solution would be found soon.

Mr Mawisa said that his staff were co-operative, dedicated and hard-working.

# Transition to new senior certificate to begin next year

Vuyo Mvoko

BD 30/4/98 (52)

CAPE TOWN — The education department is planning to introduce aspects of a transitional senior certificate system next year, ahead of the scrapping of the present matriculation certificate tentatively set for the year 2005.

Ihron Rensburg, the deputy director-general in the education department, confirmed the moves yesterday. He said if the department was to meet its deadlines, "elective options" would be introduced to next year's matriculants. Certain "outdated" subjects were being considered for deletion from the curriculum. Options were being weighed which could be arranged with technical colleges and industry boards and through work placement programmes.

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu gave the most unequivocal indication to date this week that traditional matriculation would go. Responding to a question in parliament, he said the current matriculation examination would be replaced by a general education and training certificate and a further education and training certificate. The certificates would provide for exit-level certification in grades 9 and 12 respectively.

Bengu said the present matriculation examination was "rigid and out of step" with the basic premises of the government's philosophy of "outcomes-based" education and was "not suitable as a means of ascertaining the preparedness of school leavers to enter the workplace". The matriculation examination, he said, was "but one indicator of learner performance. Unfortunately, as a result of apartheid education, it has been elevated to the status of being the sole indicator of learner performance".

Bengu said the system did not "recognise other forms of learning as a basis for entry into higher education". It therefore failed to cater for those who acquired knowledge through work-based training or adult education.

"This will not stop those wishing to pursue an academic path from doing so but will provide a more flexible and responsive education and training that will avoid the extremes of being either too academic or too vocational." The aim of the new approach was "to find a more appropriate mix between academic and vocational courses", he said.

Democratic Party MP Mike Ellis had written to the minister asking him whether the matriculation examination had been found to be a suitable means of ascertaining the preparedness of school leavers to enter the workforce and in what respects the examination was found to have been inadequate.

Ellis asked whether the education department intended to change or abolish features of the present system and when the changes would be made.

Bheki Khumalo, a ministerial spokesman, said yesterday "we are turning the Titanic in the middle of a storm".

Rensburg said the department would table proposals for public comment "as soon as possible".

# pass the test

that local education is up there with the best

(52)  
ST 3/5/98

# SA matric exams

By matching Scotland's equivalent grade, pupils prove

CORNIA PRETORIUS

**P**UPILS have proved that the standard of South African matric exams is on a par with the best in the world.

Last year, matrics at Crawford College campuses in Johannesburg and Pretoria wrote the Gauteng education department exam and the internationally respected Scottish higher examination — and statistically their marks were pretty much the same for both exams.

This, said the school, proved that the standard of questions and marking in South Africa had not dropped.

Although pupils wrote different exams in the various provinces, the standard was the same, said Dr Fred Calitz, the chief executive officer of the South African Certification Council, which moderates all matric exams.

Paul Fatty, professor of statistics at Wits University and a member of the certification council, said: "It's very good news. It's good to hear that the standards of Gauteng are on par with the Scottish exam. The Scottish education system is regarded as a good education system worldwide."

Graeme Crawford, the founder and managing director of the Crawford Education Group, said the correlation in the results was "incredible".

Mary Metcalfe, Gauteng education MEC, said: "I am pleased. I knew an external validation would show standards to be on a high level."

Not all the Crawford pupils wrote all their subjects in the Scottish exam. The comparison of results took into account the marks of only pupils who had written the same subjects in both exams.

A total of 686 papers were compared. The results included:

- 357 distinctions (A aggregates) in Gauteng's exam and 280 in the Scottish one;
- 191 B symbol aggregates in Gauteng's exam and 160 in the Scottish one;
- 119 C aggregates in Gauteng's exam and 105 in the Scottish one;
- 96 D aggregates in Gauteng's exam and 53 in the Scottish one;



**WORLD-CLASS:** Hanna Gasowska, back, Leighton Carter, Daniella Vassiloudis and Erene Mavrokordatos, front, who scored distinctions in both exams, with Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe and Graeme Crawford, of the Crawford Education Group Picture: ELIZABETH SEJAKE

- 30 maths distinctions in Gauteng's exam and 19 in the Scottish one;
  - 29 physics distinctions in Gauteng's exam and 22 in the Scottish one; and
  - 27 chemistry distinctions in Gauteng's exam and 21 in the Scottish one.
- Crawford said the reason pupils achieved more distinctions in the Gauteng exam was that the Scottish one was written two months earlier, in September, and gave teachers the opportunity to refine pupils' preparation for the Gauteng exams.

Rod Conacher, the headmaster of Crawford College in Johannesburg, who was responsible for the running of the Scottish equivalent exam, said the results showed that any pupil who attained a maths distinction in Gauteng would most probably have achieved the same result in the Scottish exam.

Chemical engineering student Daniela Vassiloudis, who last year obtained six distinctions in the Scottish highers and seven in the Gauteng exam, said: "The Scottish exam was more difficult than the Gauteng one, but it definitely prepared me better for varsity."

Crawford said they had decided last year that pupils should have a choice of writing either the Scottish highers equivalent in September or the usual preliminary exam set by the school. The school wanted pupils to obtain a qualification that would better prepare them for tertiary education and give them international access to universities.



# Hands off our white Miss!

Black parents, pupils fight department that wants to replace 'professional' headmistress

ANDRÉ JURGENS

**A** BLACK community has gone to war with education authorities in a bid to keep a white acting principal as the head of their township school.

Parents, teachers and pupils in Zwijde, Port Elizabeth, have united to fight the Eastern Cape education department and the SA Democratic Teachers' Union, which backed an inexperienced black teacher for the post of principal.

Parents and pupils are demanding the appointment of acting principal Cecelia Behrent, who has made Khwezi Lomso Comprehensive School one of the top black schools in the Eastern Cape.

Its matric pass rate of 84 percent last year was double the provincial average of 42 percent.

Cyrl Yunata, the chairman of the school's governing body, said parents would not tolerate a drop in learning standards.

"This is not about colour or sex, we want the school in capable hands," he said.

Yunata, along with the vast majority of teachers, pupils and parents, has rejected the selection of Mandifisi Mvimbeli as the new principal.

The school's lawyer, Claude Tee, sent the department a letter alleging it was biased or had conspired with the union in selecting Mvimbeli.

Tee questioned how two union representatives on the five-member selection panel had managed to outvote three members of the school's governing body during the selection process.

"The parents insist that a new principal must have proper management skills and experience. Mvimbeli does not meet their requirements and we are ready to approach the High Court if he is officially appointed as head of the school," Tee said.

Handreds of pupils staged a protest at the school on Wednesday, calling on the provincial education department to



SHE'S A HIT: Pupils at Khwezi Lomso Comprehensive School in Zwijde, Port Elizabeth, show their support for acting principal Cecelia Behrent

Picture: RUVAN BOSHOFF

rapped the school over the knuckles for writing letters of protest, threatening to down chalk and staging a march over the principal crisis.

Behrent, a 48-year-old mother of two, has taught English at the school for nine years.

Parents pay R30 a year for their children to attend the co-

and for the pupils.

"We feel the selection process was biased and are not willing to let the proud standards at this school drop."

The governing body suspects the teachers' union meddled when Mvimbeli was chosen as principal over Behrent. Mvimbeli is an executive mem-

would be Mvimbeli's.

Tee is still waiting for a response to the letter, which was sent on April 16.

Provincial education spokesman Phaphama Mseyana said: "We are aware of the problems and hope the dispute can be settled."

"We are planning to have



# Gauteng education body sets the standard

Investigation into falling matric pass rates is priority of newly formed Examinations and Assessment Board

By JACQUI REEVES  
Education Reporter

The battle to halt the free-fall of matric pass rates in Gauteng received a lifeline yesterday with the establishment of an Examinations and Assessment Board.

The board will plan a new assessment policy and will also scrutinise the work of the province's examinations department.

Besides monitoring the examinations department, the board will also analyse past exams, identifying areas of success as well as pitfalls to be avoided in the future.

Ian Moll, the director of examinations, said his department would have to take the board's recommendations seriously and would have to submit a written explanation to the board and Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe, should his department choose not to implement any of the board's recommendations.

The board will work closely



Mary Metcalfe ... tackling the problem of poor matric results.

with the Gauteng Education and Training Council (GETC), a 54-member advisory team of educationists, which is currently investigating Gauteng's extremely poor matric pass rates achieved in certain subjects.

A "huge tail" of GG and H symbols in all matric courses, except languages and technical

Star 14/05/98  
subjects, alerted the department to the need for a focused investigation.

The GETC is currently investigating the trend and will report its findings to Metcalfe at the end of this month.

The Examinations and Assessment Board is the first of its kind in the country. Although the board will be focusing on assessment across all school grades, its initial and primary focus will be to help stabilise matric pass rates in Gauteng.

The province achieved a 51,5% matric pass rate last year, which was 4% down on the previous year's results.

The board is made up of experts and professionals who are either senior officials within the department, have been elected by educational interest groups, or have been appointed by a member of the executive council.

The board must submit a report on examinations and assessment to the MEC each year.

## More write 'private' matric

Primarashni Pillay

BD 30/7/98

(52)

THE number of full-time pupils who will write this year's matric examinations under the Independent Examinations Board has increased to about 4 600, compared with last year's 4 268 candidates.

Lyn Scott, the board's acting director of formal examinations, said yesterday most independent schools in SA as well as several of those administered by religious groups "have joined together to write a common matric exam. If the schools are independent they have opted to come here," she said.

The board, established about 10 years ago, conducts examinations for various levels ranging from matric to adult education, and encompasses industry as well as nongovernmental organisations. It also helps some provincial education departments to run their matric examinations and offers training on standard-setting and assessment.

Pupils at state schools cannot write examinations administered by the board, but must sit for matric exams set by their provinces. Scott said this year's matric candidates were from about 120 schools and projects. Several Muslim independent schools had registered candidates.

Preparations for the examinations, which start on November 2, were on schedule, Scott said.

# Harsher penalties for pupils caught cheating

(52)

As security measures are stepped up, department warns that those selling exam papers will be banned for five years.

## OWN CORRESPONDENT

With two months to go before the start of this year's matric exams, pupils have been warned that anyone found guilty of cheating will have to wait five years before being allowed to attempt the exam again.

This comes as part of an amendment to Gauteng's Examination and Assessment Act which makes dealing in leaked exam papers a criminal offence.

While the investigation into the matric exam leaks which plagued the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) over the past two years is not complete, new security measures have been put in place at the department's high-tech production plant - dubbed Alcatraz by staff.

Anyone wishing to steal an

exam paper would have to foil a myriad of security measures which have been set up at substantial cost.

Those in the know are remaining mum about specific precautions, but say it would be difficult to sneak as much as a tissue into the premises.

"We had a very good team of detectives investigating the theft last year and they have praised our security systems and indicated their surprise at just how efficient the systems were," said Mary Metcalfe, Gauteng MEC for Education.

They suggested additional mechanisms to tighten security.

"If any papers were stolen those responsible would find the noose tightening because we've narrowed down possibilities substantially," she said.

According to Metcalfe, the

exams team is working under tremendous pressure - particularly on security.

"Security is uppermost in our minds," said acting exams director Prem Govender.

The facilities have been upgraded after discussions with security consultants and police.

Until recently, pupils caught with leaked papers faced the possibility of not being allowed to write exams for two years, and it is hoped that the new, harsher penalties will discourage them (and their parents) from paying for the documents.

Further incentive not to cheat is the number of pupils who were duped last year into buying leaked papers which turned out to be fake.

Students should concentrate on preparing for exams, Metcalfe said.

Star 14/8/98

# Matric exam papers being prepared under Alcatraz-like security

Star 24/8/98 (52)  
By JACQUI REEVES  
Education Reporter

Determined to ward off cheats, thieves and the administrative chaos which have plagued provinces in recent years, education departments throughout the country are already entering the final preparatory stages of this year's matric exams.

The "administrative Alcatraz", a high-tech security compound for the setting, storage and distribution of exam papers, which was created in Gauteng after the farcical 1996 examinations, appears to have been replicated in many provinces.

Secret locations, electronic tracking devices for papers and sworn codes of secrecy are just some of the measures being put into force.

The Western Cape will have completed the printing of the final matric exam papers by the end of this month, when invigilator training and the preparation of marking centres will start.

Gauteng is also approaching the end of its production phase.

"We are well ahead on our preparations for this year's exams and have also begun the setting of papers for the 1999 final exams," said examinations directorate spokesperson Ismail Wade.

Provincial departments have all put plans in place to boost pass rates, beef up security and deliver the most efficient service.

Ironically, the system that is finally being refined is also on its way out.

The gradual implementation of the new outcomes-based curriculum shifts the focus from this "make-or-break" exam to a series of evaluations and goals.

Most provinces have this year offered additional training

and classes to try to improve the final results.

The North West said it was hoping to increase last year's pass rate of 52% by two or three percentage points, while Northern Province is hoping to improve its pass rate by more than 13%.

Frans Batsi, spokesperson for the North West, said the province and local universities had conducted a survey investigating why close on half of the province's matric candidates failed last year. Unfortunately, the protracted survey had yet to be tabled before the legislature, thus serving no purpose for the class of 1998.

Mpumalanga education spokesperson Peter Maminza

## Provinces have put in place plans to boost pass rates

said examiners and typists were all expected to sign declarations of secrecy, and some exam sections had been prepared in isolation.

A cargo truck will be used for the delivery of papers, strongrooms have been installed, and papers will be delivered in tamper-proof bags.

With just three months to go before the start of the 1998 matric examinations, the practicalities of the process appear to be on track. Despite threatened teacher strikes, protest days, limited resources and textbook shortages, many have labelled this academic year "relatively quiet".

Now it's up to the pupils and teachers to prove whether it was quiet enough.

# Pupils shut out of farm schools

1/9/98  
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(58)

school stands has already told principal Mrs Miriam Sofe to vacate the school by the end of the year.

Sofe said the school was the only institution within 50km and the closure would spell disaster for the education of the school's 219 pupils.

The school's eight teachers also don't know what will happen to their jobs if the school is closed, she said.

"Most of the pupils walk long distances from other farms to attend this school. They come from poor backgrounds and their families cannot afford to pay transport costs to schools in the township," Sofe said.

A senior education official in Northern Province Mr Mprareni Mukhavuli said the department was still drafting policy that would determine an approach to the negotiations with landowners.

However, he was unable to indicate when the policy would be ready.

"The problem is not confined to Northern Province alone. Others are in a worse situation.

**Use of infrastructure**

"In case we enter into negotiations with a farmer and we fail to reach an agreement, the Act gives the national minister powers to gazette what should be done," Mukhavuli said.

Negotiations with landowners have to centre around rentals and the use of infrastructure, he said. But Mukhavuli contradicted Mr Bernard Matsane, a spokesman for the education department, who earlier said the minimum guidelines set by the ministry of education for the negotiations with the farmers were sent to the province at the beginning of this year.

A spokesman for Gauteng department of education, Mr Aubrey Matshiqi, failed to respond to *Sowetan's* inquiries by late yesterday.

**M**ORE than 500 pupils and their teachers at three farm schools in Northern Province and Gauteng face uncertain futures because of the closure of the institutions by farmers.

This is due to the failure of the departments of education in the two provinces to negotiate with farmers as to where public schools were to be situated as required by the new South African Schools Act.

The Act demands that MECs for education in all nine provinces enter into an agreement with landowners over the public schools on their land.

The apartheid-era department of education had agreements with the farmers over schools on their properties. But when the new political dispensation came into being in 1994 and control of the department changed hands, the agreements became invalid.

*Sowetan* yesterday established that the provinces have failed so far to enter into negotiations with landowners, presenting hundreds of schools and pupils with no choice but to close.

**Critical stage**

Ministry of Education spokesman Mr Khume Kangala said it was the duty of MECs in the provinces to negotiate with farmers and landowners.

"The MECs might be taking this lightly. The situation will reach a critical stage and the MECs will want the department to intervene," Kangala said.

The Mphemeise and Seapara Schools in the Vaalwater area of Northern Province have already been closed.

Rusoord Intermediate School at Blesbokspruit Farm in the Vaal Triangle also faces closure.

The owner of the property on which the

By Russel Molefe

## Matric safety net

LEGISLATION which will transform the education sector by providing a safety net for at least two million matriculants who cannot be accommodated in technikons, universities and the job market has been passed by the National Assembly.

The Further Education Bill, which was unanimously approved, also provides for the scrapping of the matric certificate which would be replaced by Further Education and Training certificate. — Parliamentary Bureau

(52) CT 15/9/98



# Cosas threat to disrupt exams

By Dan Fuphe

THE Congress of South African Students (Cosas) in KwaThema, Springs, threatened yesterday to disrupt the writing of matric examinations in the area if the continued prosecution of its members by the attorney general was not halted.

This message was contained in a memorandum presented to Springs-Nigel district education director Mrs Margaret Webber, acting KwaThema police station commander Senior Superintendent MG Botha and Springs senior prosecutor Mr Edward van de Spuy yesterday.

(52)

In the memorandum submitted by local Cosas deputy chairman Mr Makepeace Magudulela the students said they fully supported the peace agreement between Cosas and the Pan Africanist Student Organisation.

"We want you to be informed that the culture of learning and teaching is being disturbed by the ongoing arrests and prosecution of Cosas cadres."

Webber said she was distressed by the recent turn of events in the area but could not say what the response of her department would be to the Cosas demand as she still had to confer with Gauteng MEC for education Mrs Mary Metcalfe.

Sowetan 16/9/98

## Final matric exams to be phased out

JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

THE matriculant of the future will not have written an end-of-year exam.

"The intention is to get rid of the exams, although not immediately," says Dr Peet le Roux, director of technical and vocational education for the Education Department.

ST 20/9/98 (52)  
This is one of the implications of the Further Education and Training Bill, passed this week.

Instead of a senior certificate, pupils will receive a certificate in further education. Technical college pupils will also be able to get the certificate and qualify for university admission. It will also be possible to earn the certificate in the workplace.

At present, matric requires six subjects, with the only compulsory subjects two languages. The Bill adds another compulsory area: numeracy, meaning maths or accountancy.

Other subjects will also be made more job orientated to include tourism, hospitality, motor mechanics and agriculture — areas individual schools will determine.

This means merging the curricula of schools and technical colleges, or even the two institutions themselves.

Le Roux said: "It's the only way we can prepare pupils for the job market and simultaneously allow them to qualify for university exemption."

# Matric exam cheats face ban of five years

Primarashni Pillay

SD 7/10/98 (52)  
MATRIC pupils caught cheating in their final examinations could be banned from writing the exams for five years and have their results nullified.

Ihron Rensburg, deputy director-general of further education and training, confirmed last night that pupils could be banned from writing their exams for a minimum of one year "and that provinces could adjust their policies".

Rensburg said: "Provinces with the highest level of cheating have put the penalty at five years. In the national policy guidelines we informed candidates of the rules."

More than 602 000 full-time candidates will write this year's exams in a few days' time. These exams have over the past few years been wracked with controversy in some provinces following the leaking of examination question papers.

However, Morgan Naidoo, the examinations director of the KwaZulu-Natal education department, said pupils suspected of having knowledge of question papers before they wrote their exams would be allowed to complete the exams, but the department would launch an investigation and if the pupil was found guilty, "his results will be cancelled and he will be barred from writing the exams for five years", Naidoo said.

This form of discipline would deter pupils from cheating, and stop parents from providing their children with money to purchase exam papers.

Guilty pupils could, in addition to suspension, face possible criminal prosecution and jail sentences of up to two years.

However, Lawyers for Human Rights national director Vinodh Jaichand said punishment should have a rehabilitative side.

# Security improved for Gauteng matric exams

(52)

Primarashni Pillay

THE Gauteng education department said yesterday it was "extremely confident" about the security of this year's matric examination question papers and additional measures had been taken to improve on previous security systems.

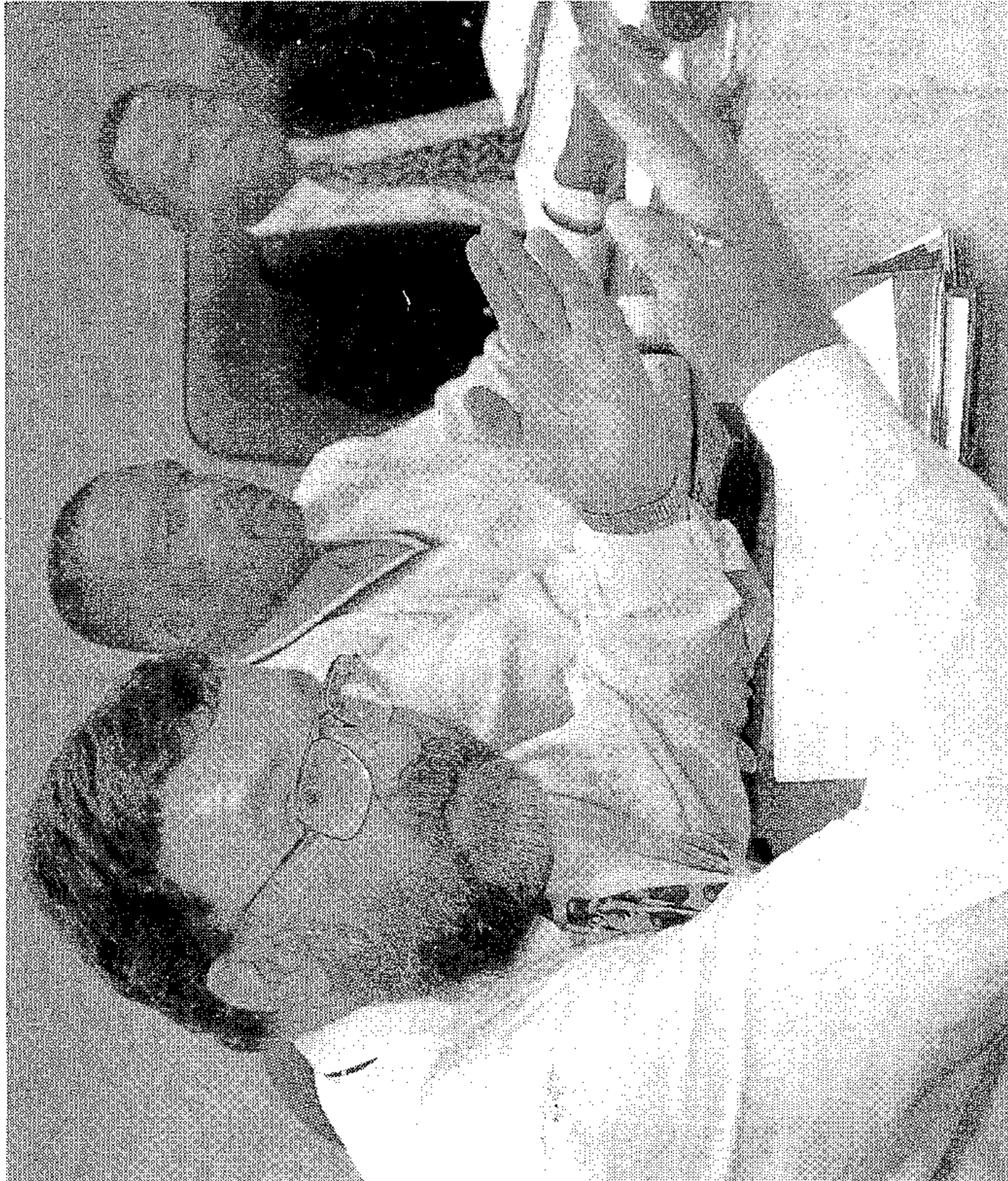
More than 82 000 full-time pupils and close to 49 000 part-time pupils will be writing the exams in Gauteng from tomorrow.

Controversy dogged the Gauteng exams in previous years following the leaking of papers. However, the education department's superintendent-general, James Maseko, said the department had taken "all steps humanly possible" to prevent leaks of papers, adding that external security companies and the police had complimented the department on its security systems.

Meanwhile, examinations director Ian Moll said it was costing the department R25m — including the payment of markers — to run the exams.

Moll warned that where candidates were caught cheating by taking notes or textbooks into examination rooms, or assisting other pupils, they could be excluded from writing the exams for two years. "If candidates are involved in the theft of papers or the distribution of papers prior to the exams, they could be suspended from writing the exams for five years." It was an offence to be in possession of a draft or final form of a question paper and anyone found in possession of one would face criminal charges.

In another development, the Democratic Party in Gauteng has called for a snap debate at the Gauteng legislature next week "to condemn publicly the inexcusable actions of (education) MEC (Mary) Metcalfe and the ANC and question the ANC's commitment to education". The call is a challenge to how the department dealt with the case of a group of pupils from Fourways High School who were involved in the theft of R48 000 from the school tuckshop.



Gauteng education department examinations director Ian Moll, left, addresses a news briefing on preparations for this year's matric exams yesterday, along with provincial education spokesman Tshepo Mathodlana and department superintendent-general James Maseko, right.

Picture: TREVOR SAMSON

# Alcatraz plan for matric

Joint operation by Education Department, private security companies and the police hopes to prevent leaks that marred last year's exam

By Jacqui Reeves  
Education Reporter

An elaborate, multimillion-rand security system - similar to that used by cash-in-transit companies - is to be mounted to secure the 1998 matric exams, which begin tomorrow.

The system, which has been created by the Gauteng Education Department in consultation with private security companies and the police, will guard the transport of papers to exam venues and will protect storage and marking centres.

There were embarrassing leaks of exam papers last year, resulting in the firing of a senior official of the department.

Over the next seven weeks, more than 130 000 Gauteng pupils will write matric finals in a process that will cost the Education Department more than R25 million.

The "administrative Alcatraz", where the exam papers have been printed and bundled, has printed 33 million pages for this year's matric finals.

The marking of papers will be the greatest expense, requiring the department to fork out R21-million in wages for the 12 000 markers employed.

Ian Moll, Gauteng's examinations director, said the department would be spending another R3,5-million on the production and distribution of the exam papers, and another R3-million on information technology systems.

The department has not revealed how much has been spent on security systems.

A stern warning was yesterday issued to any person hoping to steal exam papers or cheat in any way.

"Any person found to be in possession of any unauthorised material, whether it is in draft or final form, will be subject to criminal procedures and liable for a criminal sentence," said Tom Waspe, Gauteng's chief director of support services.



ANDREAS VLACHAKIS

Last lap ... Fikile Mtsweni, a prefect at Jeppe Girls' High School, hugs a friend as they part for a short study leave before exams start tomorrow.

And Moll said pupils caught cheating, by using crib notes or textbooks during an exam, may be barred from writing their matric exams for up to two years. Pupils caught with a question paper, in any form, prior to the writing of an exam could wait for anything up to five years for another chance to write matric.

The department's greatest expense - exam markers - is boosted by the vast variety of subjects on offer.

Gauteng offers more subjects than any other province, but officials yesterday admitted to having begun the process of limiting the selection on offer.

"There are national guidelines to subjects that must be offered, so we cannot take unilateral decisions, but we have to run the gradual process of cutting down the number of subjects on offer."

"This will be done over a three or four-year process. The

department has recognised that we need to tailor down what we offer," Moll said.

A total of 260 different exams will be written this year, \$7 more than last year.

An estimated 25 braille question papers have been prepared, and another 25 papers have been prepared in enlarged print or recorded on audio cassette - for pupils with special needs.

**More reports, pictures**  
Page 6

Although some of Gauteng's education officials admitted yesterday that the provinces of the most subjects in the country and that they are in the process of "tailoring" the selection, the choice is still quite mind-boggling.

The quickest exam will be held on Wednesday next week and will take just 10 minutes - the typing speed test.

Farm mechanics will be written next week, followed by agricultural science on October 19. The introduction to engineering exam will keep pupils busy for three hours the following Monday, with classical Greek, motor mechanics and mercantile law all being written in the latter half of October.

The number of languages being written is astounding. In

Uru, farming and Greek provide variety

additional to the 11 official languages, French, Latin, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Hebrew, Gujarati, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu and Tamil will be written. Our next generation of fitters and turners, bricklayers and plasterers, hotel keepers and caterers, plumbers and sheet-metal workers will also be tested during this year's exams. - Education Reporter

# Warning to exam cheats

(52)  
Sowetan 8/10/98

By Charity Bhengu and Victor Mecoamere

**T**HE Ministry of Education will crack down on cheats in this year's matric examinations, deputy director-general Mr Irhon Rensburg said yesterday.

Rensburg said cheats could be banned for five years and have their results nullified.

Officials of the Gauteng department of education yesterday said stringent measures had been put in place "to ensure problem-free" examinations.

This will include tightening of security for the exams - for which R25 million has been made available.

Director of Gauteng exams Mr Ian Moll said of the R25 million, R21 million would be used to pay markers, while the remainder of the funds would be channelled into preparations.

Recommendations by the Khumalo Commission, set up after the 1996 exam paper leaks fiasco, were considered and 24-hour security has been implemented.

Gauteng department of education director-general Mr James Maseko told a media conference yesterday: "We are extremely confident of a problem-free exam. We have learnt from past mistakes."

Under the Amendments to the Examinations and Assessment of Act No 7 of 1997, unauthorised possession of exam material is now a criminal offence.

Offenders may be fined or imprisoned for up to two years for contravening this regulation.

Education Ministry spokesman Mr Khume Kangala said it was hoped matric results would improve by 10 percent over two years.

Kangala said this projection was arrived at by representatives of the nine provincial education departments at a workshop in April.

"A national programme to help more than 60 000 full-time grade 12 pupils started in April to prepare them for the senior certificate examinations, starting on Friday (tomorrow)," said Kangala.

He said a two-day national workshop attended by various interested parties was held in Midrand in April.

## Short-term goal

The provincial representatives agreed to a short-term goal of a five to 10 percent improvement in the results over the next two years.

He said the nine provincial education departments would be expected to secure the printing, storage and distribution of examination materials.

In all, 825 689 candidates in Gauteng start writing exams tomorrow, while in North West exams start on Monday.

In Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal exams are scheduled to begin on October 19 and October 26, respectively.

More than half of the nation's matric examination candidates failed last year, while 47 percent passed and 12 percent obtained exemptions.

# R25m to beat exam cheats (52)

ET 9/10/98  
PRISCILLA SINGH

THE Western Cape Education Department has begun the final countdown to this year's matric exams which begin in 10 days, and security measures have been stepped up to prevent papers leaking into the wrong hands.

WCED spokesperson Tony Eaton said the preparations would cost the department R25 million. The safe containing the papers is heavily barricaded, under camera surveillance and 24-hour guard.

"I think in general the vibe this year is to improve on last year's result and this is the feedback we are getting.

"As far as whether or not the pupils are adequately prepared for the examinations, only the schools

## THE DECLINING PASS RATE

	1996 PASS RATE	1997 PASS RATE	% Change
Western Cape	80,4%	76,3%	-4,1%
Northern Cape	69,9%	63,7%	-6,2%
Mpumalanga	50,9%	45,7%	-5,2%
KwaZulu Natal	61,7%	54%	-7,7%
Gauteng	55,6%	51,5%	-4,1%
North West	66%	50%	-16%
Eastern Cape	49,7%	46%	-3,7%
Free State	51,1%	42,3%	-8,8%
Northern Province	37%	31,8%	-5,2%
TOTAL	54,7%	47,1%	-7,6%

can say," Eaton said.

"There are a large number of schools doing all kinds of preparations and it is a matter of entrusting the job to circuit managers and teachers to ensure that every pupil is ready to write," Eaton said.

He said there was a "slight dent" in last year's pass result of 76,3% (down 4% from 1996), and even though the Western Cape attained the highest pass rate in the country, Eaton said he was certain the province would do better this year.

Results will be released between

January 1 and 7, 1999, in keeping with the procedure followed for last year's exams.

This year 40 211 full-time candidates and 14 738 part-time learners will sit for the exams, making a total of 54 949, an increase of 800 candidates from last year.

About 1 800 markers have been selected, an increase of 200 from last year, through stringent screening to ensure fairness and accuracy. Marking begins on December 9 at the Peninsula Technikon and is expected to be completed by December 16 or 17.

# Top security for matric

ARC 9/10/98 (52)

**CAROL CAMPBELL**  
SPECIAL WRITER

A security system second only to that of a bank is protecting matric exam papers in the Western Cape and, even if things go wrong and a paper is leaked, a printer is on alert to roll off back-up copies.

As the moment of truth for the 1998 matrics draws near, provincial education authorities are taking no chances.

Every stage the matric papers come into contact with human hands and eyes is being meticulously monitored.

This year, examination control is being led by André Clausen, the Western Cape director of examination administration.

It is the 21st matric exam, he has helped to run.

He has worked in every aspect of matric examination production and, say his colleagues, there is very little he has not seen.

"If there are problems, we have a plan. "Schools have special numbers to dial in an emergency and we have a team on stand-by if they are needed in a crisis," he said.

## SPECIAL REPORT



**CAROL CAMPBELL**

Crucial to the success of this year's exams will be the constant monitoring of schools by the department's circuit managers.

They are already helping principals to train invigilators.

In recent years, the provincial education department has had a near-perfect reputation for keeping its exam papers secret.

This is in contrast to other provinces which have been dogged by claims of cheating.

Schools across the province will soon be receiving specially delivered packages containing the full set of their exam material.

Mr Clausen said the moment of truth was now as principals took responsibility for the examinations.

"At some point, we have to trust our people and gladly do so," he said.

So far, every person who has come into contact with the matric papers has had to have special security clearance.

Printing of the exam papers began in May at a secret venue and they have been under 24-hour surveillance in a secure high-rise building since then.

Even though the room where they are stored is several storeys above the street, it has burglar bars and is fitted with an electronic alarm system.

Only a handful of people are allowed in to work with the papers.

"We take absolutely no chances," said Mr Clausen.

Exams begin on October 19 when pupils write Xhosa first, second and third language.

In total, 166 subjects will be written. The last exam will be on November 25 when Jewish studies is written.

Mr Clausen said results are scheduled to be published in the first week of January and, if all goes well, the names of the top 20 achievers will be announced the same week.



# Matrics head for that

Argus 14/10/98 (52)

## Papers under tight security as pupils go

ANDREA BOTHA  
EDUCATION REPORTER

More than 54 000 Western Cape matric pupils are gearing up for a tough weekend of last-minute studying for their exams which start on Monday.

Matrics across the Western Cape went to school for the last time today.

The students will spend the next few days preparing for the most important exams of their school lives.

The exams start with Xhosa and music and end with Jewish studies on November 25.

The education department has confirmed that 14 738 part-time pupils also will write the exams.

The department has the question papers stored under maximum security and has safety and emergency procedures in place for distributing them.

Matric pupils were jovial and in high spirits on their second-last school day yesterday.

Proceedings at most schools were informal with traditional shirt writing and pupils and teachers bidding one another farewell.

Most schools have more formal prize-giving and valedictory functions scheduled for today.

Most pupils said they were enjoying this last diversion before the serious studying and exam writing began.

Fritz Kahn, 18, of Gardens Commercial High School said he was not too worried about the exams.

He had been told that trouble with writing exams started only when one started to worry.

He had finished studying for most of his exams and was not sad to leave school. He would continue his studies with an engineering course next year.

Marcelle Clark, 18 and Melissa Parenzee, 18, said they were nervous about the exams, but enjoying the last few days with friends at school.

"It's sad because a whole phase of our life is now gone," said Marcelle.

She will do a course at a business college next year and Melissa has found a job at Cape Town International Airport.

Other matrics from Gardens Commercial said they were nervous about the exams as they had only one chance.

They said they had finished jolling last weekend and were now working only towards the exams.



Now the tough stuff starts: matric pupils at Commerical High in Gardens celebrate their last day of regular schooling before prep.

## How the new education funding

LYNNE RIPPENAAR  
STAFF REPORTER

**The Western Cape government has welcomed the national Government's new school-funding policy, due to come into effect in April.**

But there is concern about the plan to exempt some parents from paying fees, and the "unfair" attitude towards private schools.

Western Cape Minister of Education Nick Koornhof yesterday described the plan as "an essential policy instrument" for addressing historical imbalances.

But the fee-exemption provisions

could see some people, who could afford to pay fees, pleading poverty.

And there were fears the new policy relating to private schools could force some to close.

The fundamentals of the National Norms and Standards for School Funding are:

■ There will be more money for disadvantaged schools and less for advantaged ones.

■ The policy does not apply to personnel costs like teachers' salaries, but does to "recurrent costs" like maintenance and repairs, telephones, water and electricity, textbooks and stationery and hostel costs.

■ It offers exemptions from pay-

ment of fees to pupils whose parental combined income is less than three times the annual school fee, and partial exemptions in some cases.

■ It provides R100 a child a year for learning materials.

■ It excludes schools with special education needs.

Funding, exemptions and subsidies to independent schools are three major aspects of the policy highlighted at a press conference yesterday by Brian Gilbert, acting provincial education.

Schools will be ranked from most wealthy to the poorest divided into five groups of "roughly 20% of the school-going population".

# 1 for that last hurdle

*High in Gardens celebrate their last day of regular schooling before preparing for their matric examinations*

ARG 14/10/98 (52)



ANDREW INGRAM

High in Gardens celebrate their last day of regular schooling before preparing for their matric examinations

## education funding scheme will work ...

(50) ARG 14/10/98

... some people, who could pay fees, pleading poverty. There were fears the new policy to private schools could be to close. Fundamentals of the National and Standards for School are: There will be more money for disadvantaged schools and less for advantaged ones. The policy does not apply to per- costs like teachers' salaries, s to "recurrent costs" like nance and repairs, telephones, and electricity, textbooks and ry and hostel costs. Offers exemptions from pay-

ment of fees to pupils whose parents' combined income is less than 10 times the annual school fee, and partial exemptions in some cases. ■ It provides R100 a child a year for learning materials. ■ Excludes schools with special education needs. Funding, exemptions and subsidies to independent schools were three major aspects of the policy highlighted at a press conference yesterday by Brian Gilbert, acting head of provincial education. Schools will be ranked from the most wealthy to the poorest and divided into five groups of "roughly 20% of the school-going population".

This means that if the average pupil expenditure be R100, the poorest 20% will get R175 a pupil, the next group R125, the next R100, the next R75 and the wealthiest R25. Subsidies will be given to independent schools depending on whether they meet requirements for partial subsidies. The new policy also marks a change in the way hostels will be run. Mr Gilbert said hostels would become self-sufficient, with running costs divided by the number of pupils. Hostel fees would be determined by this method. One of the criteria for boarding was that the hostel should not be near

the pupil's home, he said, adding: "A hostel is not a luxury for parents who choose to send their child to one, but for those who need to." The state would offer a subsidy when parents could not afford hostel fees, according to certain criteria. Proof of income would be required. Mr Gilbert said the provision of new schools and classrooms would be dealt with separately, according to need and not in terms of poverty or wealth in the area. "In other words, you don't just build schools in poor areas. If you need a new school in the wealthiest community, you have to consider building it," he said.

# Matric cheats face penalties

(52) Semetari 15/10/98

**By Victor Mecoamere**  
Education Correspondent

MATRIC examination candidates who yield to the temptation of achieving success through dishonest means will be punished, the Gauteng department of education (GDE) said this week.

GDE examinations spokesman Mr Ismail Wadee said the results of pupils who cheat will be withheld; they will appear before a panel for a hearing and the release of their results will be delayed.

Other measures include the results being nullified, pupils being barred from writing any further examinations for up to five years or legal action being taken against them.

Unauthorised possession or access to examination material is a criminal offence under the GDE's new Examinations and Assessment Act regulations and a court of law may impose a fine or imprisonment of up to two years, Wadee said.

A total 131 000 full-time and part-time candidates are writing the examinations, with most candidates being English (88 030), Afrikaans (70 114),

biology (73 509), mathematics (62 906) and business economics (45 547).

Subjects being written this week are computer studies higher and standard grades, accounting higher and standard grades, farm mechanics (standard grade) and statute law (standard grade) tomorrow.

Seventeen language papers, compositions, letters and third languages will be written on Monday.

These are biblical studies, siSwati, isiNdebele, Xitsonga, Tshivenda, isiXhosa, Sepedi, Setswana, isiZulu and Latin.

The examinations, which began at 770 examination centres on October 9 and end on December 1, were being written under heavy security to ensure that there are no leaks.

About R25 million has been spent on the examinations with R21 million being spent on 12 000 markers who begin their work at three marking centres.

Marking starts on November 12 and ends on December 8.

The results are set to be released before January 7 next year.

# Trouble-free matric exams in most of the country

(52)  
BY TEFO MOTHIBELI

Education Reporter

8100 27/11/98

As most matric pupils sit for their last examination papers this week, the process has been a markedly trouble-free affair this year.

The only incidents of cheating this year have been reported from KwaZulu Natal, where five candidates used other people to write scripts on their behalf.

The provincial examinations media liaison officer, Mandla Msibi, said yesterday that, of the five "ghost writers", four were caught writing maths and Afrikaans papers last week, and another one while writing geography on Monday.

Msibi said the suspects were due to appear in the Durban Magistrate's Court next week.

"The pupils guilty of using ghost writers would possibly face a five-year ban from writing matric examinations," he said.

Gauteng spokesperson Ismail Wadee said the education department was scheduled to start with the third session of its four-part marking plan today.

He said the process had gone without any glitches since the marking started last week.

Some of the provinces began the marking process on Monday, while others are still waiting for pupils to finish writing their examinations.

# 'Military planning' stops exam leaks

ST 29/11/98

CORNIA PRETORIUS

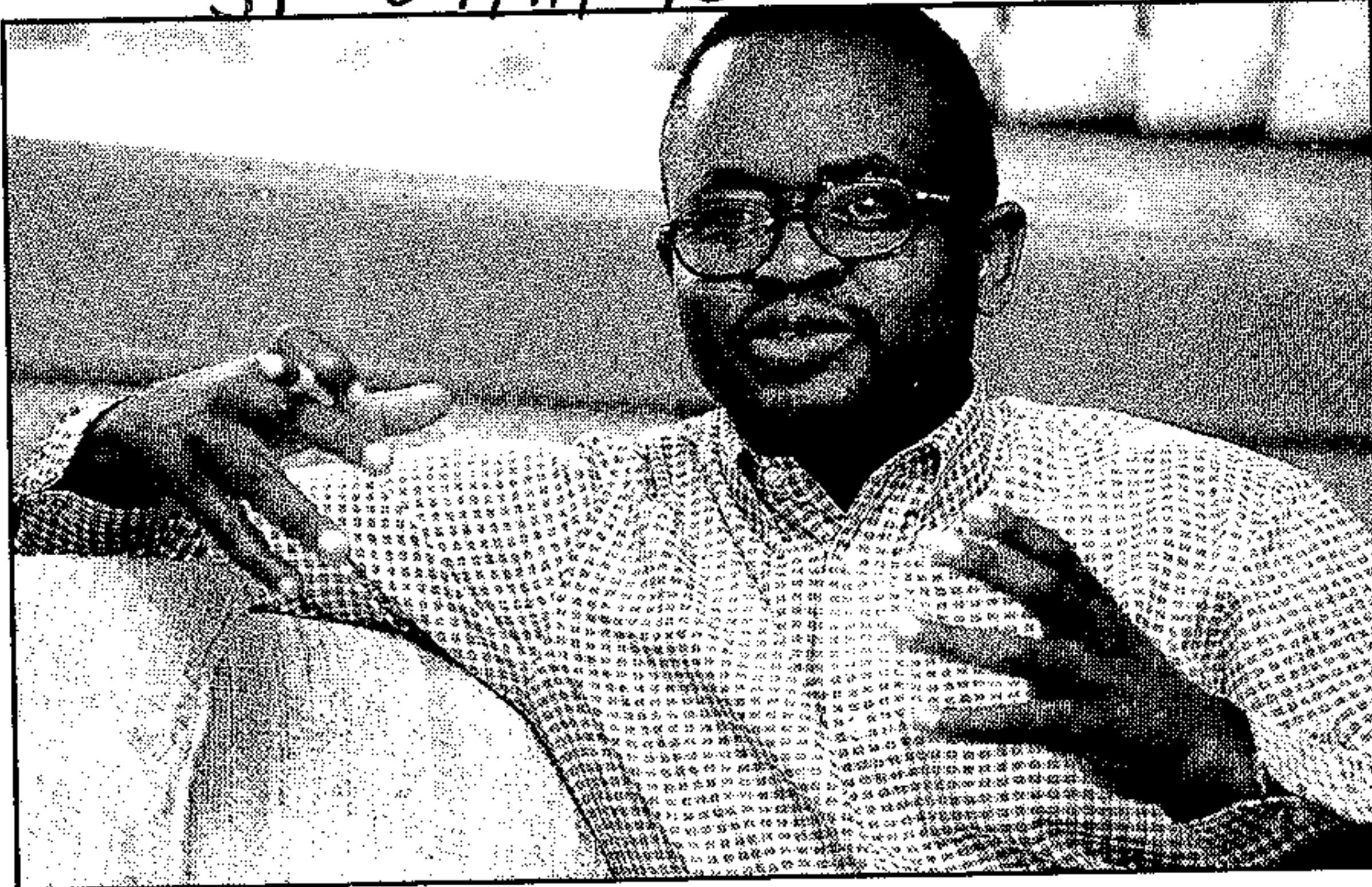
(52)

EDUCATION officials in all nine provinces are confident that no matric exam papers were leaked this year, breaking a cycle of cheating that has undermined the credibility of matric results over the past two years.

James Maseko, head of the education department in Gauteng — the worst-hit province in the past — said he was "100 percent" sure that no paper had been obtained by syndicates which in the past leaked papers for money.

He said the department had followed a "military style of planning". It spent R3,5-million on stricter security in and around buildings where papers were printed, packed and stored.

Examination officials worked closely with a police unit which scrutinised every detail of their matric plan from the start of the process. Police



**TOP CLASS:** James Maseko, head of Gauteng's education department, has been praised for the smooth running of exams **Picture: NICKY DE BLOIS**

maintained a strong presence in the department.

The department also used private sector security consultants to look at their plans and security companies to safeguard high-risk buildings.

Security was also improved by amending the Gauteng Examinations Act, stipulating a five-year sentence for offenders and the suspension of pupils caught using leaked papers.

Maseko earned praise from Tom Clarke, principal of Parktown Boys' High School in Johannesburg, who said: "The Gauteng department of education deserves a pat on the back for the way it has run the examination. It has been top class."

Exams officials interviewed in the other provincial departments said that in 1996 they had

underestimated the magnitude of the process.

The provinces highlighted what had made the difference between the chaos of 1996 and the success of this year:

- The Interprovincial Examinations Committee, established in 1996 by the department to co-ordinate and monitor the matric examination nationally, met at least once a month to improve the running of the exams;

- The committee sent out national monitoring teams to all provinces to look at their plans for the examination and recommended improvements

- before the exams began;
- Provinces appointed monitoring teams which went to schools unannounced;

- Major problems with computer systems were addressed through the committee's information technology subcommittee. Some provinces used consultants to upgrade systems;

- Tighter controls were introduced during the setting, printing, packaging, storing and distribution of papers;

- More money was spent on security in provinces where leaks had been a problem;

- Pupils, teachers and officials were informed about the tough consequences if they were involved in irregularities;

- Examination officials worked closely with police to prevent problems with safety and security.

Morgan Naidoo, exams chief in Kwazulu-Natal, said: "The committee has been playing a crucial role in improving the administration of the exams."

The chief of exams in the Northern Province, Lazarus Manyike, said a major difference this year was that the department had more staff and money to run the exams.

The Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Free State, Mpumalanga and North West said they had had no problems.

## Pfizer to spend R3m on schools

(52)CT(PR)3/12/98

VERA VON LIERES

Cape Town — Pfizer, the leading research-based global pharmaceuticals group, would spend about R3 million over the next three years on improving science programmes and teacher training at South African high schools, Henry McKinnell, the executive vice-president, said yesterday.

The pharmaceuticals company is part of a high-profile US trade mission that arrived in South Africa on Monday to promote investment between the US and Africa. The mission was led by US Commerce Secretary William Daley.

McKinnell told a news briefing the move was part of Pfizer's "Medical Scholars" initiative in South Africa. The initiative was a new social responsibility programme developed by the pharmaceutical group to increase the number of black medical professionals in South Africa.

Daley reiterated that US businesses were keen to do more business with the "new" Africa as opposed to the "old" Africa, which was characterised by coups and



**COMMITTED** Washington's Commerce Secretary William Daley, who led a three-day trade mission to South Africa to promote investment opportunities, says the US is committed to becoming a stronger partner in the African Renaissance

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

instability. "We are committed to seeing America becoming a stronger partner in the African Renaissance."

Daley was encouraged in meetings with southern African leaders on anti-bribery efforts, an area of

great concern to US business leaders. He also hoped a dispute between the US and South Africa around legislation affecting patent rights on medicines would be tackled.

During his three-day visit

to South Africa he met a number of high profile leaders, including Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Alec Erwin, the trade minister.

Daley will visit Kenya, the Ivory Coast and Nigeria over the next few days.

# Hopes high for matrics

(77)

Smooth exams may mean good results *cf 6/12/98*

By ZAKHELE SHIBA

**T**HERE IS HOPE that the smooth running of the matric examinations which were completed this week are a sign that the country will see an improvement of more than 50 percent.

City Press this week spoke to education "experts" who said they commend the outgoing education minister, Sibusiso Bengu, for making sure the exams were "trouble free".

"It will be a nice farewell present for Professor Bengu if the matric examinations improve by more than 50 percent," Mike Ellis of the Democratic Party said.

After the 1994 elections 58 percent of candidates passed matric, with 18 percent earning the matriculation exemption.

Since then the results dropped by five percent in 1995, increased by two percent in 1996, and then plummeted to 47 percent.

Problems experienced in some places during the exams were minimal:

□ In Northern Province a teacher was suspended after she showed her pupils the format of a maths paper, although not the question paper itself.

□ In KwaZulu-Natal, six "ghost writers" were arrested for writing the exams for other matric candidates. They face the penalty of being banned from writing any exams for five years in the country.

□ In North West, a school opened a history second paper instead of the first paper, which was soon replaced.

The DP's Mike Ellis said the organisation of the exams suggested that an increase to more than 20 percent in exemption was likely.

Edwin Pillay, deputy president of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu), said they had confidence in the security system, which "has improved", and the quality of work of the pupils.

"It was the first time in the country that we had a trouble-free exams and we want to commend the authorities for conducting this year's exams in a positive manner," said Pillay.

Education spokesperson, Bheki Khumalo, paid tribute to the Inter Provincial Examinations Committee (IPEC) "for laying a firm basis for the matric exams. This will go a long way towards improving the quality of the education system".

But National Party spokesperson, Juli Killian, was not impressed with the way the exams were conducted.

She said managing the process by avoiding leaks and question papers being sold to candidates did not mean the results would improve on last year's 47 percent.

She said if the results went up, "it will go up by one or two percent. If they go up higher, then the technikons and universities will require the applicants to write additional tests to be admitted".

Pieter van der Merwe of the SA Onderwysersunie said they would be happy, after the certificates had been issued, if there was any improvement on last year's results.

The Western Cape has been the only province since 1994 that has recorded pass rates of more than 70 percent, closely followed by the Northern Cape, which registered 64 percent last year.

The worst results recorded were from the Northern Province, which had a 32 percent pass last year, with only six percent gaining university entrance.

They were closely followed by the Free State, Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga - all of them failing to reach a 50-percent pass rate.

Head of the department in Gauteng, James Maseko, believes that their R25-million grand plan was not put to waste.

He told City Press he was happy with the way the exams were conducted.

He said: "We had a proper planning of three years."

"I also strongly believe that declaring it a criminal offence to steal or be found in a possession of an exam paper has proved a deterrent. We mean business."



HAPPY FAREWELL ... It will be a great farewell present for education minister Sibusiso Bengu if the matric pass rates are as high as expected.

## New system will boost matric marks

*(62) cf 6/12/98*  
**T**HE marks of matric students whose mother-tongue was an African language would be increased to compensate for having to write examinations in a second-language, SA Certification Board spokesperson Fred Calitz said on Friday.

The move follows a recommendation made by a committee appointed by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu in October, and subsequently accepted by the board which administers matric examinations.

Candidates who wrote an African language examination on a first language level, but did not take Afrikaans or English on the same level, would have their marks in the other subjects multiplied by 1,05.

This means students who scored 80 percent in an examination will have their mark adjusted to 84 percent.

However, some teachers did not welcome the move, saying they were concerned at the principle involved and that the compensation factor could be increased.

Calitz said the figure was fixed at 1,05 for 1998, but it was subject to annual review and could, therefore, be set higher or lower in future.

Other educationists held that the practical implications of the move were small.

To pass matric, students needed 720 marks and only students who scored 700 marks on their own merit would be pushed through by the new system, Calitz confirmed.

The new system of marking applied to the 1998 matric results, but a technical hitch was holding up implementation, Calitz said. - Sapa

### TENDER INVITATION

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- e) External auditing.

Tender documents are obtainable from Mr L. Kapelani, Acting Deputy Director: Procurement, Office No 43, Technical Services Building. Tenders close on 15 January 1999 at 12:00. For any enquiries, please contact Mr Kapelani at (0159) 82-4757 during office hours or at cell number 082 200-5576.



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#### ROADS NOTICE

ROAD BOARD INQUIRY (P37/3/3383 - SEC. 4 OF ORD. 4 OF 1968)

A meeting of the Road Board, Bloemfontein will be held on 26 January 1999 at 10:00 in the office of the Roads Superintendent, Bloemfontein to enquire into the closing of tertiary roads T82 and T83 and sections of tertiary roads T81 and T84 in the the Magisterial District of

#### ROADS NOTICE

ROAD BOARD INQUIRY (P37/3/3397 - SEC. 4 OF ORD. 4 OF 1968)

A meeting of the Road Board, Bloemfontein will be held on 28 January 1999 at 10:00 in the office of the Roads Superintendent, Bloemfontein to enquire into the deviation of a section of tertiary road T184 in the the Magisterial District of Bloemfontein. Copies of the notice

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ET 8/12/98 (52)

# Matric bonus mark 'will be a stigma, not a solution'

**KATHY MOLONEY**

DURBAN: Educationalists have criticised the decision to add 5% to the marks of black matrics who wrote in a second language, saying this will undermine the credibility of school-leavers' certificates.

From this year, the marks of pupils whose mother tongue is an African language will be multiplied by 1,05 to compensate for their writing in a second language.

This was not a solution to poor exam results arising from the lack of learning and teaching, educationalists said yesterday.

"There is a need to find a real solution and not just inflate the marks," the rector of the University of Zululand, Charles Dlamini, said.

Potential employers and higher education institutions would perceive these certificates as being inferior, Dlamini said.

"The reason for the poor results is that there is little culture of teaching and learning in black schools. This needs to be improved, especially the teaching of English, or pupils should be taught in their mother tongue."

The head of education at the University of Durban-Westville, Jonathan Jansen, said the measure did not deal with the problem of why black pupils were not doing well.

"Fiddling with the output" relieved the government of its responsibility of resolving problems, he said.

"It also stigmatises those black pupils who do well because it casts doubt on their ability to get there independently."

Jenni Karlsson, of the University of Natal's education policy unit, said that the poor results of past matrics meant that they were already racialised. Writing a common exam put at a disadvantage pupils whose schools had inadequate resources.

KwaZulu-Natal's MEC for Education, Vincent Zulu, said the adjustment of the mark was so minimal it should not affect the perception of the matric certificate.

Pupils had been disadvantaged since the introduction of a single exam system four years ago as most papers were in English.

It would not be a solution to introduce papers in mother tongues as some African languages did not have words for terms used in some subjects, such as science.



# Education dept dismisses matric exam markers

Primarashni Pillay (52)

THE Free State Education Department has identified and dismissed matric examination markers appointed "in an irregular manner", the province's education MEC, Diratsakgae Kganare, said yesterday.

Kganare said that in some marking centres it was discovered that unqualified staff, including primary school teachers, were marking scripts.

The criteria used to select markers

included teachers having "appropriate" teaching experience.

This also entailed having experience in teaching the particular subject at a matric level for three years.

Markers were also required to have at least a three-year post-school qualification and to have studied the subject they were marking up to at least a second or third-year level.

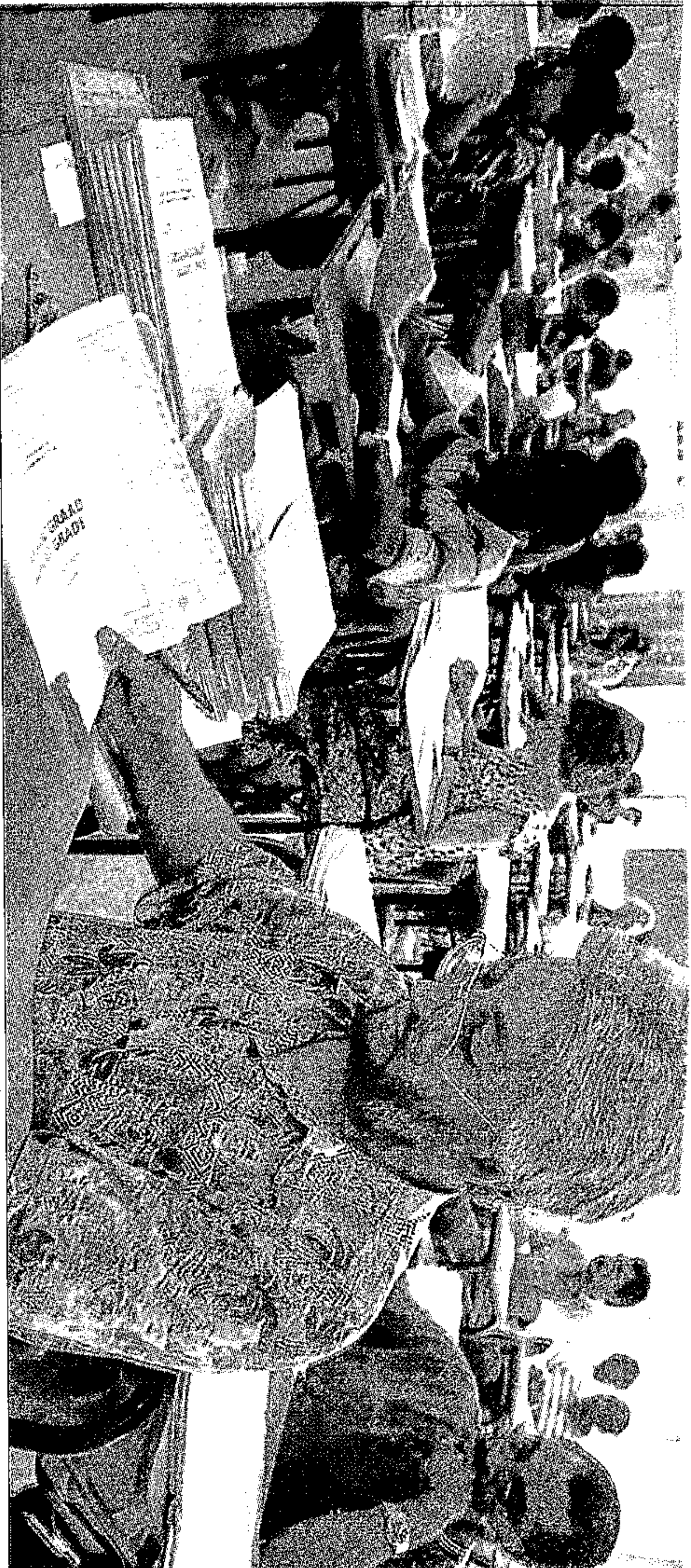
Besides meeting the qualification requirements, the prospective marker's application form had to be signed by his

principal, the principal education specialist in the examinations district and the district manager.

A selection panel comprising the chief examiner, internal moderator, examination officials, representatives of teacher unions and subject advisers then selected the markers, he said.

Kganare said that in one area the police had to be called in when people who had applied to be examination aides and were not appointed gathered in small crowds at the centres.

BD 11/12/98



TOP MARKS: hundreds of teachers get down to work marking matriculation examination papers

Picture: BRENTON GEACH

# Tight security for exam papers

## 2 000 help in mammoth marking operation

JACQUI REEVES

Leatrax-like security systems have been installed at the Peninsula Technikon to protect Western Cape's one million matric examination papers.

More than 2 000 people have been employed by the province's education department to assist in the mammoth operation to mark and re-check the papers. The process will be completed by next Wednesday.

Visitors are escorted in and out of the complex by security staff, who repeatedly check bags and parcels for scripts being smuggled in or out.

The marking facility is open 24 hours and all markers are expected to work a minimum of eight hours a day.

Brian Schreuder, the director of curriculum management, said most markers worked more hours than the prescribed minimum.

"We have some markers who arrive at 5am and only leave late in the evening. We encourage all the markers to take plenty of breaks so that they are not too tired while they are working."

The Western Cape is one of the few provinces that has centralised the marking process and it is paying to accommodate 500 teachers who

live outside the greater Cape Town area at university residences.

Sitting on plastic chairs in front of small school desks, teachers work through piles of exam scripts, battling to keep cool in the stuffy lecture halls.

The marked papers are checked by one of 280 mark controllers, after which the marks are entered on score sheets.

"After that the marks are processed at the provincial office and then moderated by the South African Certification Council," said the Western Cape's education minister Nick, Koornhof.

On his visit to the marking centre

yesterday, Mr Koornhof said he hoped matric failure rates would reach a plateau this year, signalling the start of a rise in pass rates.

"For the past three years we have seen our matric pass rate dropping by 2% each year. We are where we want to be now in terms of teacher-pupil ratios, job security for teachers and other labour issues. Now we just have to see if more stability in the system is going to help boost our pass rate," Mr Koornhof said.

The education department plans to release the 1998 matric results to principals and pupils on January 5 next year. Local newspapers will publish the results on January 6.

ART 12/12/98 (52)

# Provinces upbeat over matric results

(52) ST 13/12/98

CORNIA PRETORIUS

PROVINCIAL education departments are optimistic there will be an improvement in matric results this year.

Officials said they expected increases of between one and 18 percent in the provincial pass rates, to be announced between December 31 and January 7.

This would mark a turnaround in the national pass rate, which hit an all-time low of 47,1 percent last year when all provinces reported drops of between 3,7 percent and 16 percent.

But Dr Fred Calitz, executive officer of the South African Certification Council, said it was too early to predict an upswing in performance this year.

The council, which is responsible for the standardising of marks, will only start the process tomorrow.

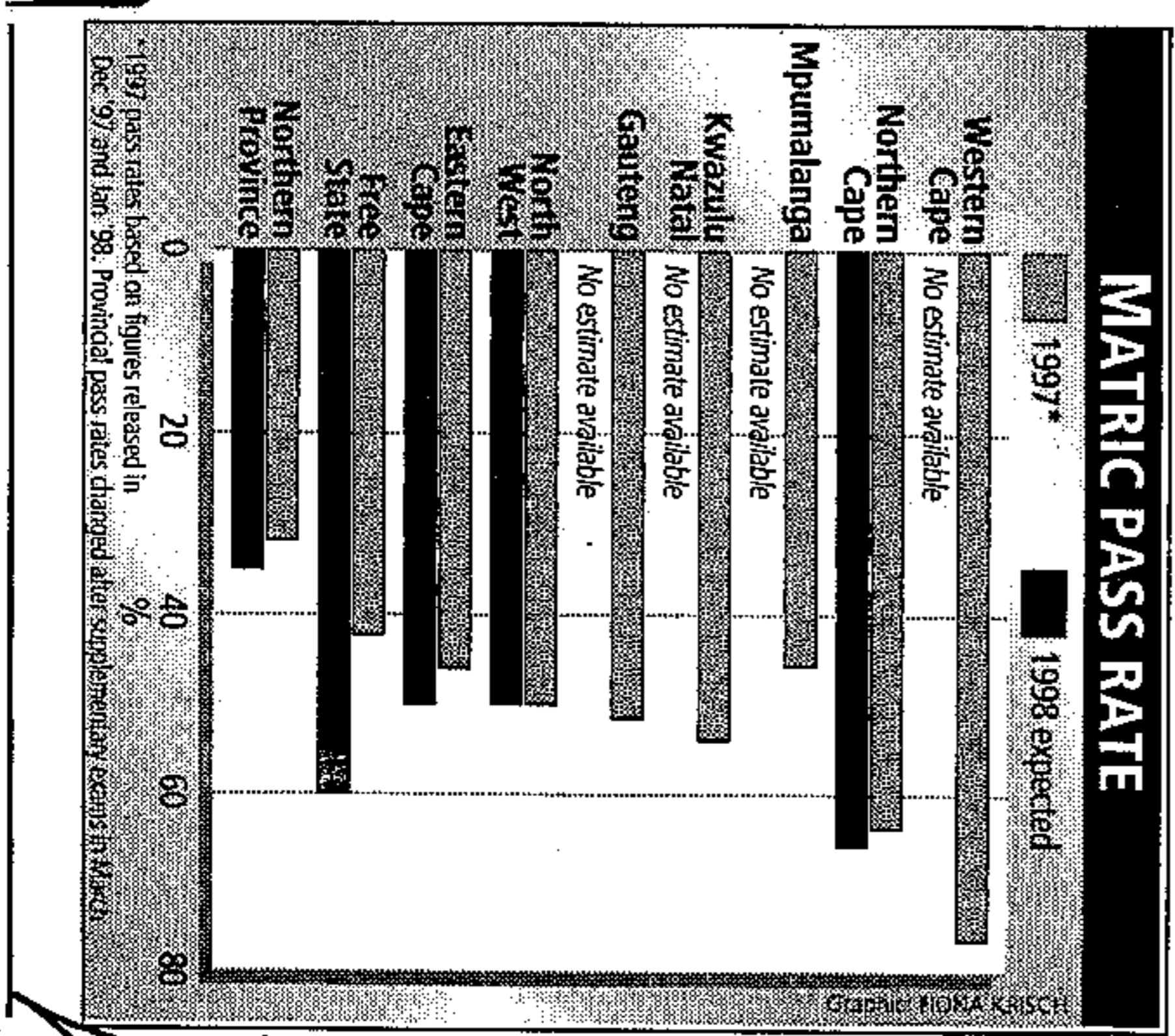
Officials base their optimism for better results on steps taken throughout 1998 to improve pass rates, including:

- The identification of schools that performed badly in last year's examinations and paying special attention to improving teaching in such schools;
- Trial examinations at provincial, district and school level to test pupils' levels of preparedness ahead of the final examinations;
- The training of matric teachers to know what was expected of them;
- More realism among pupils about the grades in which they should write their subjects;
- Special provision in the calculation of the marks of pupils who had to answer papers in non-language subjects in their second or third languages;
- Extra lessons for pupils during school holidays and on Saturdays in some provinces; and
- Improved stability and discipline in schools.

Northern Province was hoping this year's pass rate would be between 35 percent and 40 percent, said provincial education department spokesman Bernard Rapule Matsame. He said the 1997 results — at 31,8 percent the lowest in the country — had prompted an education indaba in March, where recommendations were made for improving this year's results.

The Western Cape education department did not want to predict its pass rate this year. Last year it was the highest in the country at 76,3 percent.

● See page 22



# Threat of a strike if retrenchments continue

By Mzwakhe Hlangani

THE National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) yesterday issued an ultimatum to employers in tertiary education institutions to put a moratorium on retrenchments or face a national strike early next year.

Addressing a press conference shortly after the end of its executive committee meeting, Nehawu president Vusi Nhlapo said a national solidarity strike would take place in March next year if employers in the sector continued "negotiating in bad faith".

Nehawu also called for the reinstatement of retrenched workers.

It said severe budgetary cuts in the tertiary education and public health sectors had had adverse effects on the quality of education and state health institutions, resulting in the deaths of patients, overcrowding and the closure of some hospitals.

Teachers had been retrenched as a result, joining more than 3 000 jobless employees laid off in this sector. The quality of education had been ruthlessly affected, Nhlapo said.

Nhlapo warned that Nehawu's 214 000 members would embark on a solidarity strike jointly with the South African Democratic Teachers' Union and other public service unions to protest against further retrenchments.

The union also called for the establishment of transformation committees to help in the fight against mismanagement and corruption in the public service, citing "immoral rectors" who earned more than R900 000 at the educational institutions affected by subsidy cuts.

The congress also proposed that the Congress of South African Trade Unions establish a forum for negotiators comprising all affiliate organisations to provide a strategic platform for sharing information and experiences among the unions.

Dowen 14/10/98



National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union president Vusi Nhlapo outlined the union's programme of action for 1999 after a union congress in Johannesburg this weekend. Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

## 'Banana not hiding at Mandela's Cape Town residence'

Dustin Chick

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela's office has dismissed outright reports that fugitive former Zimbabwean president Canaan Banana was hiding out at Mandela's official residence in Cape Town, Genadendal.

Banana was convicted in absentia last month on 11 sex charges including sodomy and assault. He was head of state from Zimbabwe's independence in 1980 to 1987.

Mandela's spokesman Parks Mankahlana said yesterday that reports which appeared in the Zimbabwe Independent on Saturday were "untrue".

He said the president's office "did not know" where Banana was, and said if Zimbabwe had applied for an extradition it was "a matter for the police".

Police spokesman Faizel Kader said SA police had heard nothing, except a previous request from Harare to "locate and trace" Banana if he was in SA.

Reports that Banana was hiding in Mandela's Cape Town home follow a "private and confidential" meeting between the two men earlier this month in Pretoria. Zimbabwe has issued a warrant for the 63-year-old's arrest after he skipped bail last month.

Police sources said any request for a warrant to search Mandela's home in Cape Town would be "very sensitive" and would more than likely originate either from the office of Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi or from that of national police commissioner George Fivaz. There had been no such request, sources said.

## et' Nehawu plans national solidarity strike next year

Pearl Sebolao and Themba Hlangani

THE National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) would embark on a national solidarity strike early next year to demand the reinstatement of more than 3 000 workers retrenched by SA tertiary education institutions this year, its president Vusi Nhlapo said at the weekend.

Meanwhile, the union has managed to reverse its bad financial situation which came under scrutiny at its national conference in Durban earlier this year.

During the conference, the union reported overexpenditure of more than R6m on its R33m budget.

It had also a bank overdraft of R2,5m.

Nhlapo said that through proper management and accounting systems implemented in the past eight months, the union reversed the situation and now had surplus funds.

It said after its central executive committee meeting that it had set aside, too, more than R300 000 to assist the African National Congress (ANC) in its election campaign. About a third of the funds would go directly into the ANC's coffers as part of the Congress of SA Trade Union's election levy.

The remainder would be used to deploy union officials and shop stewards throughout the country to mobilise support for the ANC.

Nhlapo said the national strike, would go ahead if employers at tertiary education institutions continued to negotiate in bad faith. More than 200 000 public servants were ex-

pected to take part in the action, probably in March next year.

Nehawu demanded a moratorium on retrenchments and the reinstatement of retrenched workers.

It called for the establishment of transformation committees, a skills audit that had been negotiated with the union, as well as the dismissal of corrupt managers in the tertiary education sector.

Nhlapo said more than 3 000 workers in the sector had been retrenched because of corruption and mismanagement in technikons and universities.

"Retrenchments were exacerbated" by the unsympathetic subsidy cuts by government on education and its pursuit of unattainable (macroeconomic) Gear targets," he said.

(52)

DD 17/12/98

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Pupils at St Stithians College in Randburg, Johannesburg, scan the board for their matric results. The School achieved a 100% pass rate in the Independent Examinations Board exams, the results of which came out yesterday.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

## Board reports increase in matric pass rate

(52) B.D 24/12/98

### Pearl Sebolao

AT LEAST 98% of the 4 566 full-time candidates who wrote the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) senior certificate exams passed, with 81% of the candidates qualifying for university entrance, the board said yesterday.

In addition, 661 of the exemption candidates achieved A aggregates, while 18 candidates achieved seven or more distinctions and 58 achieved six distinctions.

Lyn Scott, the board's formal examinations director, said there had been a "slight upward move" in the results compared with last year,

when 96% of the board's candidates passed.

Yeshiva College, a Jewish day school in Glenhazel, Johannesburg, achieved a 100% pass rate. Of the 60 candidates who sat the exam, 31 achieved distinctions in a range of subjects, including accountancy, physical science, computer science and mathematics, the school said.

St Stithians College in Randburg also obtained a 100% pass rate, with 41 candidate gaining A aggregates. Other schools which achieved good results included Sacred Heart College and Kingsmead College.

The board conducts examinations for various levels ranging from

matric to adult education and encompasses industry as well as non-governmental organisations.

One disturbing finding was that some universities awarded benefits to students regardless of what exam they had written. Many authorities had been alerted to the anomaly and were looking into the situation.

□ Sapa reports that IEB matric results would be published on the Internet from today at <http://www.24.com>, using the learner's full name and examination number. State schools' matric results will be on the Internet from December 31, at <http://www.education.gpg.gov.za>.

# Educators upbeat on matric results

Next hurdle for school-leavers is also tough: finding a job in a competitive market

(52)

SWAN 24/12/98

By SIMON ZWANE

**E**ducation officials and teachers' organisations are optimistic that this year's matric results will show an improvement over last year's disaster, when about 294 000 pupils (52,9%) failed.

Lack of major disruptions during the year, the smooth administration of the examinations by the Education Department and the calm atmosphere that prevailed throughout the exams have been identified as some of the issues that look like contributing to a positive outcome.

Government education spokesperson Bheki Khumalo said it was hoped that the estimated 600 000 Grade 12 pupils who wrote their exams in state

schools this year would achieve better results than previously.

Provincial education departments will start releasing results on Wednesday and should finish by January 7, when Education Minister Sibiso Bengu releases his assessment of performance.

Suzanne Rees, president of the National Union of Educators, is confident that the improvement will be significant in Gauteng.

She said the Education Department and schools were better organised this year and the exams were well run.

The National Professional Teachers' Association of South Africa is also upbeat, but does not believe that the improvement will be substantial. Spokesperson Andrew Pyper said the exams had gone

more smoothly than before and the approach had been calm, which indicated the department was better prepared.

Although also hoping for an improvement, the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) said the results would follow the normal trend, with former white schools achieving better results, followed by Indian and coloured schools.

Sadtu spokesperson Thulas Nxesi said a lack of proper facilities continued to be a major factor negatively affecting the improvement of results in township schools.

When the results start coming out, particular attention will be paid to those provinces that performed miserably last year, such as Northern Province, Free State, East

ern Cape and Gauteng.

Meanwhile, economists and employment consultants have advised matriculants to study further because prospects for employment are bleak.

The recession and introduction of new labour laws would result in a reluctance among employers to take on more people next year, one said.

Matriculants were also advised to acquire marketable skills in industries such as the financial sector, information technology and the service sector, which had been less affected by the economic climate.

Cynthia Khoza, from FSA-Contact, said matriculants should seek skills making it possible to be self-employed.

► IEB results

... Page 7

# Joy as IEB schools achieve 98% success

By **CECILIA RUSSELL**  
AND **CATHY POWERS**

(52)

There was jubilation among most independent school pupils countrywide yesterday when the Independent Examination Board announced that 98% of its matric pupils had passed.

IEB director Lyn Scott said 4 566 pupils from 99 schools who wrote the senior certificate examination had passed. Of the 4 602 candidates who took courses which would allow them to go to university, 81% qualified.

"All IEB examinations are designed to demand and encourage problem-solving, insight, integration, application and a love of learning. Given this rigour, we must congratulate the participating schools which include a significant number of schools considered disadvantaged," Scott said.

Pupils and teachers in Gauteng celebrated their achievements. "The girls were absolutely jubilant," said Mary Williamson, deputy head of St Andrews Preparatory School in Senderwood.

Of the 60 matric pupils, all passed and all received university entrance, said a proud Williamson. Twenty-seven per cent achieved an A aggregate. The school's top three pupils - Chloe Cotton, Kirstin Coetzee and Linda Vollmer - each gained seven distinctions.

At St Stithians College top student, Richard Kahle, got eight distinctions, followed by Adrian Sharpe with seven.

St Stithians rector David Wylde said Kahle was one of the 181 matric pupils who had achieved A aggregates.

Elliot Wolf, headmaster of King David School in Linksfield, was equally pleased. He said there was a 92% matric exemption among the 190 candidates, and all had passed.

"We are elated with the results because the exams were particularly hard this year," he said. "The children were thrilled because many didn't expect such good results."

St Mary's School in Waverley, Helpmekaar Privaatskool in Johannesburg and St Dunstons College in Benoni all achieved 100% pass rates.

Star

24/12/98



If your name is there, you have passed ... matriculants at Southgate Mall react after scanning the newspaper for their results.

# Gauteng's Class of '98 shows the way

By TEFO MOTHIBELI  
Education Reporter

**B**etter management by the education department, and greater commitment from pupils, were responsible for the improved pass rate in the Gauteng matric examinations this year, Education MEC Mary Metcalfe said yesterday. The pass rate is 55,6%, a 4,1% improvement on last year. Although the upward adjustment of the marks of pupils writing exams in a language other than their mother tongue was partly responsible for the

Star 31/12/98 (52)  
improvement in results, the higher pass rate still represented a major achievement, Metcalfe said yesterday.

"We ... are now confident that we have arrested the decline in matric results in Gauteng. We have turned an important corner," she said, adding that if the improving trend continued, Gauteng could expect to see majority pass rates in all its schools within a few years.

"These results are a cause of joy because they signal the beginning of what we believe will be a new era of improvement in

the quality of teaching and learning in our schools ... we have always believed that our learners are capable of more than they were able to achieve under apartheid education.

"As we all commit so much effort to systematically and rigorously defeating the legacy of apartheid education, we will increasingly see our children achieving their potential."

Metcalfe said the adjustment of marks for non-mother-tongue matriculants accounted for 1,9% of the overall improvement.

The results have drawn positive

reaction from education bodies, most of which had expected no more than a 1 to 2% improvement. However, some educators expressed concern that the improved pass rate would obscure the fact that almost half of the candidates had failed their exams.

Another slight concern was that the percentage of candidates who had obtained university entrance had dropped from 17 to 16,3%. However, Metcalfe explained that the number of candidates registering for

► ... To Page 3

P.T.O.

# Teachers welcome better pass rate, want to improve results

Star 31/12/98 (52)

Belief that momentum can be maintained if role-players are happy

By Tefo MOTHIBELI  
Education Reporter

Teachers' unions have welcomed the better matric pass rate in Gauteng, but said the Government had to do everything possible to maintain the momentum that has resulted in the 4,1% improvement.

The unions said one way of ensuring continuing improvement was to maintain the morale of teachers.

"We are very pleased with the improvement. This shows that the Gauteng department of education has managed the writing and marking process efficiently," said Dave Balt, deputy president of the National

Professional Teachers' Organisation of SA (Naptosa).

Balt said the improvement in the pass rate could be maintained if all role-players were happy with the way in which education was managed.

"We are going to approach the department about the implementation of redeployment and rationalisation processes. We want them to ensure that the implementation does not dampen the morale of the educators. If educators are happy, then we can expect good results from them," he added.

Dave Shutte, chairperson of the National Union of Educators, said: "We are encouraged that an important corner has

been turned. We have a reason to join MEC Metcalfe in celebrating this achievement."

Shutte echoed Naptosa's concern over the implementation of redeployment and rationalisation processes.

"We are concerned that it is going to put a lot of strain and stress on the educators. It is going to have a negative impact on their morale," he said.

The South African Democratic Teachers' Union also welcomed the improvement in the pass rate.

"We especially note those learners and educators who have achieved and improved under difficult conditions and with limited resources. We

recognise the all-round effort that was put into ensuring the success of this year's exams," the union's Jabu Ngwenya said, adding that the provincial department had to be commended for the smooth handling of the examinations.

"The absence of leakages is particularly laudable as it highlights the improvement and commitment in combating corruption in the department," he said.

Ngwenya said the improvement marked a "turnabout in the work of all education stakeholders and needs to be used as a launch pad for a new, relevant and qualitative education system".

# Gauteng matric pass rate up 4%

TEFO MOTHIBELI

ET 31/12/98

JOHANNESBURG: Better management by the education department and greater commitment from pupils were responsible for the improved pass rate in the Gauteng matric exams this year, Education MEC Mary Metcalfe said yesterday.

The pass rate in Gauteng this year was 55,6% — a 4,1% improvement on last year.

While the upward adjustment of marks for pupils writing exams in a language other than their mother tongue was partly responsible for the improvement in results, the higher pass rate still represented a major achievement, Metcalfe said.

"We have turned an important corner," she said. "These results are a cause of joy because they signal the beginning of what we believe will be a new era of improvement in the quality of teaching and learning in our schools. We have always believed our learners are capable of more than they were able to achieve under apartheid."

The results have drawn positive reaction from education bodies, most of whom expected no more than a 1-2% improvement. However, some educators expressed concern that the improved pass rate would obscure the fact that almost half the candidates failed their exams.

Another concern was that the number of candidates who obtained university entrance dropped from 17% to 16,3%. However, Metcalfe explained that the number of candidates registering for matric exemption status had increased, accounting for the drop in the percentage who obtained exemption.

She attributed the improved pass rate to better management of school timetables, improvements in attendance by pupils, the introduction of common examinations and management development programmes for principals.



David Phula Seooe (17) of Dobsonville Soweto, scooped five distinctions in his 1998 final matric examinations. He was modest about his achievements yesterday when he heard the good news.

PIC: PAT SEBOKO

# HOLA matrics!

*Saccolan 31/12/98*

## Saint P Molakeng

**G**AUTENG matrics achieved a 55,6 percent pass rate this year – an improvement of 4,1 percent over last year, Gauteng MEC for education Mrs Mary Metcalfe said when releasing the results yesterday.

There were 10 289 distinctions “which signifies the deepening of the quality of the results we achieved”, she added.

One student achieved a record 11 distinctions, while three obtained nine each. Of the top 50 candidates from 28 schools, 14 got eight distinctions, 19 received seven and nine received six distinctions.

Among the factors accounting for the improved results were an improvement in school attendance, sustained emphasis on the goal of a culture of learning and teaching and management development in schools.

However, the number of university exemptions decreased to 16,3 percent from last year’s 17 percent.

In a statement released yesterday, the department said “while there is a decrease in the percentage of students achieving matric exemptions ... the percentage of candidates who registered for matric exemption status has increased from 24,2 percent to approximately 25 percent”.

Two schools in the informal settlement of

Orange Farm, outside Vereeniging, returned noteworthy results.

Aha Thuto achieved a 96,5 percent pass rate, an improvement of 11 percent over last year, while Leshata achieved a 92,8 percent pass rate.

“More than 24 schools improved their results by more than 20 percent,” Metcalfe said.

“We wish to extend our congratulations to all the pupils who are today reaping the fruits of many years of hard work and sacrifice.”

“We also thank all our educators who have worked so hard to achieve this turnaround and trust that they will be encouraged to approach 1999 with renewed vigour and commitment.”

Metcalfe said that the department was con-

sidering what action to take to “deal with schools that continue to perform poorly”.

She added that private schools which achieved pass rates of less than 50 percent, would not be subsidised from 2000.

Supplementary examinations will be written between February 25 and March 25 next year.

Each school district will be compiling a database of institutions that will assist pupils who want to rewrite examinations during that period.

See pages  
**2, 4 and 5**

# Minister overjoyed as matric pass rate increases by more than 4%

(52)

PD

Primarashni Pillay

THE pass rate for matrics in Gauteng and the North West has increased by more than 4%, suggesting that conditions in schools are stabilising.

The trend in all provinces since 1995 has been downward.

Gauteng scored a 55,6% pass rate — 4,1% higher than last year. The North West's pass rate was 54,66%, more than 4,6% up on last year.

Gauteng education minister Mary Metcalfe said she was "overjoyed" at the results. "For the first time we have arrested

the declining pass rates," she said, referring to developments since 1994. She particularly commented 20 historically black schools which improved their pass rates by between 20% and 50%.

North West education minister Zacharia Tolo attributed the improved results to stability returning to schools, the appointment of permanent principals, and intervention by subject advisers.

"There is no doubt that we have reached a turning point and I believe we are moving in an upward curve," he said.

Metcalfe denied that the adjustment of the marks of learners with an African first

language in non-language subjects by 1,05% had boosted her department's pass rate artificially. Without the adjustment the pass rate would have been 1,9% lower, making for a real increase of 2,2%. "Our increase is real," Metcalfe said.

A culture of learning and teaching was being established in schools. While the top 50 pupils in the province still did not reflect the demographics of SA as a whole, "we will get there in a few years".

Of the 59,6% of matric candidates who tried for university exemptions, 27,3% were successful. Last year 24,2% of the 71,4% of candidates trying for exemptions

succeeded.

Metcalfe said better management of school timetables, improvements in school attendance, management development for principals and the introduction of common trial exams across the province had influenced the results.

About 13,4% of the 42 300 candidates who sat the North West matric exams achieved university entrance passes, up from 10,98% last year. About 17 460 or 41,2% of candidates passed without university exemption.

Metcalfe expressed concern over the 11 public schools and nine private

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schools with a pass rate below 10%. She warned that the 69 private schools which had achieved pass rates of less than 50% this year would have to improve drastically to qualify for government subsidies in 2000, in line with the new policy on norms and standards for school funding.

The National Professional Teachers' Organisation of SA welcomed the improvement, but said that there was "a long way to go". The SA Democratic Teachers' Union said it was encouraging to see disadvantaged schools performing well and that the results had set a platform for further improvements.

EDUCATION - SECONDARY

1999

# Class of '98 rewrites the matric scorecard

Of 3/1/99 (52)

*At last, a turnaround in the declining pass rate in Gauteng*

By MOIPONE KOMANE

**H**ARD WORK by pupils and an improvement in school attendance were responsible for the higher matric pass rate in Gauteng, Education MEC Mary Metcalfe said.

The class of '98 achieved a 55,6 percent pass rate, an improvement of 4,1 percent over the previous year. There was one downside to the results: while the percentage of candidates who registered for matric exemption status increased, from 24,2 percent to 25 percent, the percentage of pupils who actually

achieved matric exemption dropped.

There were 10 289 distinctions obtained, and Metcalfe said this signified a deepening of the quality of the results achieved.

One student achieved a record 11 distinctions while three obtained nine each.

Of the top 50 candidates from 28 schools, 14 got eight distinctions, 19 received seven and nine received six distinctions.

Two schools in the informal settlement of Orange Farm in the Vaal Triangle were among the top achievers.

Aha-Thuto obtained a 96,5 percent pass rate - an improvement of 11 percent over last year - while

Leshata achieved a 92,8 percent pass rate.

"We wish to extend our congratulations to all the pupils who are today reaping the fruits of many years of hard work and sacrifice," said Metcalfe.

She thanked all the educators who had worked hard to achieve the turnaround and said she hoped they would be encouraged to approach 1999 with renewed vigour and commitment.

Metcalfe said her department was considering how to deal with schools that continued to perform poorly.

She said private schools which achieved pass rates of less than 50 percent would not be subsidised

from next year (2000).

Supplementary exams will be written between February 25 and March 25 this year.

The closing date for re-checking or re-marking is January 29. Application forms will be available at district offices.

The SA Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) said it did not expect any further significant improvements, adding that white schools would still perform better than black schools because of the disparity in the distribution of resources.

The National Professional Teachers Organisation of South Africa (Naptosa) welcomed the results.

# Matrics improve their performance

By DAN DHLAMINI

EP 3/1/99

THE SLIGHT improvement in the matric results is proof that the North West Education Department has reached a turning point in its quest to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

This is the opinion of North West MEC for Education, Pitso Tolo, who announced the province's matric results this week. There was an improvement to a 54,63 percent pass rate, compared with 1997's 50,3 percent.

Tolo said that of the 42 389 full-time, first time writers, 23 158 had passed, 5 691 of them with university exemption. A total of 19 225 failed.

He said the repeaters, or second timers, also fared slightly better than last year, with a total pass of 1 551 out of the 2 709 who wrote.

Four of the North West's top ten candidates studied at the Potchefstroom Gymnasium.

They are Herculaas (Herrie) van Rooy with nine A symbols, Christo Venter with eight As, Martin Venter who achieved seven As and Annelien de Kock with six As.

Two of the top ten candidates from Zinianville are Shamima Salojee and Ala Mahgoub.

Michael Hetzel from the trouble-torn Vryburg High School got five As to qualify for a position among the province's top ten candidates.

Marietha du Plessis from Bergsig High School, Christelle Meyer of Hartebeepoort High School and Chris Pienaar of Wesvalia High School are also among the egg-heads.

Potchefstroom High School for Girls and Potchefstroom Secondary School - which for the past 20 and

19 years respectively produced a 100 percent pass rate - are among the nine North West schools which maintained their records of a 100 percent pass rate.

Tolo said his most difficult task had been the integration of education departments of the old order into a single democratic South African education system.

He said despite all the problems, things were shaping up well and the results assessed on 24 subjects were better than last year's and three subjects remained the same.

Tolo attributed the improvement to significant stability in the schools, the permanent appointment of 567 principals, intervention by subject advisors and strategies that were employed by his department. He said the students had made more realistic choices in registering for higher or standard grades, which had helped the results.

Tolo said the most important factors that influenced the poor results of the past were the shortage of textbooks and the concept of "time on task".

He said both issues would be addressed decisively by his department this year. The delivery of textbooks to 70 schools across the province had already been done. Tolo said his department had budgeted R60 million for text books and stationery.

However, he stated that his department would not replace text books every year because of students' carelessness. He said the life-span of a text book was about five years. He warned that the parents of the pupils who tore, lost, misused or abused the books would have to dip deep into their pockets to replace books.



# Pass rate must not overshadow the real challenges

CP 3/1/99

(52)

THE RECENT publication of matric results for Gauteng, North West and the Northern Cape has received much praise. The 1998 results have shown a consistent improvement over the failing record attained in 1997.

A number of factors are credited with the improvement:

- There have been no significant disruptions of the school programme in the year.
- The examination process overall was better managed.
- Teacher unions have begun to take the issue of teacher discipline in schools seriously, which in turn has impacted positively on the teaching and learning environment.

But even as the celebrations get into gear, there have already emerged several issues which need to be closely examined.

For instance, we need to unpack the results in order to see what qualitative, and not merely numerical, improvement has taken place among the African schools in particular.

In this regard, we reject the notion that the mere fact that some township students are now registered in the formerly Model C schools makes reference to "African schools" less relevant to the educational debate. The inescapable reality is that the overwhelming majority of African learners will continue to be educated in township and rural-village schools. Understanding the

dynamics in these schools is therefore essential to meaningfully grapple with the broad challenges of education.

This in turn raises the issue of resources and infrastructural capacity in schools, and specifically the disparity in endowment between black and white schools.

In light of this, we find the statement attributed to the New National Party (NNP) rather disturbing — that matric results can be improved solely on the basis of motivation, discipline and hard work. Educational performance is dependent on management, pedagogical, infrastructural and economic resources, and also on socio-cultural accommodation and validation.

## Don't pull out the champagne just yet to toast the improved matric results, writes Dr Mashupye Ratale Kgaphola of the Foundation for Research Development.

Our desire to see a significant improvement in matric results may remain unfulfilled unless we understand some of the nuances pertaining to the current order.

Our school system has seen much change at the level of administration, and very little by way of ideological and cultural underpinning. We cite as an il-

lustration a matric biology question that was based on the game of cricket. Anyone who lived in South Africa for a week will surely know that cricket is still a minority white sport.

There seems to be an implicit inference that the challenge for our education is to make black learners reach up to the level of their white counterparts. This inference characteristically presumes that black students need to be oriented in the ways of the white folks.

In fact, while so much is being said about the numbers of black students "flocking" to the suburban schools, we have still to see a resurgence of these same students coming out with multiple distinctions. To illustrate: does the absence of black students in the "top 50" category suggest that these students, even those at the best schools in the country, are of lesser aptitude than their white counterparts? We submit that the answer lies in the cultural bias of our education system, which is itself buttressed by a contentious

language policy.

A significant flaw in our preoccupation with matric is that we seem to ignore what happens in our schools in the years prior to matric. Do we care enough about the principal and the teacher who habitually go to school late? And the students who refuse to submit to any form of discipline?

The year 1999 will see the re-employment of teachers as per government strategy, and provincial departments would be well advised to be circumspect in undertaking this sensitive task. Otherwise all the gains of 1998 could be wiped off in a flash.

Once more, the matric results have demonstrated the difficult and seemingly hopeless situation faced yearly by thousands of matric pupils. More than 600 000 pupils sat for their matric examination with the hope of furthering their education. Only about 100 000 received exemption, the majority of which come from privileged communities and a fraction from the black community.

Those who succeeded still face the problem of lack of resources to continue their education. As a result, many of these will fall by the wayside or go job-hunting.

A true government of the people should invest in its people, particularly the youth, especially in education and development.

See also Page 5

# Better pass rate hailed

*Sowetan  
4/1/99  
52*

By Dan Fuphe

**S**EVERAL political parties and organisations with interests in education at the weekend lauded the 1998 Gauteng matric examination pass rate of 55,6 percent as an improvement on the 1997 results.

The Independent Teachers Union Of South Africa (Itusa) has expressed its appreciation of what it termed "the slight improvement of the 1998 matric results" as compared to those of the previous year.

Itusa president Mr TE Rabotapi, however, said the results were not a true reflection of children's potential.

He cites the following as factors that were still stifling good progress:

- Inadequate provision of staff and other resources at institutions;
- Lack of discipline and low morale of pupils and educators;
- Inadequate support of some parent structures; and
- Disruptions to and interference in school management systems.

## Reversed spiral of failure

New National Party (NNP) Gauteng spokeswoman on education Mrs Juli Killian said the party welcomed the improved pass rate. She said that although this represented an improvement of only 2,2 percent on last year's pass rate, it was the first year since 1994 that the downward spiral of results had been reversed and it could signal a turning point.

Killian added that education MEC Mrs Mary Metcalfe and the education department deserved credit for the improvement in the management of the examinations.

Inkatha Freedom Party Youth Brigade provincial secretary Mr Carter Ndlovu said: "The IFP Youth Brigade, Gauteng, congratulates all 1998 matriculants for the outstanding achievement."

The United Democratic Movement said the party congratulated the successful matric candidates from Gauteng and North West.



A delighted David Seooe (middle) is congratulated by his thrilled family after hearing the news that he achieved five distinctions in matric. PIC: PAT SEBOKO

# Black matrics <sup>(52)</sup> prove their worth <sup>Sowetan 4/1/99</sup>

By Charly Bhengu

**S**EVEN black matriculants passed with three and more distinctions this year, indicating an improvement in the culture of teaching and learning among the historically disadvantaged communities.

One pupil, David Seooe, got five distinctions and six others got three distinctions each. They are Shonese Khan, Phillip Phatudi, Phindile Simelane, Oupa Khoza, Mmatshigo Mathe and Sonnyboy Mhlongo.

"We have so much to celebrate," said Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe, who was thrilled by the results.

Gauteng's overall pass rate for 1998 is 55.6 percent. It improved by 4.1 percent over the 1997 results.

"We extend our congratulations to all pupils and teachers of the matric class of 1988 who are today reaping the fruits of many years of hard work and sacrifice," said Metcalfe.

She was confident that over time, more students would achieve better results "with the appropriate effort under positive conditions for teaching and learning".

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the 1998 results, however, lies among the province's 50 top candidates.

## Achieved distinctions

Of these pupils, 14 achieved distinctions. 19 received seven and nine got six - a whopping 341 distinctions.

The pupils were drawn from 28 schools with several having more than one pupil in the top 50.

Greenside High and Pretoria Boys High both had six students in the top 50, while Crawford College had five and Northcliff High four top achievers.

Metcalfe said there were 10 289 distinctions, a major improvement in results.

The top five pupils were led by Glenda Ruth of Greenside High who achieved an aggregate of 2 238.

She was followed by Reinhardt Messerschmidt who obtained 2 230 marks, Izak Snyman with 2 217, Karien Ferreira with 2 201 and Elizabeth Smit who got 2 184 marks.

The overall 4.1 percent improvement pass rate in the province, includes an higher aggregate among several black schools.

More than 24 schools in Gauteng improved their results by more than 20

**'We have always believed that our pupils are capable of more than they were able to achieve under apartheid education'**

percent over their 1997 results.

Two schools - Leshata in Orange Farm and Mafori Mphahlele in Soweto - improved by more than 50 percent.

Aha Thuto in Orange Farm which improved by 11 percent to achieve 89.5 percent in 1997, last year further improved by six percent to 96.5.

Raphela High in Orange Farm which achieved 71.8 percent in 1997, increased by 6.9 percent to 77.9.

Seanamerana High in Soweto improved the 1997 result of 52 percent by 13.8 percent to achieve 65.83 percent.

"These improvements are resulting in more and more schools from township areas moving into the top bracket of school performers in the province," said Metcalfe.

A significant improvement was among two farm schools - Matla Combined High and Kwena Molapo High - whose pupils were predominantly the children of farmworkers.

They improved their pass rate by between 30 and 50 percent.

The department also paid tribute to Reasoma High in Soweto which obtained 88.94 percent for having performed "so consistently over the past five years and has inspired so many other schools and given the support and commitment of all."

"Surely the successes of these schools can be repeated countless times across the province," said Metcalfe.

"This is a signal of the beginning of what we believe will be a new era of improvement in the quality of teaching and learning," she said.

"We have always believed that our pupils are capable of more than they were able to achieve under apartheid education."

However the department is concerned about the 44.4 percent fail rate.

Said Metcalfe: "The majority of pupils who performed poorly this year come from black communities that have suffered under apartheid and their

schools are still suffering under that legacy."

The schools who performed badly were characterised by poor relationships between people at the school.

"The institution can only flourish when there is a cooperative working relationship between people," said the MEC.

"And we can guarantee you that when we take you to each of those schools we can find situations where teachers are adversaries with their colleagues, principal and pupils.

"That impacts badly on the functioning of the school."

She said it was typically the badly managed schools that had the high failure rates and in many cases principals did not take care of simple details, like a timetable that functioned properly.

"The consequences of that are that pupils cannot predict what will be happening at that school that day and they become uncommitted to being there.

"There will be high levels of absenteeism among teachers and pupils and what will happen gradually is that the school becomes dysfunctional," she said.

The solution to these problems "are complex because much of the difficulties between people at schools have to be resolved among the key stakeholders themselves," said Metcalfe.

## Drastic plans

The department plans to take drastic action to improve the performance of schools that have had poor results for the last couple of years.

The head of the Gauteng education department, James Maseko, said the districts would work with the schools to identify their major weaknesses.

The district directors "will work out a rigorous implementation plan" to improve the functioning of the schools and the quality of learning and teaching," Maseko said.

"The time frame for this plan to be submitted to head office is not later than the end of February."

He said a clear programme to improve the schools' management systems will have to be developed.

Such a programme aims to support teachers and governing bodies as well as to promote effective discipline and order at the schools.

"Our goal is to turn the schools around. And hope is not lost for any of the schools in the province. The situation can be improved," said Maseko.

# Big jump in Mpumalanga pass rate

By Tefo Motshelli  
Education Reporter

Mpumalanga joined Gauteng and North West provinces yesterday with an improved matric pass rate for 1998 - up 20 percentage points on 1997.

The province registered a 68% pass rate, far better than the 47,6% achieved by candidates in 1997. Of the 42 069 candidates who sat for the examinations, 30 664 made it.

Nearly 7,081 pupils obtained matric exemptions, translating into 18% and an improvement on 1997's 9,3%. Candidates achieved 2 144 distinctions. Education MEC David

Mabuza attributed the good results to the hard work by the members of his department and other parties involved in the education system: "The timeous supply of learning materials, stationery and prescribed textbooks, despite minor hassles, also contributed to the continuous improvement."

Kathleen Jooste of Secunda High emerged the best student in the province after scoring nine distinctions. Thembela Taala leads the pack from the province with six distinctions. Examinations spokesperson Pat Zwane said: "We are happy with the pass rate and we be-

lieved there was going to be a significant improvement."

Premier Mathews Phosa said the province would develop a plan to bring matriculants into the business sector.

Gauteng registered a 55,6% pass, a 4,1 percentage point improvement, while North West recorded 54,63%, a 4,63 percentage point increase.

Pupils in the Northern Province will know their fate tomorrow, while those in the Western Cape will know today. KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Free State education authorities are scheduled to release their results on Thursday.

# Panels to rule on suspected matric irregularities

By Tefo Motshelli

More than 500 matric pupils, whose results are being withheld because of suspected irregularities, will be investigated by Gauteng Department of Education inquiry panels.

Ismail Wade, the department's liaison officer for examinations and certification, said yesterday he expected the process to begin in two weeks' time.

Wadee said fewer cases were being investigated for 1998, compared to the previous year. The results were being blocked on suspicion of either serious or technical irregularities.

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"Serious irregularity means that some pupils were caught cheating, while technical means a candidate wrote a higher grade paper instead of a standard one or vice versa," he said.

Serious irregularities, reported from different schools around the province, were brought to the authorities' attention by investigators at examination and marking centres.

Pupils suspected of having committed technical irregularities would be expected to present their cases before a panel. The panel will then determine whether there are extenuating circumstances

and make recommendations to the director of examinations for a decision, who will decide whether to cancel or release the results.

Candidates suspected of serious irregularities would also have to face a panel at the department's head office.

Wadee said in such cases the director can "declare the result null and void partially or in totality".

In cases where the verdict is null and void, pupils would be expected to sit another examination at the end of the year. If it is partially null and void, then the candidate would lose marks.



Walking tall: the top 20 matrics in the Western Cape join Education Minister Nick Koorhof for a victory stroll around the gardens of Leeuwenhof. Top student Wouter de Vos de Wet is on Mr Koorhof's right. JAMES THART

## Happy Dieter first among thousands

JACQUI REEVES  
STAFF REPORTER

The Western Cape's top student, Wouter de Vos de Wet who prefers to be known by his nickname "Dieter", said he had been happy for a good placing and was "very happy" with his performance.

Dieter looked calm and at ease, pausing occasionally to push a handful of long blond hair from his face. "I was on holiday near Mossel Bay but as soon as we were called we got in the car and came here. I certainly did not mind coming for this," he said.

Dieter will study for a Bachelor of Science degree with engineering subjects at Stellenbosch University this year.

### Top 20 pupils in the Western Cape:

1. Wouter de Vos de Wet, Robertson High School
2. Evan Borkum, Herzlia High School
3. Arne von Delft, Paul Roos Gymnasium
4. Gretta van Niekerk, Stellenberg High School
5. Reiner Christian Hof, Grootte Schuur High School
6. Herdti Coetzee Fourie, De Kullen High School

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The Cape Argus will publish the full list of matric results for the Western Cape tomorrow.

# W Cape top of the class

## Rising matric pass rate outshines rest of country

CAROL CAMPBELL AND JACQUI REEVES  
STAFF REPORTERS

Western Cape matrics are top of the class again.

The pass rate for pupils writing their final exams last year is 79,2% - up 2,9 points from 1997.

It is the highest pass rate in the seven provinces that have released results so far.

The other two - KwaZulu Natal and the Free State, where results will be published tomorrow - achieved 54% and 42% pass rates respectively in 1997 and are therefore unlikely to beat the Western Cape this time.

The top student in the province is Wouter de Vos de Wet of Robertson High School, followed by Herzlia student Evan Borkum and Arne von Delft of Paul Roos Gymnasium in Stellenbosch.

Of the full-time candidates who wrote the senior certificate exam, 9 024 passed with exemption and the number of candidates obtaining "A" subject symbols increased in every category.

Two pupils obtained eight "A" subject symbols and 11 secured seven "A" symbols. At least 67% of schools achieved an 80% pass rate and 51% achieved a 90% pass rate. The increase in the pass rate has thrilled

and surprised educationists, who speculated that an exodus of 1 800 teachers in the middle of last year could have had devastating effects on matric students.

The teachers left as part of a programme to cut staff and make budget savings. The 1997 pass rate of 76,3% was down on the 80,4% achieved in 1996 and many in education had believed it would be the beginning of a trend which would eventually

settle around the national average of about 50%.

Yet this year pupils across the country have shown their willingness to work and the pass rate in every province has climbed. Provincial Education Minister Nick Koorhof commended teachers and parents for supporting schools through a

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## Matric pupils in the Western Cape leave the other provinces trailing behind

By **TEFO MOTHIBELI**  
Education Reporter

Western Cape matric pupils are poised to do it again

After registering an impressive 79,2% pass rate for 1998, up 2,9 percentage points from the previous year, it would take a miracle to have another province beat this mark.

It is the highest pass rate in the four provinces that have released their results, followed

by Mpumalanga with 68%, Gauteng with 55,6%, North West with 54,63% and Northern Province's dismal 35,1%. The 35,1% pass rate for the Northern Province is a 3,3% improvement on the previous year and Education MEC Joe Phaahla insisted that any improvement was a victory for such an under-resourced and rural region.

Of the full-time candidates who sat the senior certificate

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in the Western Cape, 9 024 passed with exemption and the number of candidates obtaining "A" symbols increased.

At least 67% of schools achieved an 80% pass rate, while 51% achieved a 90% pass rate. Most of the 38 363 candidates wrote in their mother tongue.

This meant their marks were not moderated upwards, as was the case elsewhere in the country.

Congratulating the candidates, the Western Cape's Education MEC, Nics Koornhof, said that their hard work had provided them with a solid footing to take on the challenges of a competitive world.

■ Gauteng pupils can still see their results on the Net at [www.education.gpg.gov.za](http://www.education.gpg.gov.za). Pupils from the Northern Province, KwaZulu Natal and Free State can access their results at: [www.matric.co.za](http://www.matric.co.za).

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# Racially skewed exam results raise concerns

DD 6/1/99

(52)

There is scepticism over the slight improvement in results because of mark adjustments, writes **Primarashni Pillay and Linda Ensor.**

THE Western Cape, Northern Cape and Northern Province yesterday announced increases in their matric pass rates ranging from 1,6 to 3,3 percentage points, in line with the improvements posted so far in three other provinces.

But apart from Mpumalanga's 20,4 percentage point increase, which has raised concern about the accuracy of the results, no province has managed to increase its pass rate by more than five percentage points over 1997.

Now there is scepticism about the validity of the improvement in the pass rates, following the national adjustment of the marks of African first-language pupils in non-language subjects.

Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe said that without the adjustment of marks of pupils with an African first language, the province's pass rate would have been almost two percentage points lower.

An examination official in the Northern Cape education department said yesterday that the majority of the population was coloured and that black pupils made up about 30% of pupil numbers.

"Not all candidates had their marks adjusted. However, because of the adjustment, the real increase

in the pass rate would be about one percentage point," the official said.

However, John Pampallis, director of the Centre for Education Policy Development, Evaluation and Management, said that the percentage point increases in the three provinces made sense and sounded reasonable. If the Northern Province had jumped to 50%, then the results would have been questionable.

Pampallis said the adjustments would not make a big difference and that it was not an unfair practice. It would, however, probably contribute to border line cases receiving distinctions.

White pupils have dominated the provinces' lists of top achievers, but nowhere more so than the Western Cape where the continued existence of deep racial inequality in its education system was demonstrated by the fact that its list of top 20 students was all white.

The number of black matric candidates also remained virtually static at about 9 000, education MEC Nic Koornhof said at an award ceremony yesterday.

Koornhof believed the province's pass rate could be the highest in the country, but conceded the province still had to work towards achieving a "more colourful" merit list. There

had, however, been a huge improvement in education at black schools.

More than one previously disadvantaged school achieved a better than 80% pass rate for the first time while more than 20 had improved their pass rate by more than 20%. Oscar Mpethla High School achieved an 87% pass rate.

Questioned on the racially skewed nature of the results, the head of the Western Cape education department, Brian O'Connell, said schooling excellence was the product of a rich culture of learning and a strong individual commitment to succeed.

The big challenge for SA over the next 10 to 20 years was to spread this culture into all communities and overcome the legacy of apartheid. Policies were in place to ensure this improvement took place.

Robertson Hoërskool pupil Wouter de Vos de Wet came first with eight distinctions and Herzlia High School's Evan Borkum second with seven. The top 20 students came from a broad spread of urban, periurban and rural town schools.

Ten candidates were disqualified due to irregularities while the results of 31 others were withheld pending further investigation into possible irregularities.

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# Provinces unveil better matric results

Primarashni Pillay, (52)  
Linda Ensor and ECN BO 6/1/99

THREE provinces yesterday announced improvements in their matric exam results of between 1,6 and 3,3 percentage points, bringing to six the number to have bettered their 1997 figures so far.

The Northern Province, Western Cape and Northern Cape all said they had improved on their 1997 results, joining Gauteng, Mpumalanga and North West, which released results last week.

Northern Province was, for the second year running, the only province to achieve a pass rate lower than 40%. A spokesman said 35,15% of pupils passed — an improvement on 1997's 31,85%.

The Northern Cape achieved a 65,4% pass rate, up from 1997's 63,8%, while 79,2% of Western Cape pupils passed compared with 76,3% in 1997.

Of the 114 153 Northern Province pupils who wrote the exams, 7 755 (6,8%)

achieved university entrance while 1 819 obtained distinctions (1997: 1 045). However, 75 schools recorded a pass rate of less than 10%. Education MEC Mathume Phaahla said serious attention would be given to these schools.

Western Cape education MEC Nic Koornhof said that of the 38 363 pupils who wrote the exams, 9 024 (23,5%) earned university entrances. The number of candidates to achieve A symbols increased in every category. Two pupils obtained eight distinctions each and 11 achieved seven.

He said 67% of schools had at least an 80% pass rate and 51% of schools achieved at least a 90% pass rate.

Of the 7 428 candidates in the Northern Cape, 806 earned university entrance passes, while 2 571 failed.

Meanwhile, a political row is brewing over the Eastern Cape's results, which are expected to be released today. Preliminary results released to some schools

show a dismal performance at most of the province's historically black schools.

Early figures showed that at least 14 former black high schools produced no successful candidates, while dozens had pass rates as low as 8%.

Billy Nel, the New National Party's chief whip in the provincial legislature, lashed out at teachers at these schools, saying they should be fired immediately.

Education officials and teacher unions blamed a lack of resources, poor study skills and inadequate preparation by teachers and pupils.

Democratic Party provincial leader Eddie Trent said the explanation could be found in "the serious lack of political, administrative and education leadership". The fact that the education department had three different MECs and four permanent secretaries over the past four-and-a-half years had helped disrupt the system.

'Racially skewed' results: Page 2



# Mpumalanga to face critics over 'doctored' matric results

BY TESO MOTHIBELI AND SARA

The Mpumalanga Department of Education is expected to respond to allegations today that their 68% matric pass rate for the class of 1998 was doctored.

The furor started after New National Party education spokesperson Tertius King charged that the 21 percentage point improvement on the previous year's matric results, was the result of politically motivated manipulation.

"Education standards should under no circumstances be manipulated to serve the political interests of one party."

"The future of our youth and our country is far too precious to allow this to happen," she said.

Mpumalanga's examination spokesperson Pat Zwane was adamant yesterday that the figure was correct. "We still stand by the figures presented," he said.

"We maintain that there is nothing wrong with them." Zwane said it was quite disturbing that some people believed achieving an upswing of this magnitude was impossible.

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu is also expected to articulate the Government's position on the matter today, when he presents his overall assessment of the matric examinations.



GERRIT BESTER/PHOTO

## High achievers ... Ranti Mothapo (17) and Mokgome-Kgatudi Mogoba (16), of Northern Province. Glittering maths results for rural students who swotted by candlelight

BY BUNTY WEST

In rural Northern Province, at a school where students regularly study by candlelight, two matriculants have produced perfect and near-perfect marks for maths and science.

St Mark's Comprehensive College, a private Anglican school 100km south of Pietersburg boasts star pupils with nine distinctions between them. Mokgome-Kgatudi Mogoba (16) and Ranti Mothapo (17), both boarders at the school, scored near perfect results in both subjects.

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"Lights and phones don't always work and last year the boarders - 75% of the 370 children - often studied by candlelight," said headmaster Ken Krige.

Mokgome Kgatudi, a nephew of Pan Africanist Congress president Stanley Mogoba, scored four distinctions in his matric exams, including a 100% pass in physical science, maths (393 out of 400), accounting (398 out of 400), and English. He will study B Comm accounting at the University of Natal, where his older sister Kobetso (21) recently completed

her studies. Mokgome-Kgatudi, who received awards for being the top science and fourth highest student overall in the province, hopes to be a chartered accountant.

Ranti, whose mother is a lecturer in African languages at Unisa, achieved five distinctions, for maths (100%), accounting (396 out of 400), physical science (386 out of 400), biology and sePedi. With a bursary from Sarlam, he hopes to study for a Bachelor of Economic Science degree at Wits and wants to be an actuary.

## Only half of KwaZulu Natal matriculants make the grade

BY TESO MOTHIBELI  
Education Reporter

KwaZulu Natal became the first province yesterday to record a decline in the matric pass rate, when it announced that only 50,3% of its 1998 matriculants had passed.

This represents a 3,3% drop from the previous year. In spite of the bad news, at least 59 schools obtained 100% pass rates. Candidates achieved an improved 10 333 distinctions and a decreased 17 998 university entrances.

Education MEC Vincent Zulu said that the poor performance by candidates in the mathematics and geography papers had been primarily responsible for the decline in the pass rate.

"The degree of difficulty of these question papers has been called into question. There is general agreement that these papers were more difficult than in previous years," he said.

Zulu blamed the poor results on disruptions in education in the first six months of the year, the lack of a culture of learning at many institutions and budgetary constraints.

Zulu said KwaZulu Natal had been allocated the lowest funding per learner in the country, R2 406 each, as opposed to the national norm of R3 005. The ANC demanded the appointment of a commission of inquiry to investigate the disappointing results.

Provincial ANC education spokesman Cyril Xaba said the high failure rate in the matric

makes, geography and science fields was cause for concern: "This is a tragedy for our youth and their career aspirations, their families and the country."

Xaba said Zulu lacked vision, leadership and the political will to redress imbalances and inequities in education and deliver sound educational programmes.

The IFP slammed education unions for disrupting schooling during the 1998 school year.

The organisation's spokesperson Blessed Gwala said unions often misled and coerced teachers into increasing their demands and rallying against the education system.

"Children, being what they are, naturally take their lead from adults and from authority. And so it is not surprising that some schools literally ceased to function," Gwala said.

"Disorder and anarchy have a habit of spreading quickly when fuelled by those trained to cause discord." Meanwhile, the Free State recorded an overall 43,4% pass rate, a 1,1 percentage point improvement on the previous year.

Provincial Education MEC David Kganare said: "I believe that the slight improvement in the pass rate is an indication that we have reached a turning point in 1998."

He added that with greater commitment from learners, educators, parents and department officials, this year's results would be better. Free State candidates achieved an improved 3 311 distinctions and 10,6% university entrances.

# Matric pass rate goes up by 3,3%

STAFF REPORTER, ARGUS CORRESPONDENT AND SAPA

**The 1998 National Matric pass rate has increased by 3,3% from 47,4% to 50,7%, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu announced today.**

Seven of the nine provinces saw increases in their pass rates with only Eastern Cape and Kwa-Zulu Natal's pass rates dropping.

The Eastern Cape dropped by 1,1% and KwaZulu Natal dropped by 3,4%.

Meanwhile the Mpumalanga Department of Education is expected to respond to allegations today that their 68% matric pass rate for the class of 1998 was doctored.

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The furore started after New National Party education spokesperson Tertia King charged that the 21% improvement in the province was the result of politically motivated manipulation.

She said the results in Mpumalanga were particularly surprising: "The improvement is simply too dramatic to be legitimate. Even the statistics do not tally. This province's results were second lowest last year."

Ms King said the Department of Education owed South Africa an explanation as to how the province made such a dramatic improvement in one year.

"Education standards should under no

circumstances be manipulated to serve the political interests of one party. The future of our youth and our country is far too precious to allow this to happen."

Mpumalanga's examination's spokesperson Pat Zwane was adamant yesterday that the figure was correct: "We still stand by the figures presented. We maintain that there is nothing wrong with them."

Mr Zwane said it was disturbing that some people believed achieving an upswing of this magnitude was impossible.

"We must accept that at some stage there must be an improvement in the matric results. And we must not be shy about it."

# CAPE ARGUS ISSUES

# Matric still the key to future success

## INSIDESTORY

Tampering with the matric system without having a viable alternative in place is to mess perilously with education, argues Special Writer TREVOR OOSTERWYK

The system of matric examinations, whatever its flaws, coupled with its encouraging pass rate this year, is still of huge importance to South Africa.

Anyone who doubts this, without being able to offer a credible alternative, is messing with education at their peril. This, in substance, was the view expressed by a number of principals at schools in Mitchell's Plain.

It is also a view readily endorsed by Brian O'Connell, director-general of the Western Cape Department of Education. He agreed that most parents, especially on the Cape Flats, regarded a matric pass as crucial and a key which would unlock a brighter future for their children.

During the apartheid years and especially during the 1980s a matric pass was not always held in the same esteem. Many students and parents felt that it meant very little. Apartheid had always limited opportunities and potential for black children, with or without a matric.

The advent of democracy in 1994 promised a new educational dispensation with new opportunities and possibilities for all. But, as with many other aspects of transformation, educational transformation did not immediately (or at all) deliver on its promises.

Financial curbs and rationalisation meant larger-than-usual classes, demotivated learners and educators, as well as an increase of violence and criminality, especially on the Cape Flats. All of these factors seemed to



Moment of truth: matric candidates check the lists to see if their names are among those who have passed



We made it: excited matriculants from Livingstone High School celebrate on hearing they have passed the 1998 Senior Certificate Exam

suggest that the downward trend, in terms of the dismal matric pass rates of 1997, would continue in 1998.

And yet, the Western Cape experienced an advance of 2,9 points, from 76,3% to 79,2%. It has been suggested that this improvement resulted from lenient marking or examination papers which were relatively easy.

But notwithstanding these possibilities, an increase in the pass rate certainly indicates that there are many positive developments in the schools, albeit despite and not because of the education ministry.

Principals at the schools suggested that it was an indication of their "hard work and dedication".

From the various discussions with educationists it seems that, with all its problems and weaknesses, a matric pass still will be significant to all parties concerned for a long time.

Universities and other tertiary institutions still require a matric certificate from prospective students. Even a cursory glance at newspa-

per advertisements indicates the chances of finding a job will be greatly increased with a matric certificate.

Most parents, as well as the community at large, regard the matric certificate as important and see this achievement as their ultimate responsibility to their children.

They see it as the ticket out of the perpetual cycle of poverty which has plagued black communities for many generations. A good matric result will certainly increase a school's status.

It is for this reason that the matric examinations become such a central focus of high schools during any year.

Education departments contribute to the entrenchment of the importance of matric results because they are adjudged to be doing their work by the matric pass rate.

While one could agree a matric pass certainly makes the difference between a better future and a dismal one, it is my contention that too much pressure is placed on these young people to perform well.

During this time of celebration we would do well to think about those learners who have not succeeded and are unsure about their futures.

People tend to forget there are still many obstacles facing future matriculants and their schools.

Especially those which have to operate under conditions of abject poverty, where children have to prepare themselves under circumstances that include violence and crime, and where the facilities are so poor it is going to take a long time before we can truly celebrate the matric results.

Education authorities need to remember that grant schemes and sound educational blueprints amount to nothing if these factors are not taken into consideration.

A mere matric certificate will soon not be enough to ensure a good job or a bright future.

If you do not believe this, just speak to the many matriculants still walking the streets unemployed.

(52) R45 7/1/99

# Results blamed on tough papers

Pule Molebeledi  
and Primarashni Pillay

(52) BD 7/11/99  
KWAZULU-Natal posted a 3,7 percentage point drop in its overall matric pass rate compared to last year, a result ascribed to pupils' poor performance in "tough" mathematics and geography papers and the SA Certification Council's policy of not adjusting pupils' marks beyond 10%.

At the same time, the Free State recorded a 43,4% pass rate — a 1,1 percentage point increase over the 1997 results. It was policy this year to adjust the marks of African first language pupils by 1,05% in non-language subjects.

KwaZulu-Natal's education superintendent-general, Mike Jarvis, said the 50,3% pass rate in the province, down from last year's 54%, was "distressing and depressing".

Of 108 063 candidates who wrote the exams, 54 324 passed, with 17 998 obtaining university entrance passes. The province registered an

increase of 1 215 in subject distinctions compared to last year. Schools with a 100% pass rate also increased from last year's 50 to 59.

Education MEC Vincent Zulu said the poor performance in mathematics and geography had a significant effect on the overall pass rate. "The degree of difficulty of these question papers has been called into question," he said.

"There is a general agreement that these papers were more difficult than in previous years."

Zulu said he was considering de-registering a number of schools which had consistently posted pass rates of less than 40% over the past three years. An urgent meeting would soon be held with principals and teachers, as the "quality of principals and their management style needs to be looked at".

The question of language was also cited, with officials saying that most of the candidates studied non-language subjects through the medi-

um of a second language. Because of a lack of quality teachers, students were experiencing difficulty with such subjects.

In the Free State, 40 700 pupils wrote the matric exams and 17 699 passed. Of these, 10,6% obtained university entrance passes, a 0,1 per cent drop compared to 1997.

Free State Education MEC Diratsakgae Kganare said that "pointing fingers of accusation will not change the situation materially".

However, the slight improvement in the pass rate was an indication that education had reached a turning point last year, he said.

Meanwhile, Democratic Party education spokesman Mike Ellis said the overall matriculation results for all provinces painted a discouraging picture of the state of education in the country.

Without the 1,05% adjustment of non-English speakers' marks, the results would have been significantly different, he said.

# Exam results: 3 provinces (52) worry Bengu

By Victor Mecoamere  
Education Correspondent

**E** DUCATION Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday he was concerned about the average 43 percent pass rate obtained by "our three largest and poorest provinces" in the 1998 matric examinations.

Speaking in Cape Town, Bengu said these provinces were KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Northern Province.

These provinces dropped their averages, with KwaZulu-Natal posting a 50,3 percent pass rate, Eastern Cape attaining 45,1 percent and Northern Province 35,2 percent. The other six provinces improved, scoring an average of 60 percent.

The national pass rate improved by 3,3 percent when 50,7 percent, or 279 358, of the country's matric candidates passed, as opposed to a 47 percent national average in 1997, when 264 795 candidates passed.

A total of 71 773 candidates obtained university exemptions and 207 583 obtained senior certificate passes. Out of the 551 029 candidates who sat for the examinations last year, 271 156 failed, while 517 are awaiting their results.

Referring to the difficulties that resulted in a poor showing by Northern Province, KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State, Bengu said: "Continuity of administrative leadership has been a problem. Cumulative, historical and apartheid-driven under-investment in social services and infrastructure in these provinces have resulted in huge backlogs in classrooms, school libraries, laboratories and ablution facilities.

"These have created unacceptable conditions for teaching and learning. Large rural populations hamper efforts to concentrate resources, and high unemployment means that little private disposable income is available from our communities to contribute to improving learning and teaching," Bengu said.

The other six provinces had improved their results, recording a combined pass rate of 60 percent, with the highest provincial average - 79 percent - occurring once again in the Western Cape, followed by Mpumalanga with 72 percent.

Third best was Northern Cape (65,4 percent), followed by Gauteng (55 percent), North West (54,6 percent) and Free State (43,4 percent).

## Improving results

"The significant turnaround in some of our schools, districts and provincial education departments is not the result of a miracle. It is the result of concerted effort, collaboration and collective action on the part of public servants in all our education departments.

"But their efforts would have been futile without the collaboration, commitment and hard work of our school managers, educators, learners, parents, school governing bodies and communities," he said.

"It is important to recognise that, for the first time in decades, the education authorities have run a near faultless examination in each of our nine provincial education departments.

"Moreover, not a single examination paper was stolen. This must be compared against the situation that we inherited, of chronic corruption, fraud and theft of examination papers, and a poorly administered system. Given the scale of the operation, this was magnificent."

# More obtain university entrance pass

(62)  
Lowe on 8/1/99

By John Mojapelo

THE number of matriculation exemption passes, which allow candidates to be admitted to university and other tertiary institutions, has increased slightly.

A total of 71 808 candidates out of more than 550 000 who wrote matric in the country's nine provinces obtained matric exemption.

According to figures released by Minister of Education Professor Sibusiso Bengu in Cape Town yesterday, 554 187 candidates wrote the matriculation examinations.

The matric exemption pass rate increased from the 1997 figure of 70 127. The total pass rate was 50,6 percent compared to 1997's pass rate of 47,4 percent.

Northern Province entered 106 286 first-time and repeating candidates last year to write six or more subjects for exemption. Only 7 780 (6,8 percent) obtained the university entrance pass, representing the lowest of all provinces.

Other provinces to enter a large number of candidates for exemption were KwaZulu-Natal (84 318), Gauteng (43 566), North West (35 592) and Mpumalanga (32 775).

KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of candidates who passed with exemption (18 021) followed by Gauteng (12 498).

At a media briefing yesterday, Bengu said that while the general trend had seen a modest rise, the performance of the Mpumalanga department of education was "exceptional and remarkable".

## Full report

He said: "Having taken note of this exceptional performance, I will request the Ministry of Education to collaborate with the South African Certification Council and the Mpumalanga department of education to provide me with a full report by the end of March on how this remarkable achievement was accomplished.

"This we shall do so that the lessons and experience of the provincial department of education can be shared throughout all our provincial departments."

Bengu drew attention to the "ongoing difficulties" of the three largest and poorest provinces - KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Province and Eastern Cape. They collectively account for almost 55 percent of all candidates for the senior certificate examinations.

The pass rate in the three provinces was only 43 percent, while the combined average of the other six provinces was 60 percent.

He identified many factors continuing to constrain the ability of these provincial education authorities to achieve solid performances in education.

Cumulative, historic and apartheid-driven under-investment in social services and infrastructure had resulted in huge backlogs in classrooms, school libraries, laboratories and other facilities.

These had created unacceptable conditions for learning and teaching and wide variances in terms of provincial learner-educator and learner-classroom ratios.

KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Province and Eastern Cape therefore had a higher proportion of disadvantaged schools.

Large rural populations and



Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu says the general trend has been a modest rise in the matric exam pass rate.

high unemployment also hampered efforts to concentrate resources.

And that meant there was very little private disposable income available from these communities to contribute to improving learning and teaching.

Bengu set a 50 percent benchmark for the performances of these three provinces, which he regarded as "immediately attainable".

For the other six provinces, he set a benchmark of 65 percent.

## Improvement

He said the modest overall improvement in the results was the outcome of the "concerted and collaborative actions of public servants, school principals, educators, learners, parents, school governing bodies and communities".

"While we should be elated and encouraged by this learning and teaching renaissance, we should not underestimate the challenges which remain with us, and the work which is still far from complete.

"We must, and will, collectively redouble our efforts during this year so that more and more of our communities can rejoice about distinctions or quantum leaps.

## Platform

"I am convinced that the work which we have completed or initiated during 1998 presents us with a platform upon which we can turn all our schools into true sites of learning and teaching."

Bengu said he was referring to:

- The policy reserve for education, which will make a far greater impact during 1999 through its district development programme, teacher training, management and school governance development and special support programmes for senior certificate candidates for 1999;

- The special R200 million fund which was created for the procurement and supply of learner support material in addition to provincial allocations;

- Agreements which were signed with national teacher organisations;

- Youth and community college programmes which offer special programmes for the youth; and

- The Culture of Learning, Teaching and Service campaign."

(The writer is chief director of the Ministry of Education's communication and liaison services).

# Bengu pledges R200-m matric boost

BY TFO MOTHIBELI  
Education Reporter

(52) star 8/11/99  
Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday the Government would plough more money and resources into ensuring that the upward trend in the matric pass rate was sustained.

After announcing an improved 50,7% pass rate for the class of 1998, Bengu said the Government was to embark on several programmes that would help sustain the improvement.

The Government would set up a R200-million fund for learning materials, training of teachers, management and school governance development and the acceleration of the "Culture of Learning and Teaching" campaigns.

The improvement represents a 3,3 percentage point increase on the previous year.

"The overall results of the senior certificate class of 1998 have confirmed my optimism about the path on which we are travelling of initiating fundamental transformation of the education and training system," Bengu said.

He said the upswing on the results was not achieved through a miracle.

"It is the result of concerted effort, collaboration and collective action on the part of public servants in our national and provincial departments of education," he said.

Bengu also praised provincial departments for running the examinations smoothly.

"Not a single examination

paper was stolen. This must be compared with the situation we inherited, of chronic corruption, fraud and theft of examination papers, and a poorly administered system. Given the colossal scale of operation, this was a magnificent achievement," he said.

Bengu also said he did not believe that Mpumalanga's 68% pass rate had been doctored.

He said only the South African Certification Council could prove if there were any irregularities.

"I believe the figures are credible, until I receive information that says that was not true, I have no reason to believe that a jump should create a doubt. There is nothing to prevent a school to improving from 0% to 100%," Bengu said.

# High failure rate among girls baffles Education Department wants urgent probe after

JACQUI REEVES  
STAFF REPORTER

The National Department of Education has called for an urgent probe into the high failure rate among girls who sat matric in each of the nine provinces.

Thami Mseleku, a deputy director general in the department, said that although previous research had shown South African girls and boys

to have comparable access to education, the latest results showed many girls were not succeeding.

In the Western Cape, 23% of girls who wrote the exam failed, while only 18% of boys failed. In the Northern Province 68% of girls failed and in the Free State 60%.

This was one of the findings in a national analysis of the 1998 pass rate, which yesterday revealed a 3,3% improvement over 1997's results.

Only KwaZulu Natal and the Eastern Cape recorded poorer pass rates this time, dropping 1,1% and 3,4% respectively.

Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu said the results confirmed his optimism about the path of South African education.

"The modest improvement in the senior certificate results is a cause for celebration. The nation has shown what collective effort, collaboration,

commitment and hard work can achieve," he said.

Dr Bengu attributed the improved results to various national programmes implemented after the dismal 52,6% failure rate in 1997.

These measures included teacher training, workshops, the targeting of key subjects, holiday and Saturday schools and compulsory trial exams.

He was, however, "extremely concerned" at the performance in the

three largest and poorest provinces. KwaZulu Natal and the Eastern and Northern Cape accounted for almost 55% of all candidates for the exam, yet their combined pass rate was 43%.

The decision by the SA Certification Council (Safert) and the Department of Education to moderate upwards by 5% the marks of pupils writing in a language other than their first language was fiercely defended by the department.

## (52) matric results shock ARL 8/1/99

Ihron Rensburg, deputy director general of general and further education and training, said the department would not calculate what the pass rate would have been without the adjustment.

"Rather than looking at how these pupils have been advantaged by the adjustment, we should look at how they have been disadvantaged for so many years," he said.

Meanwhile last year's results also

revealed a strange anomaly.

Although pupils were no longer required to study Afrikaans, nine out of ten matric candidates took the subject. Most took it as a second or third language.

The department's analysis also showed a high drop-out rate of Grade 9 pupils. In 1995 more than 830 000 Grade 9 (then Standard 7) pupils were registered, but only slightly more than 550 000 wrote matric last year.

# educators



# Matric support scheme planned

BD 8/1/99

(52)

Linda Ensor  
and Primarashni Pillay

CAPE TOWN — Special support programmes for matric candidates would be implemented this year with special emphasis given to the three larger, poorly performing provinces: KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and Northern Province, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

Addressing a news conference on the overall matric results for last year, Bengu said schools in the three provinces accounted for 55% of SA's matric candidates. However, they had achieved a combined pass rate of only 43%.

The Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal registered pass rates of 45,1% and 50,3% respectively, representing declines of 1,1% and 3,4%. The pass rate in the Northern Province was 35,2%.

The combined average for the other six provinces was 60%. This figure was bolstered by Mpumalanga, in which the success rate shot up from 46% to 72%, a result which Bengu said, in the face of scepticism, he had no reason to doubt.

The national pass rate is 50,7%, an improvement against 1997's 47,4%. Of those who passed, 13% achieved university entrances in comparison with 12,5% in 1997.

Bengu said the support programmes would be funded from the ministry's pol-

icy reserve fund which had been allocated R200m this year and would receive more in the next fiscal year. About 60% of the fund was earmarked for district development programmes.

He said the three problem provinces lacked continuity of administrative leadership and had severe backlogs in classrooms, school libraries, laboratories and ablution facilities. "Large rural populations hamper efforts to concentrate resources and high unemployment means little private disposable income is available from our communities to contribute to improving learning and teaching."

Other programmes planned for this year include a support unit for education departments, teacher training and management and school governance development. The R200m special fund created last year would be used for the procurement and supply of learner support material, Bengu said, which would be in addition to provincial allocations.

Bengu supported the policy of adjusting marks to overcome the language disadvantage experienced by second-language pupils. Deputy director-general Ihron Rensburg said the department would not divulge what the national pass rate figure would have been without the adjustment as the department believed this would diminish what was a valid and necessary policy.



Unacceptable conditions ... Bengu

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# No celebrations over matric results last year

DD 8/11/99 (52)

Job prospects for matrics are still bleak, writes **Primarashni Pillay**

THE 50,7% national average matric pass rate for last year, up on 1997's average pass rate of 47,4%, is no reason to pop the champagne corks as the improvement is slight, says John Pampallis, director of the Centre for Education Policy Development.

Pampallis said that SA still had a long way to go in improving the education system. The improvement could, however, indicate the start of an upward trend.

In 1995 the national average pass rate was 53,4%. In that year 14,8% of pupils achieved university entrance passes. In 1996, the first year of common provincial examinations, the national average was 54,4%, with 15,6% achieving university entrance passes. In 1997 the 47,4% pass rate yielded a 12,5% university entrance pass rate compared with the 13% of last year.

The latest results suggest that more school leavers will be better placed to enter the job market or the higher education sector. However, the employment outlook for 1998 school leavers is not rosy.

About 70% of matriculants who failed last year will be unemployed, unless they are willing to do unskilled labour, Professor Lawrence Schlemmer of Mark Data said.

"If these people are unwilling to take on jobs such as cleaning, they

will remain unemployed for years," Schlemmer said.

Those who passed without university entrance requirements, and did not have maths and science as matric subjects, would also not be guaranteed employment.

About 70% of pupils with university entrance passes would find jobs after three to four months of searching, he predicts. The prospects for people with university entrance passes was "reasonably good", and they had the option of further study.

Those without maths and science might struggle to find jobs but could end up in the clerical field. The worst-case scenario in terms of study prospects was distance education, Schlemmer said.

Linda Chisholm, director of Wits University's Education Policy Unit, argued that the 1998 pass rate represented neither a decline nor an improvement in the education system.

"The impact of the improved pass rate will not be meaningful. It's marginal and no different from last year. The challenges remain the same — backlogs in physical and human resources."

Technical colleges took in fewer than 10% of all unemployed school leavers who failed matric.

However, employers were looking for people who had more than a

matric pass, said Chisholm.

Pampallis emphasised the education system could not solve the unemployment problem. Yet the objective of the system was to provide skilled labour.

"The economy is a weak one which limits resources for the improvement of education," he said.

Prof Simon Kekana of the University of Durban Westville (UDW) said more matriculants could be expected to trickle into universities. Kekana was critical of the 1,05% mark-up increase for African first language pupils, saying it did not provide a true reflection of pupils' potential and that the marks should be awarded at school level during an oral or practical test.

"It should not have been a blanket average given to pupils, as they have not been made to earn these marks."

Kekana said despite the improved pass rate and the mark adjustments, UDW would conduct faculty tests to gauge the potential of new students. He agreed that the higher pass rate did not signify an improved education system.

"If we have new students who show a level of maturity and are acclimatised to academic activities, and we have to use fewer resources remedying their weakness, it means the system has improved."

# Effects of 1,05% mark adjustment

AFRICAN FIRST LANGUAGE SPEAKER: Attending township/rural schools where non-language subjects are taught in English	SUBJECTS (ALL ON HIGHER GRADES)	Out of	Marks achieved	Marks adjustment by 1,05%		TOTAL
				No adjustment	No adjustment	
TOTAL	ZULU	400	340	No adjustment	11	231
	ENGLISH (Second language)	300	230	No adjustment	12	252
TOTAL	AFRIKAANS (Second language)	300	200	No adjustment	14	294
	MATHS		220			
TOTAL	PHYSICAL SCIENCE		240			
	BIOLOGY		280			
TOTAL	ENGLISH (First language)	400	230	No adjustment		230
	AFRIKAANS (Second language)	300	200	No adjustment		200
TOTAL	MATHS	400	220	No adjustment		220
	PHYSICAL SCIENCE	400	240	No adjustment		240
TOTAL	BIOLOGY	400	280	No adjustment		280
	ACCOUNTING	400	200	No adjustment		200
TOTAL		2 200	1 510	37	1	547
TOTAL		1	370		1	370

MATTHYS MOSS Source: PRIMARASHNI PILLAY/ DR. MORGAN NAIDOO

## Mark adjustment affected only some pupils, says Naidoo

Primarashni Pillay

(52)

ONLY black pupils attending schools which offered instruction in African languages benefited from the 1,05% mark increase introduced in last year's matric exams, Morgan Naidoo, chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Senior Certificate Examinations, said yesterday.

Naidoo was reacting to public perceptions that the mark-up applied to all pupils and that it artificially boosted the pass rates in provinces.

Naidoo said the adjustment was introduced to assist black pupils in township and rural schools who studied African languages as a first language but were taught subjects such as maths and science in English.

"By taking these subjects in a second language these candidates were disadvantaged and should have been compensated a long time ago," he said.

Black pupils who attended former white, coloured and Indian schools where the medium of instruction was either English or Afrikaans had not benefited, he said.

Naidoo said the mark adjustment in, for example, KwaZulu-Natal, which had a large Zulu-speaking population, had not significantly boosted the provincial pass rate. This was because many black pupils attended historically Indian, coloured and white schools.

The matric pass rate in KwaZulu-Natal was 50,3% — down by 3,7 percentage points in comparison to 1997's pass rate of 54%.

The table below, compiled with Naidoo's help, illustrates how a pupil was affected if he or she attended a school where African languages were offered as first languages, or a former model C school where Afrikaans or English were offered as first languages.

The adjustments in the first case are applicable only to non-language subjects and marks are increased by 1,05%. Thus, for every 100 marks the pupil obtains of the subject total of 400, his marks are increased by five.

As pupils obtained different marks according to their abilities, the adjustments were different, Naidoo said.

In the second case the black pupil who attended an English- or Afrikaans-medium school did not benefit.

BD 8/1/99

# Matric support scheme planned

BD 8/1/99

(52)

**Linda Ensor  
and Primarashni Pillay**

CAPE TOWN — Special support programmes for matric candidates would be implemented this year with special emphasis given to the three larger, poorly performing provinces: KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and Northern Province, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

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The Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal registered pass rates of 45,1% and 50,3% respectively, representing declines of 1,1% and 3,4%. The pass rate in the Northern Province was 35,2%.

The combined average for the other six provinces was 60%. This figure was bolstered by Mpumalanga, in which the success rate shot up from 46% to 72%, a result which Bengu said, in the face of scepticism, he had no reason to doubt.

The national pass rate is 50,7%, an improvement against 1997's 47,4%. Of those who passed, 13% achieved university entrances in comparison with 12,5% in 1997.

Bengu said the support programmes would be funded from the ministry's pol-

icy reserve fund which had been allocated R200m this year and would receive more in the next fiscal year. About 60% of the fund was earmarked for district development programmes.

He said the three problem provinces lacked continuity of administrative leadership and had severe backlogs in classrooms, school libraries, laboratories and ablution facilities. "Large rural populations hamper efforts to concentrate resources and high unemployment means little private disposable income is available from our communities to contribute to improving learning and teaching."

Other programmes planned for this year include a support unit for education departments, teacher training and management and school governance development. The R200m special fund created last year would be used for the procurement and supply of learner support material, Bengu said, which would be in addition to provincial allocations.

Bengu supported the policy of adjusting marks to overcome the language disadvantage experienced by second-language pupils. Deputy director-general Ihron Rensburg said the department would not divulge what the national pass rate figure would have been without the adjustment as the department believed this would diminish what was a valid and necessary policy.



**Unacceptable conditions ... Bengu**

# KZN matric results a disaster

By CHRIS HLONGWA

**W**HEN KwaZulu-Natal education MEC Vincent Zulu told a news conference at Ulundi this week that he had expected better matric results this year, most of those present thought he was joking.

Some 54 000 matriculants in the province, most of them black, failed. More than 13 schools failed to produce a single successful candidate, giving KwaZulu-Natal its worst results in years.

The man at the helm of the country's largest education department raised further eyebrows when he referred to some "manipulation of the results ahead of the elections".

Zulu's department was heavily criticised by many observers last year for the chaotic way it was being run. Some warned that he would reap a bitter harvest.

Education in KwaZulu-Natal is in such a bad state that some top teachers are thinking of quitting altogether.

One of them is Sihle Shandu, principal of Masibumbane High

School at Ulundi.

"If you can offer me a job, I'll leave now," he said when City Press visited his school soon after the announcement of the results.

With a 97,5 percent pass rate, his school was still among the best in the province and contributed to making the Ulundi region an above-average performer.

"This is discouraging," he said of the province's matric results.

Next to his desk are trophies his school has won for producing 100 percent matric passes year after year.

The school teaches "critical" subjects like electronics, technical drawing, computer studies, English and mathematics.

Though some of his pupils got distinctions and are among the top 30 in the region, Shandu is unhappy that two failed.

"We got 100 percent passes for the last four years.

"It is this so-called redeployment of teachers.

"They took away five of my teachers."

Further north, in Nongoma, the Prince Ndabuko High School scored an 18,5 percent pass rate.



**DISILLUSIONED...** Masibumbane High School principal Sihle Shandu is thinking of quitting teaching.

but still recorded an improvement from the previous year.

"Last year 11 percent of the candidates passed," said principal Muzi Sikhonde.

He said his pupils did not receive textbooks last year and only received their stationery after Easter.

Of his 16 teachers, 11 have only matric certificates and two of the

five qualified teachers have qualifications to teach only at primary school level.

"But they tried," he said of his staff.

Sikhonde blames the education department for the disastrous matric results.

"You want a maths teacher and they give you a history teacher," he said.

Pressure is growing for Zulu's removal.

ANC provincial education spokesperson Cyril Xaba said Zulu owed the people an explanation for his poor track record. The ANC wanted a commission of inquiry into why 54 339 pupils had failed.

For his part, Zulu seems bewildered about what went wrong and how the pass rate dropped from 54 percent to 50,3 percent.

"We tried many things to improve the situation," he said.

"We launched a 'Back to Basics Campaign', but some schools do not show any movement. There is already a programme to upgrade teachers. We believed that the appointment (last October) of 1 600 principals and deputies would help."

Education department director-general Mike Jarvis said the results were distressing.

The IFP supported Zulu and blamed the poor results on the disruption of schooling by militant unions.

Zulu and his department should be applauded for putting education above politics, the IFP said.

CP 10/1/99

# Matric results reflect old race problems

JANET HEARD

THE University of Cape Town has pointed to a number of disturbing trends in the Western Cape's matric results.

Teachers and pupils deserved to be congratulated for the increase in the pass rate and results at schools like Oscar Mpetha in Nyanga — which increased its pass rate by 41 percentage points to 88 percent — showed what good leadership and management could achieve, said UCT communications director Helen Zille.

However, she said, quality was as important as quantity, and it was important to look at the

trend in matric exemptions.

Zille was concerned that the gap between the best and the weakest schools was increasing. "In many of the advantaged schools, the exemption rate improved this year, but in former Department of Education and Training schools, the average exemption rate dropped.

"This raises grave concern that the quality gap between the best and the weakest schools may be increasing," she said.

Referring to the matric results of 40 former DET schools over the past two years, Zille said 15 got more exemptions, but 17 got fewer. The highest exemption rate at a former DET school was 18 percent.

"In the 40 schools surveyed,

there were 182 exemptions. However, the three top Western Cape schools obtained 465 exemptions between them."

Livingstone High obtained 80 percent, Westerford 98 and Paul Roos Gimnasium 88.

Zille said the biggest challenge was to "bridge this gap by supporting and improving the weak schools, but not by undermining our good public schools, which remain among the best in the world".

Zille said the regional Education Department should be cautious about drawing blanket conclusions from the pass rate because there were fewer disadvantaged schools in the Western Cape than in other provinces.

Peninsula Technikon principal

and vice-chancellor Brian de L. F. Magi said the 1998 results indicated a change in the mood and culture at many schools.

"I am fairly optimistic, but there is a lot to be done. The challenge is to address problems at schools with a low pass rate. Lack of facilities is one factor, but there are other reasons, such as the standard of teaching and poor school management."

Ebrahim Rasool, regional ANC leader, said the increase was an early and positive sign that education was coming home to rest. But he was disturbed that the top 20 matrics were all white.

"Transformation must be speeded up so that matric results can show equal worth across all racial groups."

# The darker side of matric results

HELEN ZILLE

*The matric results seem to reflect a positive trend. But what is really happening out there?*

**T**HE interest generated by the matric results shows once again how important it is to have national benchmarks to identify trends, assess quality, diagnose areas of weakness and measure rates of improvement.

It is also important to celebrate the achievements of those who passed, especially when this is a result of increased effort and discipline in difficult circumstances. It is very good news indeed that a growing number of students in most provinces are passing matric.

In our own province we should particularly congratulate schools (such as Ikamvelethu, Kayamandi, Dr Nelson Mandela High, Kulani and Oscar Mpetha) that showed the greatest increase in the number of pupils who passed.

It is equally important, however, that, in our eagerness for good news, we do not create myths around the matric results. We are at risk of doing so, particularly when we draw sweeping general conclusions on the basis of statistical averages that hide more than they reveal.

It is true that the Western Cape pass rate was, once again, significantly higher than any other province (79,2% compared with a national average of 50,7%). But before we draw flattering conclusions about ourselves, we must acknowledge that a major reason for this is that the Western Cape had a far lower percentage of disadvantaged matric candidates from former Department of Education and Training (DET) schools than any other province.

In the Northern Province, for example, 95% of schools are former DET or homeland schools. In the Western Cape, less than 15% fall into this category. If we want to draw meaningful conclusions we must compare apples with apples. It would be much more instructive to compare provincial results of former DET schools with each other, or former Model C schools, or former House of Representative schools (and so on), if we want an accurate analysis of the progress different provinces are making. This does not mean we want to maintain the divisions of the past. It merely recognises that it will take longer than three years to overcome the legacy of apartheid education. Our comparisons must be valid if we want to measure progress.

In particular, we must analyse whether we are moving towards closing the gap between the highest and the lowest performing schools — by significantly improving weak schools and not undermining good ones.

Some press reports have concluded that the Western Cape results show this is indeed happening. It is important to test this contention.

Although the number of matric passes increased, an analysis of the 1997 and 1998 results (as published in the *Cape Argus* on January 7, 1998 and the *Cape Times* on January 6, 1999) suggests that the "quality gap" is growing, not shrinking.

The results of 40 former DET schools appeared in both supplements. It is therefore possible to compare their 1997 and 1998 results. This comparison shows that the sum total of passes in these schools rose from 2 521 in 1997 to 2 736 in 1998, an increase of 215. Let us assume that this increase is real, even though it would have been boosted by



Hard work by high school pupils in the Western Cape has once again paid off with the matric results but there are worrying underlying trends.

**Mbilwi achieved an extraordinary 100% matric exemption rate — a feat unequalled by the Western Cape's best schools.**

the upward adjustment in the 1998 matric results of the marks of African first-language pupils in non-language subjects.

However, a comparison of matric exemptions (formally called "endorsements" and popularly known as "university-entrance" matrics) shows an entirely different picture. In 1997, 195 of the 2 521 successful candidates in these schools achieved a matric exemption. In 1998, 182 candidates of the 2 736 successful candidates achieved a matric exemption — a drop of 13 exemptions — despite the upward mark adjustment.

In other words we have seen an improvement in quantity but a decline in quality.

Of the 9 028 total matric exemptions in the Western Cape, only 2% came from former DET schools. From a university's perspective this trend rings alarm bells. It means that only 182 students from 40 former DET schools in the Western Cape Province qualified through their matric results for university entrance. At UCT they would only get a place if their point scores (or alternative admissions test results) were good enough.

We do not know what subjects the 182 students took. But let us assume (at a very generous estimate) that 120 passed maths and that 90 did so at the higher grade. This means that a maximum of 120 students from the 40 former DET schools would be able to compete for a

place in UCT's faculties of commerce, science, health sciences, or engineering and the built environment, and only 90 would be potentially eligible for courses requiring maths at the higher grade. At the top end of the range of public schools (such as Livingstone, Paul Roos and Westerford) a single school is able to deliver this number of competitive university applicants.

The discrepancy in performance is far more marked in the Western Cape than in many other provinces, where some former DET schools are performing exceptionally well. Mbilwi, a former DET school operating in deprived circumstances in the Northern Province, has achieved a 100% pass rate for the last four years. This year Mbilwi achieved an extraordinary 100% exemption rate — a feat unequalled by the Western Cape's best schools.

There is not a single former DET school in the Western Cape that comes near this level of performance.

One third of the top 100 South African schools listed in the 1998 *Sunday Times* survey were former DET schools — none of them from the Western Cape. Mbilwi topped the list and its 1998 matric results show it achieved top spot on academic merit, not on affirmative action criteria. This achievement is really something to celebrate.

Back home we should also be worried about another trend discernible in the matric results: the declining quality in the matric results of many "good average" schools that have traditionally formed the backbone of the Western Cape's education system (as such schools do all over the world).

It is the solid performance of these schools (many of which are former House of Representative schools) over many years that accounts for the Western Cape's traditionally high average pass rate in relation to other provinces. We must, at all costs, reverse the decline of our "good average" schools which are carrying many of the burdens of "transformation" and are at considerable risk.

The predicted "massification" of uni-

versities (made in 1996 by the National Commission on Higher Education) was wrong because large sections of the school system cannot deliver eligible university applicants.

Several universities are struggling to meet their enrolment targets. Of course, university education is not the be-all and end-all and we want more students to opt for technical and vocational training. But we must also recognise that we are moving into the "global knowledge society", in which high-level skills are rapidly becoming the pivotal source of value, replacing land, energy, minerals and other natural resources. All over the world, the market value of unskilled and semi-skilled labour continues to fall.

The pre-eminence of knowledge is a recent phenomenon, even in the United States. But the trend is inexorable — intellectual capital will be the currency by which nations trade in the 21st century. It is the responsibility of our education system to generate this capital.

We have a lot to be optimistic about. To start with, we still have world-class public schools. The oft-quoted third international maths and science study, in which South Africa came 41st out of 41 countries for which results were available, also shows a different picture. When the statistics were analysed the results showed that students from the Western Cape's top public schools performed as well as the best students anywhere in the world.

We must support these schools to continually improve their performance and remain at the cutting edge of international developments. We must ensure that they become increasingly demographically representative.

At the same time we must expand and strengthen our foundation of "good average" schools to meet the crucial challenge of preparing South Africa to be a world player in the "global knowledge society".

● Helen Zille is director of the Department of Communication at the University of Cape Town.

ET 13/1/99 (52)

# More than half of pupils who rewrote matric failed again

(58) ARG 15/1/99  
JACQUI REEVES  
STAFF REPORTER

**More than half the 84 000 pupils who repeated matric in 1998 have failed again.**

The Department of Education's national results analysis of the latest matric class showed 52,8% of all repeaters failed their final exams once again – a total of 44 622 pupils.

The door of opportunity for grade repetition is, however, about to close on South Africa's "serial repeaters".

From next year, pupils will not be allowed to fail more than once in every so-called "learning phase" – the foundation phase (grades 0-3), the middle phase (grades 4-6), the senior phase (grades 7-9) and the further education and training phase (grades 10-12).

The decision, announced last year, could see thousands of unsuccessful pupils struggling for limited positions in colleges, technical colleges and adult training centres.

Ihron Rensburg, director-general of general and further education and training, said his department and the provinces were working towards establishing "alternative learning paths" to cope with the problem.

Technical colleges had been identified as an immediate resource to expand to accommodate pupils wanting to complete a matric certificate by following a more flexible curriculum.

He said linking further education

and training courses to already established technical colleges would cut down on operational costs.

A study conducted last year by the Department of Education estimated that 1997's matric failures cost provincial education departments about R100-million.

At the time, Luis Crouch, a financial consultant with the department, said the repeater cost did not indicate money that was lost, but rather money that was "not being used efficiently".

He said the costs were calculated as indicators of fund use and to help devise strategies to combat unproductive expense.

His research showed South Africa to have a high incidence of "serial repetition", whereby pupils lingered in the system, often far exceeding the age normally associated with their grade.

Although there are only 12 grades in the country's schooling system, it takes an average of 18 years to produce one matric pass and that an average child spends 15 years at school.

The same research showed the matric repeater rate rose from 19% in the early 1980s to 40% in the late 1990s.

Mr Rensburg said that although additional research to explain the high failure rate was needed, initial studies had shown "cumulative deficiencies".

He said these had developed over a number of years of apartheid education and had to be a central cause of repeated failures.



# Attitude is key to matric success

By THEMBSILE MAKGALAMELE

It's attitudes, and not resources, which determine whether a high school will perform well in the matric exams - that's the lesson the *Saturday Star* has learnt after comparing two schools who had very different pass rates.

While pupils, parents and teachers of a Kaitlithong school engage in fingerpointing after recording a dismal 18% matric pass rate, a squatter camp community on the other side of Johannesburg is celebrating, after achieving a phenomenal pass rate of 96%.

Discouraged students at Sibabulile Secondary School in Kaitlithong complain about teachers who have no respect, and parents complain about teachers being lazy. But teachers say they work hard and their pupils co-operate, but they get no support from the parents.

"The government and the teachers are definitely not doing their work," said Isaac Mazibuko, chairperson of the school's governing body. "Teachers come late and only pitch up for five minutes, and the department isn't doing anything".

Sibabulile's pass rate in 1997 was 25% and dropped to a mere 18% last year.

## Lack of support

Teachers worry about a shortage of resources and complain about lack of support from parents. "Children are co-operative, but since corporal punishment was banned, they have a tendency to be playful," said a teacher Patsience Mkhambh.

"We do sometimes punish them, and that's when they start doing their work."

She said it was common, when the school held meetings for families to discuss the progress of pupils, for very few parents to attend.

Another teacher, Caroline Khumalo, said parents were often quick to come to school to complain, but that they seemed not to care, for example by not ensuring that their children's homework was done.

Learners, however, feel that they get no support from some teachers, and also say that some teachers don't do their work and teach only when they want to.

"When you fall a teacher that you don't understand, instead of explaining to you properly, they remind you about children you have and the boyfriend you spent the night with," said Esther Mosele, a Grade 12 pupil. "You will never go



WARNING GAME: Keen children await their teachers at Aha-Thuto Secondary School in Orange Farm (above), while bored pupils twiddle their thumbs at Sibabulile school in Kaitlithong. Photographs: CAHRY PANNOCK



Lack of resources doesn't prevent top performance at this school

back to such a teacher."

Also, according to some pupils, there is a lot of fraternisation between teachers and learners, which lowers the level of respect for the teaching staff.

"How do you respect a teacher who finds you in the streets after

school and asks you to call his girlfriend who is in the same class, or is your friend?" asked Brenda Sibisi, also a Grade 12 pupil.

"We dance together at parties, and share cigarettes and beer glasses - how I am supposed to look at that particular teacher at school?"

asked Sechaba Chroma.

But one school in Orange Farm - a community which began life as a squatter camp - sees things in a different light and has, five years in a row, managed to top its district's matric results charts. And last year was no exception.

"In life one needs to do common things in an uncommon way, while others are sleeping and playing, make sure you are ahead of them," said Goli Hadebe, headmaster of Aha-Thuto Secondary School.

The very name of the school - which means "hull education" - sums up the driving force behind its success.

In 1983, all Aha-Thuto had were teachers, a principal and learners. The school was accommodated in classrooms of two schools which were 1,5km apart. Resources were so stretched that four different schools - two primary and two secondary - at one stage shared facilities at Noinini Primary School.

Aha-Thuto's teachers were often forced to move between periods from one school to another to teach their different classes.

"It definitely isn't a question of resources," said Hadebe.

## Blessing in disguise

"Having no books and a building was a blessing in disguise. In 1983 we had not a single book for the year and borrowed teachers' copies from other schools. Neither did we have classrooms. We had to use the two different schools, but in that year we managed to achieve the top matric marks in the district."

Despite that seemingly good achievement, there was still room for improvement, because their success rate was still only 15% and they wanted to do better. In 1994 the rate increased to 37%, in 1995 to 76.6%, and in 1996 it climbed to 80%. In 1997 it rose to 89%. Now it's 96.5%, and Hadebe won't be satisfied until all his matrics succeed.

Aha-Thuto now has new school buildings and facilities, as well as teachers - recognition from the Gauteng Department of Education that they are doing good work.

Hadebe said the school's teachers and pupils sometimes forfeit their holidays in order to catch up on work.

At this school they have clear, defined policies. Teachers are expected to arrive 10 minutes before starting time and at no time are pupils without a teacher. Corporal punishment is still used, although teachers and pupils (through the students' representative council) have agreed that no child will receive more than three lashes.

"Detention does not work," said Hadebe. "Winning is a tendency I sacrifice my time, my family to ensure we get positive results."

Star 16/11/99 (52)

# Radical change for matric exams

By John Mojapelo

**T**HE Naidoo Report, handed to the Department of Education last week, will radically change the Senior Certificate (matric) examinations in future, if accepted by Government.

When Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu accepted the report, he indicated that the recommendations were realistic and fair.

The first non-ethnic provincial Senior Certificate exam was written by 518 032 candidates in 1996. Of these, 278 958 passed (a national pass rate of 53.9 percent).

In 1997, 559 233 candidates wrote the exams – an increase of 41 201 candidates (7.9 percent).

The 1997 exam results showed a significant decline, with a pass rate of 47.4 percent – a decrease of 6.5 percent, compared to the 1996 results – and represented 14 692 candidates.

This prompted a national outcry from sectors of the South African community. The nation then began to question the quality of schooling and the examination process.

Bengu subsequently initiated several initiatives to address the problem. An eight-person committee under Kwazulu-Natal educationist Dr Morgan Naidoo was briefed to look into the following:

- The quality assurance of the Senior Certificate assessment;
- The capacity of the provincial education departments to analyse and use the Senior Certificate results; and
- The examination computer system.

In his brief Bengu told the committee to analyse the South African Certificate Council Act, and whether the Act adequately provided for the maintaining of standards "across the various examining bodies, given the diversity of the South African pupil population".

The body responsible for the maintenance of consistent standards within each examining body and for issuing the Senior Certificate is the South

African Certificate Council (Safcert).

Last week the committee recommended that the country's examination control should gradually be taken over by a new body, the Further Education Training Quality Assurance.

The committee found that while Safcert was doing a reasonable job in terms of the statistical adjustment, its work falls short of good quality assurance.

"Its approach to the moderation of papers is in itself poor but the fact that this is where the 'quality assurance' ends is most worrying," Bengu was told.

"It is further suggested that attention be given to all aspects that affects learning and teaching in the classroom negatively but that a single cost-effective assessment remains the best measurement at the end of grade 12.

"The Further Education and Training Certificate must be designed to perform this function, while a properly moderated General Education and Training Certificate will measure the exit from free and compulsory schooling at the end of grade 9."

In its analysis of the problem related to the current role of the Senior Certificate, the committee found that candidates perceived the Senior Certificate primarily as an access exam focused on university entrance.

"This can be demonstrated by the subject choice package of the great majority of candidates who offer a package that meets the requirements for a matriculation endorsement," the committee said.

According to the committee, one



Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu accepted a new report last week that will radically change matric exams in future.

*Sowetan 10/12/99 (52)*

critical and analytical skills. Therefore pupils taking African Language as their first language are disadvantaged because they have "little incentive to develop these critical tools of learning".

The Senior Certificate is not entirely successful in providing an effective tool for selection to higher education institutions. Nor do prospective employers find the Senior Certificate particularly useful, the committee said.

"Most higher education institutions are confident that the students who achieve A and B aggregates are likely to do well. But they are not so confident about using subjects and symbols to choose between the students who score lower symbols," the committee reported.

Also severely criticised for consisting of "applied" theory without the context of work experience originally provided by apprenticeships is the current National Training Certificates.

A distorted perception of pupils that access to opportunity in South Africa was limited to those who move directly from school to higher education institutions was reflected in the current extremely high failure rate in the Senior Certificate.

"Thousands of pupils continue to attempt the Senior Certificate, in spite of the fact that they are totally unprepared for higher education. Many have been shown, through placement testing for 'second-chance' programmes, to be barely at a grade 7 level of competence," the committee added.

This misconception also resulted in a general total unpreparedness for the labour market, as vocationally oriented programmes are seen as second best. The committee also investigated "examinations and public accountability" harnessing the media.

"This should be seen as part of the process of involving parents and the community in education through demystifying the Senior Certificate and using it as a vehicle to engage the public in the major debates surrounding the examination," the committee said.

"The need for urgent attention to be paid to the coverage of the examination process is evident."

The committee quoted a 1997 press clipping survey by one of its members that found that press coverage of the school-leaving exam left much to be desired.

Of the 96 articles surveyed between December 1995 and January 1997, only two were based on the views of official examiners.

Forty-five percent of the articles were classified as "sensational" (on exam leaks, evidence of cheating, marker strikes and so on), while only 21 percent could be classified as "stimulating debate".

Only 23 percent were regarded as of a serious level of analysis and 27 percent were extremely superficial.

"Sensationalising examination problems only adds to the confusion accompanying the transformation of the educational system and feeds the distrust surrounding the integrity of the results," the committee stated.

"It contributes nothing to raising public awareness and improving debate about school-based issues as these are reflected in the examination system."

The committee concluded: "Demystifying the examination would contribute towards exploding some of the myths that surround the Senior Certificate and clear the ground for more serious approaches to preparation."

(The writer is the Department of Education's chief director of communication and liaison services.)

## GRADE 9 EXAM COULD REPLACE MATRIC

# Schools shake-up looms

CT 7/2/99  
(52) (40)

**THIS REPORT** could spark debate between those who say standards will slide, and those who say education is flawed. Education Writer **PRISCILLA SINGH** reports.

**A** NATIONAL examination for grade nine pupils, the end of free and compulsory education for children older than 15 and a fee to write the matric exams are some of the recommendations made in a government task team report.

The report is expected to be the subject of heated debates in the coming months, especially between teachers' unions and the government, but if recommendations are accepted by Parliament the education system will be thrust into a major shake-up in the next few years.

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu yesterday discussed the recommendations of the investigation into matric exams but refused to say whether he accepted them or not. The committee was chaired by Morgan Naidoo, an exams expert from KwaZulu-Natal.

The committee recommended that a definite date be set during 1999 by Bengu for the implemen-

tation of the age of 15 as the end of compulsory and free education.

In view of the large number of candidates who register for the matric exams but who do not actually write them, as well as the large number who write the exams although they are totally unprepared, the committee believes the issue of an exam fee needs urgent investigation.

Naidoo and his team agreed that the introduction of a General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) in grade nine would go a long way towards solving the problem of a school-leaving certificate.

The public exam would require parents and pupils to make a decision to continue with their school studies until matric or, equipped with a GETC, go to a tertiary institution for further training. It was recommended a pilot GETC be initiated by next year.

The committee was asked to investigate three aspects of the examination process, namely qual-

ity assurance, the use of Senior Certificate information by provinces to improve teaching and learning, and the information technology used for matric exams.

It found that while the South African Certification Council (Safcert) was doing a reasonable job in terms of the statistical adjustment, its work fell short of good quality assurance and its approach to the moderation of papers was very poor. A new body was required.

Therefore, the committee recommended that Safcert be absorbed into a Further Education and Training Quality Assurer. To this end, it is envisaged that the matric exams will eventually be replaced by a Further Education Training Certificate and that this transformation must be supported financially and materially. It was also recommended that there be a definite school-leaving age, but that this should have a delayed introduction.

The report also criticises the matric exams, saying that they do not provide an appropriate school-leaving certificate for most South African learners, are not an effec-

tive predictor of success at university and are not perceived by employers as a good indicator of work-related competence.

In 1997, about 600 000 candidates wrote the matric exam. Of those, 60 000 were placed in jobs in the informal sector and about 50 000 were accepted for further study at tertiary institutions. The balance was unaccounted for, says education spokesperson Bheki Khumalo.

The report acknowledged that South Africa is experiencing a number of problems as a result of the transition from the previous, racially segregated systems, and that these problems included a generally diminished culture of learning.

Some of the reasons it cited for the poor matric performance were uncontrolled voluntary severance packages, abnormal pupil/teacher ratios, textbooks reaching schools as late as a day before exams were to be written, poor management of schools, and teaching and learning in a second language.

Khumalo said that Bengu will have to study the report before he could comment on it.

# Education report calls for matric exam fees

Transformation must extend to senior level, says committee

Primarashni Pillay

A COMMITTEE set up to review matric examinations has recommended the reintroduction of exam fees and the establishment of a new quality assurance body for the tests.

The recommendations are part of a report released yesterday by the committee, chaired by the KwaZulu-Natal education department's examinations director, Morgan Naidoo.

The recommendations are intended to strengthen the current matric system while the national education department considers the future of the exams.

Primary school education is undergoing transformation, with the introduction of outcomes-based education in Grade 1 last year.

"Transformation has to occur from both ends and one needs to start with the senior certificate exams," Naidoo said.

Government's plan is to shift from rote learning to a system which

fosters critical thinking.

The report calls for an investigation into the payment of fees for the matric examination, saying education departments incur losses as a result of pupils registering to write but then failing to sit the exams.

Irhon Rensburg, deputy director-general of further education and training, said there were "high costs in the printing and distribution of exam question papers and the payment of people".

Prior to 1994 the payment of examination fees was compulsory. However, after the democratic elections the payment was phased out.

Naidoo said mechanisms could be built into the system to cater for those pupils who could not afford the fees.

The fees would be determined by the national education department and applied countrywide.

The committee also recommended that a Further Education and Training Quality Assurer be estab-

lished. It would absorb the SA Certification Council, which awards qualifications. Naidoo said the council was weak when at evaluating the quality of question papers.

The committee also recommended that the new body should absorb the matriculation board which sets out the requirements for university entrance.

Another recommendation is that there should be uniformity in the mark allocations given for oral and practical exams and that not all subjects be divided into higher and standard grades.

The committee said that since grade 9 would in future be the last year of compulsory education, pupils should be issued with General Education and Training Certificates after completing the year, which would widen their career options.

The recommendations are open for public comment and the national education department is expected to act on them later this year.

(12)

BD 5/2/99

# Metcalfe refutes allegations

(52)

By Victor Mecoamere  
Education Correspondent

**L**OCAL education MEC Mrs Mary Metcalfe refuted allegations yesterday that the Gauteng department of education was silencing the parents of several matric pupils and that the markers who had handled their examination papers were unqualified.

She said the allegations had been published in a weekend newspaper "alleging that markers were unqualified, parents were being 'silenced' in this matter by the Gauteng department of education (GDE), and implying that as a consequence several pupils had not achieved the marks they deserved".

Metcalfe said: "This matter related to a case currently being contested in the courts and a number of issues related to it are therefore *sub judice*."

She said the GDE had agreed to release examination scripts and other information that the parents had requested before the court hearing on the understanding that this information would remain confidential pending the outcome of the court case.

Metcalfe said the agreement between the GDE and the parents cov-

ered the scripts, marking memorandum and "the interrelationship between the scripts and the memorandum".

"In proposing the terms of the agreement the GDE was maintaining national policy pending the judgment of the courts. The parents chose to receive the information before the finalisation of the court case," she said.

Metcalfe said the agreement between the two parties had had "nothing to do whatsoever" with the qualifications of the markers. However, "the question of the qualifications of the markers was one of the issues to be dealt with in the court case".

She said the GDE was confident that the markers had been properly appointed according to the required qualifications, adding that: "There are two allegations of teachers with incorrect qualifications known to us. Appropriate action, both in relation to these markers as well as ensuring the quality of the marking process, has already been taken."

She said she had appointed Wits University Professor Paul Laridon to review the qualifications and experience of about 18 markers "in maths and science and to make a finding as whether they were properly appointed".

same for 23/2/99

# Mpumalanga matric results 'faulty'

ARG 26/2/99

(52)

Mpumalanga matriculants' results hang in the balance after an Education Department preliminary investigation found that the computation of results was faulty, resulting in higher marks for candidates.

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu would not say what the fate of

the 28 611 matriculants who passed was. He said there was prima facie evidence that the remarkable increase in matric passes to 68% - a 20,4-point rise - was partly due to irregularities in computation of candidates' marks. A charge is to be laid with the police. - Parliamentary Bureau.

# Mpumalanga matric results 'fiddled'

BD 26/2/99 (52)

Farouk Chothia  
and Primarashni Pillay

CAPE TOWN — Mpumalanga's matric results were tampered with last year, leading to a dramatic improvement in the province's pass rate, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

A preliminary investigation by the SA Certification Council found evidence that results were tampered with, he said.

The education department is to lay criminal charges with the SA Police Service (SAPS).

Mpumalanga registered a 68% pass rate last year, an improvement of 20,4% from the previous year.

Bengu said the extent of the tampering was still unclear. He could not, until the end of April when investigations were concluded, say what the future would hold for Mpumalanga matriculants.

The council was continuing the investigation and the SAPS had been asked to help. Both investigations would be overseen by a judge — Pretoria-based acting Judge E Bertelsmann — to ensure a "fair and just" outcome, Bengu said.

National police commissioner George Fivaz would be requested to "give urgent attention to this matter".

He declined to say who was responsible for the tampering. A council official said it took place when results were processed, not during the marking or moderation phases.

Bengu said that as there were doubts about the credibility of the Mpumalanga examining body, the national education department had taken over responsibility of monitoring the supplementary examinations now under way.

A decision on who would monitor year-end examinations would be taken once the judge filed a report on the outcome of investigations.

Bengu said he consulted Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Mpumalanga pre-



Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu

mier Mathews Phosa before taking deciding to act. He appealed to "all interested parties, including political parties, to ensure that the processes and investigations ... are given adequate room for their proper and speedy completion".

Lucas Mello, Mpumalanga's acting education deputy director-general, welcomed Bengu's intervention. "We'll wait for the outcome of the process," he said.

Thulas Nxesi, general secretary of the SA Democratic Teachers' Union, urged union members to co-operate with the investigation. "It is clear that the performance of bureaucrats should be monitored and that whoever is found guilty should be dealt with heavily."

## IRREGULARITIES IN '98 RESULTS

# Mpumalanga matric uncertainty

(na) ET 26/2/99

**THE DEPARTMENT** of Education will resume overall responsibility for the supplementary matric exams currently being written following the uncertainty which has arisen over last year's Mpumalanga matric results. **JOVIAL RANTAO** and **EDWIN NAIDU** report.

**T**HE fate of 28 611 pupils who wrote and passed their matric examinations in Mpumalanga last year hangs in the balance because their results may have been inflated when marks were transferred to computer.

Hundreds of pupils who have already been admitted to tertiary institutions on the strength of their "doctored" results could be asked to leave once their "genuine" results are determined.

Mpumalanga education authorities could face charges of exam fraud following revelations by the South African Certification Council (Safcert) that there were

irregularities in the exam results. Mpumalanga recorded a 68% matric pass rate, an increase of 20,4% on last year.

Matriculants from the province will know their fate by the end of next month once a professional reconciliation of the results of individual candidates for proper certification purposes has been completed.

Earlier this week Safcert head Fred Kalitz said all provincial matriculation results were examined for anything untoward. He would not say whether there were irregularities in other provinces.

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu announced yesterday that

acting Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann has been appointed to investigate and a charge will be laid with the police on the strength of the Safcert report.

Safcert was provided with reviews of three separate and randomly selected samples of over 1 200 examination scripts. Each of these reviews found that there was prima facie evidence that irregularities had occurred during computation of the marks of individual candidates, and that this must have led to the remarkable improvement in the overall results.

Education MEC David Mabuza welcomed the probe and said the



**PROBE ANNOUNCED:** Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu

measures taken by Bengu were correct since evidence of irregularities had been found. "I fully support the stand. However, I am unable to

speculate on the fate of any culprits. Disciplinary steps will be taken once the findings are made available."

Bengu also announced that the Department of Education will immediately assume overall responsibility for the monitoring of the 1999 supplementary examinations which are under way. A decision regarding the matric exams at the end of the year will be taken after the investigation.

University of Witwatersrand spokesperson Wendy McAllister said if there were any students from Mpumalanga at Wits, their results would be checked to see if they qualified for admission with reduced marks. Legally, the university would be obliged to cancel registrations, but she said students could be asked to go on extended curriculum bridging programmes.



CORNIA PRETORIUS

**E**DUCATION authorities have formally charged a maths teacher and her school principal with misconduct following an investigation into claims that underqualified educators marked matric papers last year.

Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe launched the investigation earlier this week after parents Adriana Lowies, Anton Kilian and Stefanus Erasmus claimed that their children's results in last year's matric examination were fumbled by under-qualified markers.

The parents alleged that eight science markers and 10 maths markers were not qualified, that a higher-grade maths marker had a teacher's diploma but had failed matric standard-grade maths and that two markers were caught submitting false qualification certificates.

However, in the report, to be released tomorrow, Professor Paul Laridon, of the University of the Witwatersrand's maths department, found that none of the claims could be substantiated.

Remarking of the exams by both the Gauteng Education Department and independent markers showed the original results were acceptable, he said.

Laridon investigated whether the 127 maths and science higher-grade teachers who marked these pupils' papers met the department's requirements.

Criteria for matric markers include at least two years' teaching experience in the past three years in the Grade 12 subjects applied for, relevant qualifications and previous matric marking experience.

Laridon's report stated that out of the 72 mathematics higher-grade markers scrutinised:

- 42 had four-year diplomas, Bachelor degrees or higher;
- 29 had three-year diplomas; and
- One had a two-year diploma.

# Teachers charged in marking scandal

Maths marker and principal face disciplinary hearing on 'misconduct'

ST 28/2/99

(52)

In the case of the 55 physical science higher-grade markers:

- 33 had four-year diplomas, degrees or higher qualifications; and

- 22 had three-year teaching diplomas.

Only one of the science markers did not submit copies of the required certificates, for which no explanation was given.

Laridon found that during the marking session of matric papers teachers raised concerns about two maths markers' level of Grade 12 teaching experience.

An internal inquiry showed that only one of the teachers had the necessary teaching experience. The other teacher admitted to fraud. She had teaching qualifications but did not have the required matric maths teaching experience.

Both the teacher and the principal, in endorsing the misrepresentation in her application form, will later have to face a disciplinary hearing by the department.

The teacher, once caught, was immediately removed as a marker. While she was investigated by examination officials she carried

on marking, but another marker checked all the papers she had already marked.

Laridon said there were adequate "checks and balances" in place to ensure that matric candidates were treated as fairly as possible by markers.

The report stated: "No one candidate's entire paper is marked by the same marker. Any script is thus marked by a number of markers, some experienced and possibly some not. The chief and senior markers monitor the marking, especially of inexperienced markers."

Laridon said: "The standards of qualifications in conjunction with experience of all of the markers of mathematics and science higher-grade in the south region were adequate to the needs of their appointments."

He also investigated a small sample of scripts for which parents requested a remark and found that candidates' results, on average, did not change significantly.

Metcalfe said she was satisfied that she had taken prompt action to restore credibility in the Gauteng matric examination.

# New certificate for school-leavers

ARL 2/3/99 (52)

**CHARLES PHAHLANE**  
PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

The Department of Education is considering introducing a school-leaving certificate three grades before matric in a revamp of qualification requirements.

The General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) would be introduced in Grade 9 (Standard 7) to mark the end of free and compulsory education and the start of different career path opportunities such as apprenticeships and "more

realistic, vocationally orientated choices".

In a report to the National Assembly's education subcommittee the ministerial committee on examinations said the GETC would take pressure off the proposed Further Education and Training Certificate and reduce the number of pupils repeating matric.

The FEETC would eventually replace the National Senior Certificate (NSC), the committee said.

Education Ministry spokesman Bheki Khumalo said the proposals

were still under consideration.

After the GETC, pupils could choose to follow either a vocational or an academic path. The ministerial committee said the NSC tried to do everything at once and hence failed to do any one thing effectively.

The NSC was supposed to act as a school-leaving certificate, an entrance to higher education and a means to gain access to jobs.

New qualification routes would be introduced while existing ones were still in operation.

The ministerial committee also

recommended a debate on higher-grade and standard-grade study.

It found that teachers often pushed candidates to study standard grade so that the pass rate would improve.

The committee said English-language education should be reassessed. Currently English was taught as a second language to most students while it was a medium of instruction as well. This put students at a disadvantage, because they were not taught cognitive thinking through language.

## Probe finds matric markers 'qualified'

By EDWIN NAIDU

A report commissioned by Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe has found that teachers who marked matric mathematics and science papers in the southern region of the province were qualified, and that there had been no irregularities in their appointments.

University of Witwatersrand mathematics professor

ASAW 2/3/99 (52)  
Paul Laridon, who conducted the probe, found that the standards of qualifications and experience of the markers had been "adequate" to meet the needs of their appointments.

Metcalfe announced the probe last month after parents said that some markers were unqualified. Laridon was asked to investigate the allegations and to review the qualifications and experience of markers.

Star 4/3/99

# Safcert must examine itself

By EDWIN NAIDU

Despite having had the final word on the successful completion of the matric examinations for over a decade, the South African Certification Council now finds itself in a position where it has to examine itself.

Safcert is responsible for the moderation of the senior certificate examinations across the country and also has to ensure the maintenance of consistent standards within each examining body and for the issuing of certificates.

The role of the matric moderation body came under the spotlight during a recent investigation into the senior certificate examinations by Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu's ministerial committee.

The committee, chaired by KwaZulu Natal administrator Dr Morgan Naidoo, found that while Safcert had done a reasonable job in terms of statistical adjustment, its work fell short of good quality assurance.

"Its approach to the moderation of papers is in itself poor, but the fact that this is where quality assurance ends, is most worrying," the report said.

The report suggested Safcert should be absorbed into a Further Education and Training Quality Assurers (Fetqa) to be constituted to perform the quality assurance functions as required by the South African Qualifications Authority Act. Fetqa would be responsible for the accreditation of learner achievements in the Further Education

and Training band and be responsible for the consistency, reliability and validity of the credits and qualifications awarded.

"In the interim Safcert should play a stronger role in the training function of examiners and moderators and in quality assurance in general, rather than relying mainly on the adjustment of marks to ensure acceptable standards," the report said.

According to the report, the amalgamation of Safcert into Fetqa should start by December and be completed by December 2001.

Safcert executive officer Dr Fred Calitz said the matric authorising body had been examining itself for the past two years and agreed it required transition and guidance over the role it would play.

# A levels score at SA schools

(52)

M+G 12-18/1/99

**Mungo Soggot**

**S**everal government schools are now offering students the chance to sit A level exams as confidence in South Africa's matric qualification declines.

State schools are joining the many private schools that have been providing courses for A levels for some time — usually for students planning to either study abroad or emigrate with their families.

The exam board responsible for most of the A levels taken in South Africa, the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, has a permanent office in Cape Town. The board's local representative, Ray Howarth, estimates that 1 200 South African students will sit A levels this year, compared with 869 last year and 699 in 1997.

The six state schools that have joined the A level run are all in the Western Cape, but there are signs that schools from other provinces will follow their lead. Students take their A levels as well as matric, which is still required by government regulations.

Howarth says he wrote to all provincial departments about his plans to market A levels to state schools, but that only the Western Cape department, which is run by

the National Party, replied. He nevertheless expects schools from other provinces to follow soon.

Howarth says he has even had talks with Afrikaans state schools keen to offer the exam. Apart from A levels, he markets three other types of English exams in South Africa, including the Advanced International Certificate of Education, a less specialised alternative to A levels.

Barbara Elion, a teacher who started an A level programme at a state school in the Cape, says she made the move after becoming "deeply disillusioned" with the matric system. She says she is perturbed by the marked improvement in grades awarded to matric examinees. "There is an embarrassing number of A grades. Where do they come from? What do they mean? Where once a very bright class only managed to achieve six As in English, now suddenly an A grade is fair game for anyone."

A representative for the Ministry of Education said it had no objection to government schools offering A levels providing they complied with national regulations that oblige schools to run matric.

Howarth spends much of his time in neighbouring countries, as many of these take English exams.

# Matric papers seized by police

(na) ST 21/3/99  
CORNIA PRETORIUS

POLICE have seized 480 000 matric papers from the Mpumalanga Department of Education as part of the high-level investigation into the province's 1998 matric results.

The papers are being stored in two containers in Pretoria. On Tuesday police will open the containers in the presence of officials of the South African Certification Council and Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann, who is overseeing the investigation.

Police are investigating charges of fraud and falsification against officials in the Mpumalanga Department of Education.

Professor Sibusiso Bengu, the Education Minister, called for a probe into the results on February 25, and the outcome, expected at the end of the month, will affect the results of the 30 664 pupils who passed.

Mpumalanga, which achieved a matric pass rate of 45,7 percent in the 1997 exams, announced on January 4 that the pass rate had jumped by 22,3 percentage points to 68 percent last year.

A few days later the National Department of Education said the pass rate, calculated for candidates taking six or more subjects, was in fact 72 percent.

The certification council then reviewed a sample of more than 1 200 scripts as part of a standard moderation

procedure. It found that there was prima facie evidence that irregularities had occurred in the computation of the marks and that this had led to the remarkable improvement in the overall results. Its report was handed to Bengu on February 22. But both Bengu and the council have been tight-lipped on what actually happened.

It is alleged, however, that marks were changed deliberately, reportedly after a high-ranking official in the Mpumalanga Department of Education instructed other officials to do so.

Irregularities reportedly involved officials "from the lowest to the highest levels" in the department.

The tampering allegedly included meddling with both answer sheets and computer data, resulting in a "wholesale addition" of marks — so much so that Mpumalanga still did well after Sascert adjusted its marks downward.

When questions were raised there was a naive effort to cover up the tampering, and the papers are now so messed up that re-marking is impossible. It is expected that the council will statistically reconstruct marks.

It was also alleged that Mpumalanga tried to boost its matric performance by issuing study guides in key subjects such as biology and maths using exam questions.

Meanwhile, some universities are awaiting the mid-year exam results of matrics from Mpumalanga. Those who aren't doing well may be kicked out.

*When questions were raised about the sudden rise in matric marks in Mpumalanga there was a naive effort to cover up*

# From consistent A's to failure

Few Mpumalanga matriculants want to hear that their marks were fiddled with, and they are hoping that investigations will find no evidence of fraud.

Wits engineering student Zakhele Nkosi (18), of Jeppes Reef in Mpumalanga, hopes his good marks stay just the way they are. He is waiting for responses on whether he qualifies for a bursary.

Nkosi doesn't have money to pay for his Wits studies and has only managed to hang on this long because the university has helped him with registration and residence fees.

He is not worried about the probes, and is optimistic that his results won't change.

"I've been getting As since grade 10, and I worked hard to earn five As in matric," he said.

Going against the trend of those hoping their marks remain unchanged are James Khoza and Adel Steenkamp. They saw their consistently high results suddenly plummet during the exams.

Khoza (20) was set for a career in computers, but failed last year and is back at school. He now spends his weekends working as a gardener.

Adel (19) planned to be a lawyer. She passed, but with poor marks, and lost her place at university and a full bursary.

When Khoza wrote matric at Suikerland High in Malelane he was confident he would get the same high marks he was used to. He was shocked to hear that he failed the exams, but this has not deterred him from going back to school.

## **'Those responsible deserve to go to jail'**

performing very well, and felt I was sure to pass. But everything changed when the final results were released in January," he said.

Steenkamp's final results dropped from consistent As to Ds. She now works as an administration clerk at a bank. "It's a nightmare end to my dream of being a lawyer. Those responsible deserve to go

Star 3/3/99 (52)

## **MPUMALANGA MATRIC RESULTS**

# Report will shed light

*Anxious pupils will soon know whether their results were fiddled with to boost Mpumalanga's image, reports Dumisane Lubisi from Nelspruit for African Eye News Service*

Thousands of anxious Mpumalanga school leavers will finally know this week whether their unusually high matric exam marks were part of a political plot to boost the provincial image, or the results of hard studying.

The South African Certification Council (Safcert) is putting the finishing touches to its own investigation report into the unexplained 24,5% jump in matric marks in the province, and is set to deliver its findings to Education, Minister Sibusiso Bengu today.

Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann, who is co-ordinating the various civil and criminal probes into the issue, is also compiling a set of recommendations on remedial measures for Bengu.

Bertelsmann refused to be drawn on the Safcert report contents or his own recommendations.

Teachers and officials in Mpumalanga's education department are, however, already speculating on exactly whose head is going to roll following indications that Safcert may have found evidence of widespread fraud.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that Safcert discovered hundreds of exam answer papers that appear to have been rewritten to match the unusually high marks announced by education MEC David Mabuza.

Safcert investigators also allegedly found traces of the original, lower, exam marks being altered on departmental computer systems. Officials believe they may be able to reconstruct the original marks with almost 100% accuracy.

Safcert chief executive, Fred Caltz, declined to comment on the allegations.

Mpumalanga's embattled education department also refused to confirm or deny the reports until the Safcert report is publicised. A preliminary Safcert probe last month found prima facie evidence of fraudulent irregularities in the computation of results for three random samples of 1 200 papers.

Last Thursday police detectives broke the seals on two cargo containers holding another 480 000 exam papers written by 42 069 students for detailed forensic investigation.

The province's pass rate of 72% showed a 24,5% increase over results in 1997.

A total of 42 069 results in the province are under scrutiny.

# Provincial leaders continue to refuse to comment (52)

Star 31/3/99

Mpumalanga's provincial leaders are still refusing to comment on growing evidence that someone fiddled the region's 1998 matric results.

Provincial education MEC David Mabuza and Premier Mathews Phosa both initially branded anyone who questioned the 24,5% jump in matric examination results as unpatriotic and reactionary.

Phosa's spokesman, Oupa Pilane, complained at the time that the media was persecuting Mpumalanga.

"Why can't you praise us for once when we do something right?" he said. Provincial ANC spokesman Jackson Mthembu accused the press of secret agendas and subtle racism for questioning the increase.

He repeatedly remarked that only the traditionally Afrikaans and white press were questioning the marks. Mabuza is also still refusing to accept political responsibility for any possible irregularities.

All five opposition political parties in the province have called on Mabuza to accept full political responsibility and resign if police found there had been fraud or any other irregularities. While Mabuza has publicly welcomed Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu's investigation into the issue, he has refused to comment on indications that the inflated results were due to systematic fraud.

"This matter is sub judice as far as I am concerned, and I will therefore not comment until after both Safcert and police complete their investigations," said Mabuza. Universities and technikons are also waiting for the outcome.

Communication director at the University of Pretoria, Dr Johan Hendrikz, said the institution had not yet decided where it stood in regard to Bengu's initial report that the marks appeared to be irregular.

"We'll be waiting for the final investigation (before) we make a decision," he said. He added the university would do its best to accommodate and be sensitive to the affected students.

Rand Afrikaans University spokesperson Sonja Payne said the university would not comment on the issue since it was very sensitive.

Technikon Pretoria director of corporate relations Professor Rene Uys said the technikon would assist affected students. She

said compulsory academic support would be compiled if any Mpumalanga students' marks dropped dramatically.

"Students who failed completely will be requested to leave the institution and will be refunded for class and

residence fees already paid," she added. The failed students would be helped to enrol at other places to obtain matric passes.

Altogether 30 664 Mpumalanga pupils were reported to have passed the 1998 matric after 42 069 wrote. A total of 7 081 obtained university entrances, while 2 144 obtained distinctions. Most of these matriculants have been accepted at universities and technikons, or have been employed by big companies.

The national Education Department has assumed overall responsibility for monitoring Mpumalanga's supplementary matric examinations.

**Students who failed will have to leave the technikon**



# Matric <sup>(52)</sup> report kept secret

BY TEFU MOTHIBELI  
Education Reporter

The Department of Education and Mpumalanga education authorities have decided to keep under wraps a preliminary report into allegations that the province's 68% 1998 matric pass rate had been doctored.

The report, which sources have described as damning, was expected to have been released yesterday by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu.

A statement from director-general Dr Chabani Manganyi said Bengu yesterday met with Acting Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann, who headed the investigation into the allegations, to discuss his findings.

"The minister and the acting judge agreed that the seriousness of the issues at stake required them to act with special care and prudence.

"In particular, they agreed it was vital that the police investigation, and the legal rights of any suspects involved in the case, should not be prejudiced by premature disclosure of the judge's findings," he said.

A final report is expected to be handed to Bengu later this month.

Lucas Molle, Mpumalanga's acting head of education, confirmed that he had received the report, but would not comment on it.

Bengu ordered the investigation after New National Party education spokesperson Tertia King charged that the 20,4% improvement, compared with the previous year, was the result of politically motivated manipulation.

*66/14/99*  
*stap*

# Police to lay charges over Mpumalanga matric results

(52)  
Primarashni Pillay

INVESTIGATIONS into alleged irregularities in the 1998 Mpumalanga matric examination results have reached an advanced stage and police expect to lay charges soon.

Education department director general Chabani Manganyi said yesterday Mpumalanga had caused a stir when it recorded a matric pass rate of 68% for last year, 22,3 percentage points more than the 45,7% pass rate it achieved in 1997.

The SA Certification Council reviewed a sample of more than 1 200 exam scripts and found prima facie evidence of irregularities in the computation of marks which had led to a remarkable improvement in the pass rate.

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu appointed acting judge Eberhard Bertelsmann to co-ordinate investigations into the examinations. **BD-7/4/99**

Bertelsmann met Bengu yesterday and agreed that "the seriousness of the issues at stake required them to act with special care and prudence," Manganyi said.

He said it was agreed that the police investigation and legal rights of suspects should not be prejudiced by the "premature" disclosure of Bertelsmann's findings.

Bertelsmann's final report would be handed to Bengu on April 22 and he will oversee the reconstruction of Mpumalanga's results by SA's Certification Council.

# Acclaim as Citrusdal training college opens

PRISCILLA SINGH

CT 12/4/99

THE Citrusdal Centre for Further Education and Training, the first such institution in South Africa, was officially opened by the Western Cape head of education, Brian O'Connell, on Friday.

It opened its doors in January and provides for pupils of high-school age who want to follow the path of the Further Education and Training Certificate (FETC).

Students are offered courses related to their practical needs at a time when young people are moving towards employment in business, agriculture, engineering, industry and similar fields.

The present Senior Certificate, or matric, curriculum has often been described as too narrow, abstract, "academic" and not relevant enough to the workplace or to further study.

Remedying these problems is one of the aims of the new National Qualifications Framework, in which the FETC will offer a wider range of options designed to help students find rewarding work or study further successfully.

The work of the centre is geared closely towards meeting the needs of the communities from which its pupils come.

The centre will also strive to meet the needs of business, agriculture and the other sectors which these students hope to enter.

Guest speakers at the opening included Chris Nissen, chairperson of Sea Harvest and the Cape Employment Trust.

Exhibitions of work produced by students were on display — a showcase of their potential after only three months.

Western Cape Education Department spokesperson Tony Eaton said the establishment of the Citrusdal Centre was "full of significance for the future of education in our province and country — and hence for the future of the province and the country".

Last month a project by the education and training unit of the National Business Institute was officially launched by the department, which commissioned it to do a study on further education and training

institutions in the Western Cape.

The study builds on earlier work done by the institute in assisting the national Education Department to formulate policy for further education and training.

The institute has already carried out a study at technical colleges in Gauteng.

The survey takes place at a critical juncture in technical and vocational education in South Africa.

The key pieces of the national policy framework that will affect technical and community colleges have been put into place.

It is anticipated that this analysis, in conjunction with recent legislation such as the Further Education and Training Act, will have an impact on a national strategy for implementing policy for further education.

The purpose of the analysis is to promote change in the Western Cape system in accordance with national policy.

The Citrusdal Centre is one spin-off towards the implementation of the further education policy.

O'Connell emphasised the importance of further education and training and warned that its success or failure would have long-lasting effects on the province's future.

He urged participants in the analysis to "take back the control of their institutions" and become "joint partners in the enterprise of revising further education and training".

The analysis will be funded by the Danish International Donor Agency. The seven-month study will culminate in a conference in August.

A report, with recommendations for the strategic direction of further education in the province, is to be produced for the Western Cape Education Department.

The collection of data on further education institutions will also help the planning of a national management information system. The analysis will begin to develop a relationship among national, provincial and institutional processes in collecting data.

# The Great matric exam scandal

Mpumalanga officials passed 7 000 who had in fact failed, and wrongly gave 2 000 pupils marks that qualified them for university

BY TEFO MOTHIBELI  
AND EDWIN NAIDU

Thousands of pupils who wrote the matric examination in Mpumalanga last year will spend an anxious weekend not knowing if their passes will be reversed when revised results are released on Monday.

This follows the disclosure yesterday that the province's dramatically improved pass rate last year had been doctored.

In a provisional report presented to Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu yesterday by Pretoria Acting Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann, it emerged that 7 000 pupils who had passed the examinations had in fact failed.

Another 2 000 had been wrongly given passes that ensured them university admission.

After the adjustment of the marks, the province's 72,5% pass rate tumbled to 52,6%, which translates into a 6,6% improvement on the previous year.

The national matric pass rate also falls from the initially reported 50,7% to 49,3%, compared to 47,4% achieved in 1997.

The probe found Mpumalanga education department officials allegedly rewrote several 1998 matric exam scripts and shredded others.

There was also evidence of officials allegedly substituting exam cover pages in an attempt to hide irregular changes to the pupils' marks.

At least 91 students at the University of Witwatersrand will have their results re-examined, according to Dr Peter Thuynsma, who said the institution would re-evaluate each of the pupils during an individual assessment process.

"During the process we will be continuously mindful of our moral obligation to both the student and the community at large," he added.

South African Universities

Vice Chancellors' Association spokesperson Piyushi Kotecha said Sauvca believed that most of the candidates were not in any way responsible for what had happened to the finalisation of their marks, and appealed to universities to be sympathetic when dealing with affected candidates.

"A list of possible scenarios were identified and remedies were proposed to guide institutions in dealing with such students. The Matriculation Board, on behalf of Sauvca, will, through its examinations committee, be dealing sympathetically with applications for relief of some of the regulatory restrictions," she said.

Bertelsmann, who was responsible for co-ordinating the investigations by the police and the South African Certification Council (Safcert), said the motive for tampering with the figures would be known only once the probe had been concluded and a prosecution had resulted.

"At this stage, however, it is clear that at least one senior official was involved in increasing marks on the mark sheets of several subjects across the board, acting in concert with other responsible persons in a position of trust," he said.

Mpumalanga Education MEC David Mabuza said: "I want to assure you all that I will not hesitate to take all the steps necessary to deal effectively and efficiently with any person or persons who are found to have been involved in, or responsible for, any unlawful activities."

He also felt that Safcert had to take responsibility for the debacle after granting him permission to announce the results "when they were already aware of the possibilities of irregularities".

Mabuza apologised for the mess but said he would not resign: "When you are faced with challenges you do not quit."

SA 20/4/99

(52)

# Matric results scam exposed

By Gershwin Chuenyane and McKeed Kotlolo

A DAMNING report on irregularities in the 1998 Mpumalanga matric results revealed that moderators in the province inflated marks by 20 percent in a number of subjects.

The report, by Acting Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann, was handed to Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu in Pretoria yesterday.

The South African Police Services and education authorities also investigated the allegations of irregularities.

According to the revised results, 52,6 percent (21 901 candidates) had actually passed compared with the initial 72,5 percent. Of those who had passed, 28 000 obtained exemptions and none of them was affected by the irregularities, Bertelsmann said.

The revised pass rate marked an improvement of 6,6 percent on the 1997 results.

As a result of the irregularities, last year's national matric pass rate had now dropped from 50,7 percent to 49,3 percent.

Bertelsmann has appealed to universities and technikons, as well as employers, to be sympathetic to the affected pupils as this was not their fault.

He said certain institutions had promised to judge these pupils by their individual performances.

The report absolved provincial senior education officials in the scandal, saying it was possible that several of them were not aware that "moderators had upwardly adjusted marks across the board in a number of subjects".

Bertelsmann said the meeting of all subject moderators to explain what had happened, was only attended by moderators of biology, history and geography. The internal moderator of biology had recommended that marks in the subject be credited by about 20 percent across the board.

Certain officials in the examination department were "observed after the publication of the results apparently re-writing several exam scripts and shredding others", Bertelsmann said.

Investigations had to date shown that "at least one senior official of the Mpumalanga education department and possibly others, as well as a number of other employees in positions of trust, were responsible for the irregularities which have been discovered".

The report, however, stated that both Mr M Mello, the acting head of the provincial education department, and its head Mrs F Sithole, "emphatically denied having been informed of the true state of affairs".

☉ See pages 4, 8 and 9.

By John Mojapelo

THE more than 28 000 Mpumalanga pupils who "passed" their Senior Certificate exams last year were "entirely innocent" of any irregularities.

This is the view of Acting Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann, who submitted a report yesterday to Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu on investigations into alleged exam irregularities.

Bengu appointed the judge in early March as judicial coordinator of two investigations into the alleged exam irregularities by the police and the South African Certification Council (Safcert).

With the revised exams, the province has recorded a 52,6 percent pass (21 901 pupils), an improvement of 6,6 percent on the 1997 pass rate.

Mpumalanga initially recorded a 72,5 percent pass rate last year (28 775).

Safcert's primary focus in the investigation was to establish the precise extent of irregularities and unlawful alteration of marks in some subjects, and to establish what the correct marks of each candidate in each subject ought to be.

The police investigation was aimed at identifying the culprits responsible for tampering with exam scripts.

In his report to Bengu, Bertelsmann says the candidates have an obvious "right to be properly educated and to be given the opportunity of writing an examination that has been fairly set, covers the curriculum that has been taught and is of an appropriate stan-

# Pupils of '98 cleared of

## Wrongdoing in exams

*Sowetan 30/12/99*

*53*

"Furthermore, a candidate has the right to be properly tested, to have the examination scripts properly marked and assessed and to be given a fair mark correctly reflecting the level of his or her performance."

Thereafter, a candidate has the right, if properly qualified, to be considered for admission to an institution of further or higher education.

However, a pupil does not have a clear right to be admitted to an institute of higher education, but clearly has the "right to be fairly considered according to appropriate selection criteria for admission to such an institution."

"Obviously, a pupil has all the other rights enshrined in the Constitution's Bill of Rights and in the South African School Act, Act 84 of 1996," the judge says.

Every pupil and his/her family have the right not to be prejudiced and not be "victims of dishonest, unfair and discriminatory actions".

"It is questionable whether, from a strictly legal point of view, a student who has been admitted to an institution of higher education with a matriculation certificate which, through no fault of

his/her own, reflects incorrect marks, is entitled to remain at an institution which would have refused him or her admission if the matriculation certificates had reflected the correct marks.

"There can be no doubt, however, that a candidate who, was (admitted) under the false impression that his/her marks were better than they are, has the right to be treated fairly now that the true facts have come to light," says the report.

### Feel constrained

If the strict letter of the law is applied, some institutions may feel constrained to exclude students who have in fact failed the matric exam.

"I hope that it will be possible to make special arrangements for these students who are the innocent victims of the unlawful action of others, along the lines suggested," the judge says.

Bertelsmann says his suggestion is in line with recommendations he received from education authorities, student representative bodies, parent representative organisations, representative organisations of governing bodies and others including Safcert and the Mpumalanga education department.

"It is clear that, to a certain extent, a student who actually failed the examination and is now given an opportunity to prove her- or himself on the strength of his or her performance during the first semester or first year at a higher education institution, will ironically be given an extraordinary advantage should my proposals be accepted," the judge says.

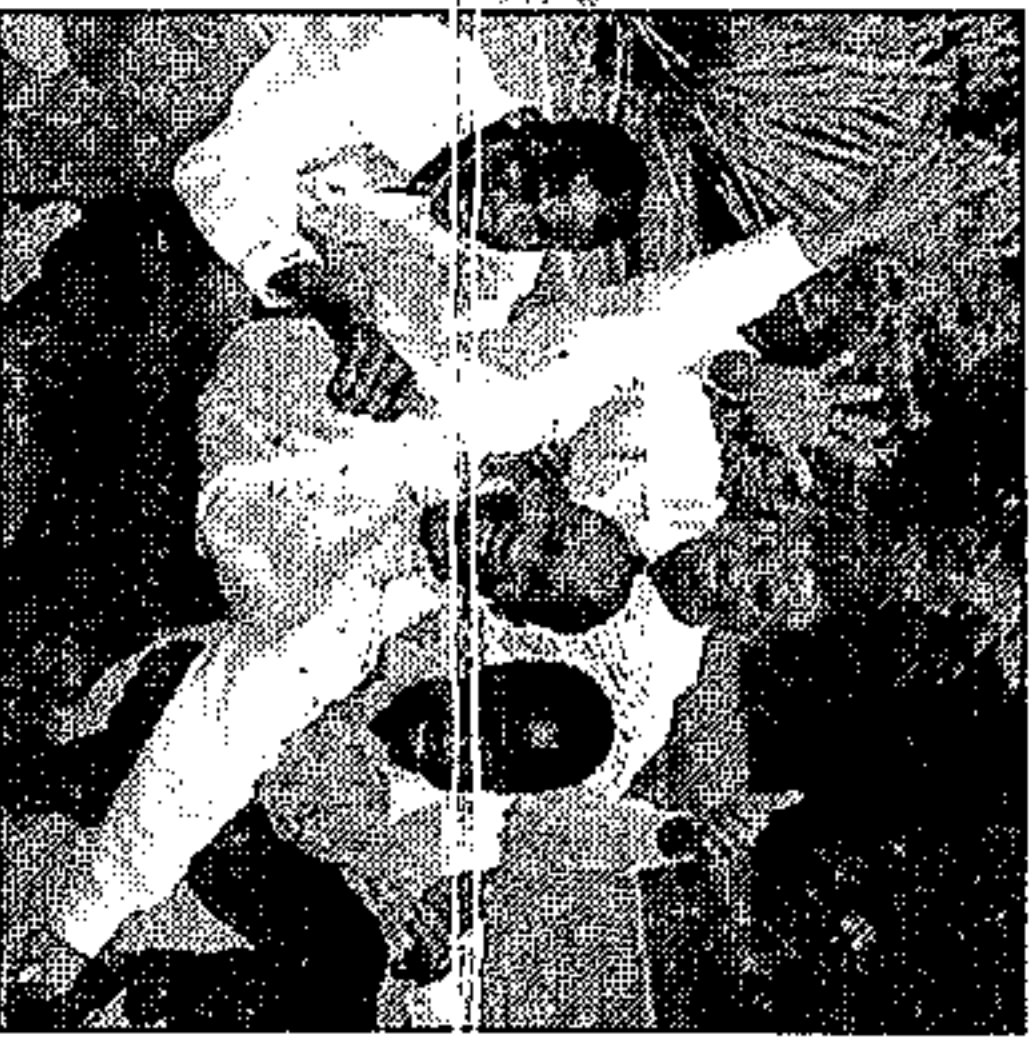
According to him, this is nevertheless preferable to the alternative of summarily terminating the student's enrolment.

He directed his impassioned plea to the South African Universities' Vice Chancellors' Association and the Committee of Technikon Principals.

"I fully appreciate that the appeal to allow the students an extraordinary chance to continue further or tertiary education involves financial commitments on the part of the institutions concerned," he says.

"But I trust that the additional resources which are required to accommodate these students will have a smaller impact upon the institutions than summary dismissal would have upon the students."

Bertelsmann also refers to students



Flashback ... Mpumalanga pupils celebrating after the release of their 1998 matric exam results.

PIC: VELL NHLAPO

who, had it not been for the admission of ostensibly properly qualified students from Mpumalanga, might have gained entrance to an institution of higher education, but were refused because the institution had no vacancies.

"The rights of these potential students have been negatively affected, albeit tangentially," the judge says.

"It would be impossible, however, to identify the individuals concerned, although some students may still sue either the Mpumalanga education department, Safcert, the individuals involved or an institution of higher education for damages or other relief as a result of the effect which the irregularities have had on him or her."

(The author is the chief director of communication and liaison services of the Department of Education.)

# Matric scandal grows

PD 20/4/99 (52)

Motive for 'severe tampering' could have been moderators' personal or collective glory, says advocate

**Primarashni Pillay**.....

THOUSANDS of Mpumalanga youngsters may hold jobs or be studying at higher education institutions on the strength of last year's matric exams — which they might in fact have failed, an investigation of the province's education department has revealed.

The botched exam results follow tampering with marks by exam moderators who acted on the instructions of senior department officials. Many pupils and their parents are expected to sue the department if they are forced to leave their studies or give up their jobs.

The investigation was headed by advocate Eberhard Bertelsmann, who was appointed by the national education department after suspicions were raised about Mpumalanga's 1998 matric exam results. The province recorded a pass rate of 72% in comparison to the previous year's 45,7%.

While police investigations continued, Bertelsmann said yesterday that there had been severe, across-the-board tampering by moderators with the marks of all candidates.

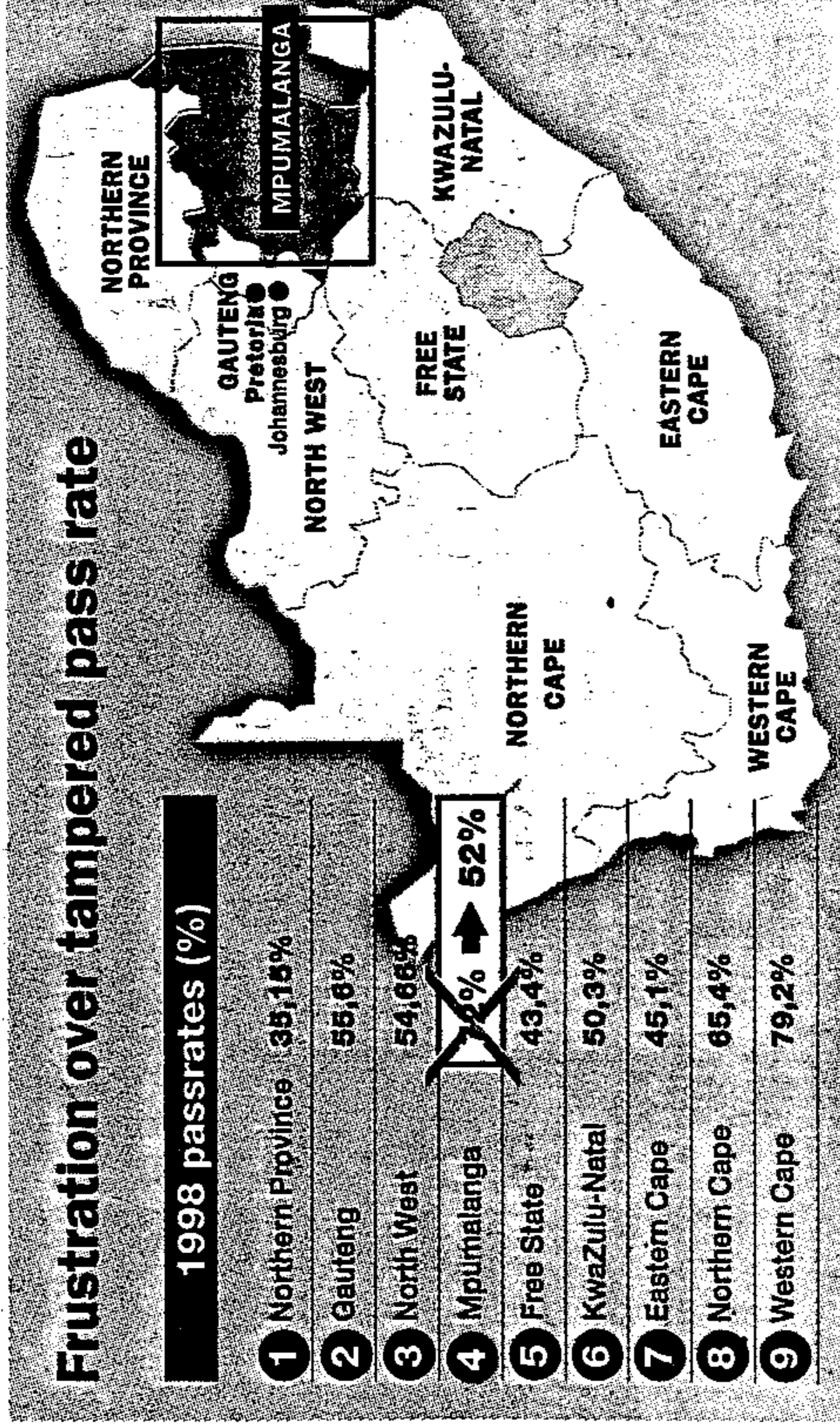
Biology higher grade marks, for example, had been increased across the board by 60, so that a candidate with an adjusted mark of 82 out of 300 had in reality achieved 22 marks, Bertelsmann said.

The moderators were told by senior provincial department officials at a work-

## Frustration over tampered pass rate

### 1998 pass rates (%)

1 Northern Province	35,15%
2 Gauteng	55,6%
3 North West	54,66%
4 Mpumalanga	72% → 52%
5 Free State	43,4%
6 KwaZulu-Natal	50,3%
7 Eastern Cape	45,1%
8 Northern Cape	65,4%
9 Western Cape	79,2%



Graphic: MATTHYS MOSS

saries or loans, and some might no longer qualify for university admission.

Technikon students who had in fact failed matric would have to leave the institution. Technikonns have meanwhile agreed to reimburse the fees of affected students.

Bertelsmann appealed to institutions to keep these students on and implement support programmes as well as allow them to write supplementary matric exams.

The SA Universities Vice-Chancellors' Association said the new marks would affect many students. A number of options had been identified to deal with these students.

Bertelsmann appealed to employers to act leniently with employees whose marks would be affected. Mpumalanga education MEC David Mabuza for the situation and stressed that the department was conducting its own investigations.

The department is, however, partially blaming the certification council, which although it suspected something was wrong, recommended the release of the results as it did not have adequate time to verify them.

Following the reconstruction of marks, the national pass rate for 1998 is 49,3% — a drop from the initial 50,7%. Mpumalanga's real pass rate of 52% is, meanwhile, about six percentage points higher than 1997's pass rate.

served rewriting several scripts and shredding others.

No concrete reasons for the tampering could be provided. "It's one of the mysteries. No educationalist worth his salt would have thought an action of this sort would benefit learners. It could have been for personal or collective glory or advancement," Bertelsmann said.

He said about 2 000 matriculants were wrongly given university entrance passes; about 7 000 were given senior certificate passes when they had in fact failed. Some pupils who appeared to have achieved high marks could lose their bur-

shop in November 1998 that they had power and authority to effect an overall adjustment of the marks achieved by all candidates being examined on a subject. Legally, mark adjustments can be effected only after a provincial department consults with the SA Certification Council which monitors the exams.

Bertelsmann said that despite the provincial department meeting representatives of the certification council on December 28, none of the officials "disclosed the fact that the raw marks included adjustments of up to 20%".

His report said that officials were ob-

# Matrics in second agonising wait

ET. 30/4/99

**TEFO MOTHIBELL and EDWIN NAIDU**

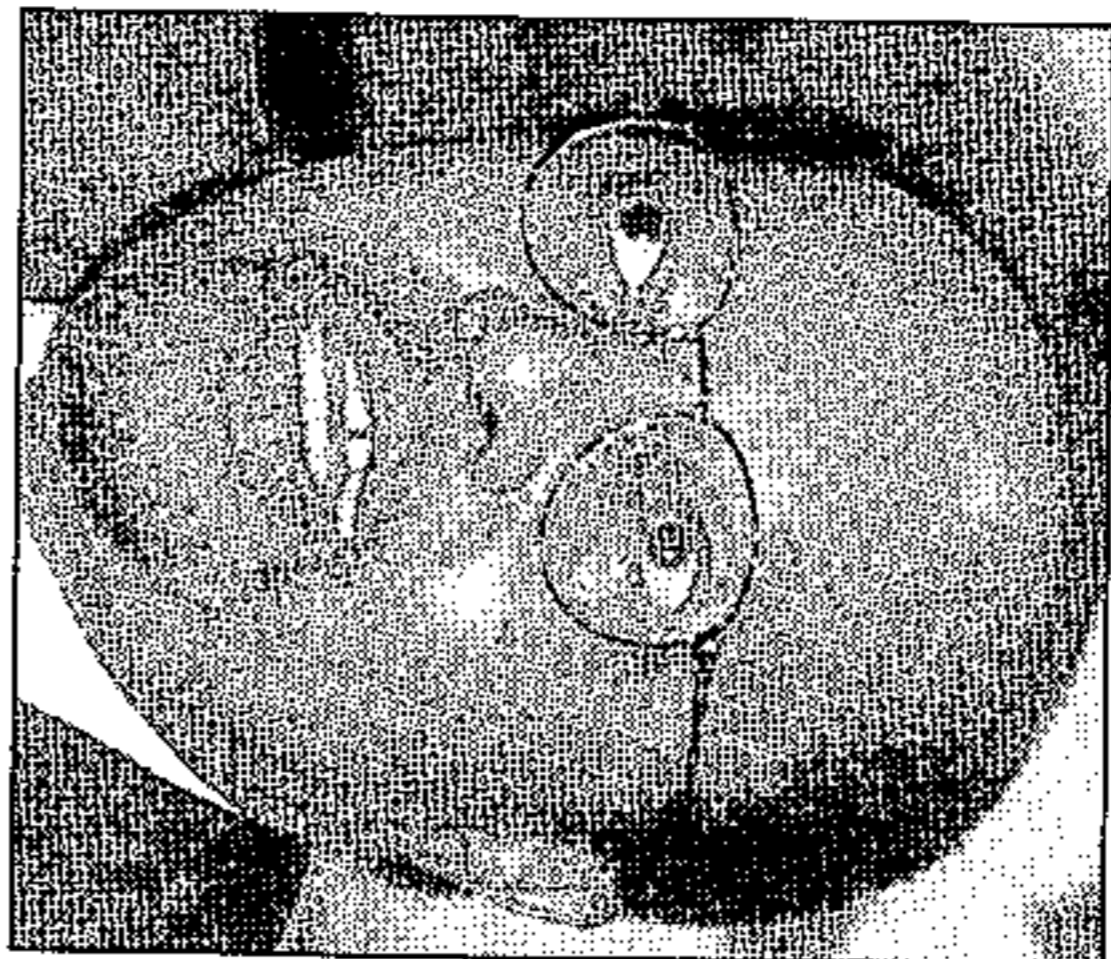
**JOHANNESBURG:** Thousands of students who wrote the matric examination in Mpumalanga last year will spend a nail-biting weekend not knowing if their passes will be reversed when revised results are released on Monday.

This follows yesterday's disclosure that the province's dramatically improved pass rate last year had been doctored.

In a provisional report presented to Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu yesterday by Pretoria Acting Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann, it emerged that 7 000 pupils who had officially passed the examinations, had in fact failed. Another 2 000 had mistakenly been given passes which ensured them university admission.

After the adjustment of the marks, the province's 72,5% pass rate tumbled to 52,6%, still a 6,6% improvement on the previous year.

The national matric pass also falls from the initially reported



**CORRUPTION:** Sibusiso Bengu handed report on Mpumalanga.

50,7% to 49,3% (47,4% in 1997).

At least 91 students at the University of Witwatersrand will have their results individually re-examined, said a spokesperson Peter Thuyusma.

Piyushi Kotecha, the spokesperson for the SA Universities Vice-Chancellors' Association said the changed results would affect the positions of a significant number

of candidates already registered at SA's 21 universities.

However, Kotecha said they believed most of the candidates were not responsible for the finalisation of their marks, and universities should be sympathetic when dealing with affected candidates.

"A list of possible scenarios were identified and remedies were proposed to guide institutions in dealing with such students. The Matriculation Board, on (our) behalf, will through its examinations committee, be dealing sympathetically with applications for relief of some of the regulatory restrictions," Kotecha said.

Kotecha said the department of education had done all it could to restore the integrity of the examinations, and universities were asked to give "all possible assistance to maintain that integrity" but at the same time to assist the Mpumalanga "Class of 98".

Bertelsmann, who was responsible for co-ordinating the investigations into the matter by the police and the South African Certi-

fication Council (Safcert), said the motive for tampering with the figures would only be known once police investigations had been concluded and a prosecution had resulted.

"At this stage, however, it is clear that at least one senior official (in the department) was involved in increasing marks on the mark sheets of several subjects across the board, acting in concert with other responsible persons in a position of trust," he said.

Provincial Education MEC David Mabuza said he had been disturbed by the contents of the report.

"I want to assure you all that I will not hesitate to take all the steps necessary to deal effectively and efficiently with any person or persons who are found to have been involved in, or responsible for, any unlawful activities, be it acts of criminal nature or of internal misconduct," he said.

Mabuza, as political head of the department, apologised for the mess but would not resign.



# Matric marks row hits varsities

APLT 4/5/99

Johannesburg - Universities and technikons countrywide have started checking whether Mpumalanga matriculants they enrolled have satisfied entrance requirements.

The 9 000 students affected by "enhanced" marking received their revised results at their schools yesterday.

Technikon SA and the Cape Technikon were among those assessing students who were 1998 Mpumalanga matriculants.

However, they have not yet decided on how they will treat any failed matric pupil they have enrolled.

The registrar of the University of the Witwatersrand, Derek Swemmer, said of 78 students whose marks had been adjusted as a result of the Mpumalanga report, 76 still qualified for university entrance with exemption.

"There are only two students who need specific consideration," he said.

Those who had done badly at university would have their registrations cancelled. They would be asked to prepare themselves properly for university.

Rhodes University spokeswoman Mary Burnett confirmed the university was still working out the number of its Mpumalanga 1998 matriculants.

Rhodes would deal with any cases in line with recommendations from the South African Certification Council.

The University of Durban-Westville reported seven such pupils registered. It said each case would be dealt with individually. Sapa

# Check on whether students made the grade

**EDWIN NAIDU**

**JOHANNESBURG:** Universities and technikons countrywide began assessing yesterday whether Mpumalanga matriculants enrolled at their institutions had satisfied their entrance requirements.

This follows revelations that the matric pass rate in the province had been inflated artificially.

Derek Swemmer, registrar of the Wits University, said 76 of the 78 students whose marks have been adjusted still qualified for university entrance with exemption.

He said it was too early to say

whether any student would be asked to rewrite matric examinations, but those students who had done poorly at university would have their registration cancelled.

A provisional report of investigations by the police and the South African Certification Council into the matter revealed that 7 000 pupils who had passed the examinations had in fact failed.

Another 2 000 were wrongly given passes that ensured them university admission.

The misled 9 000 students received their revised results at their schools yesterday.

Rhodes University spokesperson Mary Burnett confirmed they were still working out how many Mpumalanga 1998 matriculants attended the university, but said they would deal with such matriculants in line with recommendations from the certification council.

Technikon South Africa and the Cape Technikon was also looking into the Mpumalanga's 1998 matriculants at its institution, but said it had not yet decided how it would act against any failed student it had enrolled.

University of Durban-Westville

spokesperson Kiru Naidoo said it had seven Mpumalanga matriculants from last year.

"We are still awaiting the listing of the affected students from the Department of Education to ascertain which of the seven may not have a full matric exemption.

"The university will address each case sympathetically, but within the legal framework which demands a matriculation exemption."

He said creative means would be used to keep students at the institution, including retaining them as non-degreed students until they met the requirements.

(52)

CT 4/5/99

# Joy turns to bitterness for some Mpumalanga matrics

TEFO MOTHIBELI

**JOHANNESBURG:** Five months ago Jabu Shongwe shed tears of joy when he got his matric results showing he had passed his exams.

Yesterday, the 23-year-old former Mgudlwa High pupil in Verena in Mpumalanga shed tears of bitterness and disappointment when he discovered that the certificate that he had coveted for so long had eluded him.

Shongwe was one of the 7 000 pupils — initially told they had passed in January — who were informed yesterday at their former schools that they had in fact failed.

A further 2 000 who were wrongly granted university entrance-passes, were told they had not received exemptions.

The scene at Mgudlwa High repeated itself across Mpumalanga yesterday when anxious 1998

matric pupils went to check the revised results.

"This is a cruel act," Shongwe said, surrounded by sympathetic friends in the school grounds. "I am so sad and frustrated. I cannot understand what kind of a person would do such a thing."

Shongwe said even though he was now preparing himself to rewrite the three subjects he had failed, he believed that the government should not have withdrawn the results.

"We are not responsible for this mess. Why should we pay for it then?" he said.

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu ordered a probe in the dramatically improved 72,5% matric pass rate in Mpumalanga after doubts were cast on the credibility of the results by some political parties. Last Thursday, a provisional report following investigations by the police and the South African Certification Council into the results, co-ordinated by Pretoria Acting Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann,

revealed that 7 000 pupils who had passed the examinations had in fact failed.

Another 2 000 were wrongly given passes that ensured them university admission.

The province's results were subsequently withdrawn and students' scripts remarked to verify their authenticity.

The probe revealed incidents of gross irregularities after which the province's pass rate was adjusted and tumbled to 52,6% at the end of the reconciliation process.

The initially presented 50,7% national matric pass rate also takes a knock and falls to 49,3%. This is still a slight improvement on the pass rate of 47,4% in 1997.

Pinkie Mahlangu, who had initially been granted a university entrance, which has now been withdrawn, said she would only be happy if the officials who tampered with the results were

brought to justice. "They really have to pay for what they did. It is a shame and I would also like to know why they did it."

KwaMhlanga Senior Secondary School principal Edward Mampho said the debacle had been a "terrible experience for our pupils". He said he was concerned that the education authorities had not consulted the principals on what to do to help the affected pupils.

Esther Mabena, principal of Silamba High School in Kameelipoortnek, echoed Mampho's concerns. "What makes the whole situation worse is that we do not have space for these children. And they are also late for registration to sit the exams this year."

The acting head of the education department in Mpumalanga, Lucas Mello, said his department was awaiting feedback from the schools with figures of how many pupils wanted to return to school so as to work out plans for them.



**DEVASTATED:** Jabu Shongwe was one of thousands of pupils who learnt yesterday that they had failed last year's matric exams in Mpumalanga.

PICTURE: STEVE LAWRENCE

# Bitter tears of failure for Mpumalanga matrics

(52) Star 4/5/99  
STEVE LAWREN

Thousands will have to try and rewrite exams after their results are revised

By TEO MOTHEBE  
Education Reporter

Five months ago Jabu Shongwe shed tears of joy when he got his matric results showing he had passed his exams. Yesterday, the 23-year-old former Mgudlwa High pupil, of Verena in Mpumalanga, shed tears of bitterness and disappointment when he discovered that the certificate he had covered for so long had eluded him.

Shongwe was one of the 7 000 pupils - initially told they had passed in January - who were informed yesterday at their former schools that they had in fact failed.

A further 2 000 who were wrongly granted university entrance passes were told they had in fact not received exemptions.

The scene at Mgudlwa High repeated itself across Mpumalanga yesterday morning when anxious 1998 matric pupils went to check the revised results.

"This is a cruel act," said Shongwe, surrounded by sympathetic friends in the school grounds.

"I am so sad and frustrated. I cannot understand what kind of a person would do such a thing."

He said that even though he was now preparing to rewrite three subjects, he believed that the Government should not have withdrawn the results.

"We are not responsible for this mess. Why should we pay for it?" he asked.

Education Minister Sibubengu ordered a probe into the dramatically improved 2,5% matric pass rate in Mpumalanga after some

political parties cast doubts on the credibility of the results.

On Thursday, a provisional report of investigations by the police and the SA Certification Council into the results, coordinated by Pretoria Acting Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann, revealed that thousands of pupils received incorrect results.

The province's results were subsequently withdrawn and students' scripts re-marked to verify their authenticity.

The probe dug up incidents of gross irregularities, after which the province's pass rate was adjusted downward to 52,6% at the end of the reconciliation process. The initially presented 50,7% national matric pass rate also took a knock and fell to 49,3%.

Pinkie Mahlangu, whose university entrance has now been withdrawn, said she would be happy only if the officials who tampered with the results were brought to justice.

KwaMhlanga Senior Secondary School principal Edward Mampho said he was concerned because the education authorities had not consulted the principals on what to do to help the affected pupils.

He said the biggest problem facing schools was lack of space to accommodate failed students.

Esther Mabena, the principal of Silamba High School in Kamelphoortek, said: "We do not have space for these children. And they are also late for registration to sit for the exams."

Lucas Mello, acting head of Mpumalanga's education department said he was waiting to hear how many pupils wanted to return to school so that arrangements could be made for them.



What do I do now? ... Jabu Shongwe, a 23-year-old former Mgudlwa High pupil in Verena, Mpumalanga, ponders his fate after learning that he did not make the grade last year. He is one of 7 000 pupils who were informed yesterday they had failed their matric exams.

## Some students still qualify for university entrance, says Wits

By Edwin Naidoo

Universities and technikons yesterday began assessing whether Mpumalanga matriculants enrolled at their institutions had satisfied their entrance requirements.

A provisional report on a

probe by the police and the South African Certification Council into the matter revealed that 7 000 pupils who had been told they had passed the exams had in fact failed.

Another 2 000 were wrongly given passes that ensured them university admission.

Dr Derek Swemmer, registrar of the University of the Witwatersrand, said that of the 78 students whose marks had been adjusted, 76 still qualified for university entrance.

Swemmer said it was too early to say whether students would be asked to rewrite ma-

trics, but those who had done badly at university would have their registration cancelled and they would be asked to prepare themselves properly for university.

University of Durban-Westville spokesperson Kirri Naidoo said seven of last

year's Mpumalanga matriculants were registered at UDW.

He said creative ways would be used to keep students at the institution, including retaining them as non-degreed students until they met the requirements.

# Lowering of marks brings grief to some former matrics

(72)

PRETORIA CORRESPONDENT

When Johannes Nkwana was told he had four A's in the 1998 Mpumalanga matric exams, his dream of becoming an engineer was a step closer to being realised. But this week his dream was shattered when he lost three of his distinctions after the province's results were re-released.

Though the first-year engineering student at the University of Pretoria has retained his pass and exemption, he faces the possibility that both his bursaries - R3 400 from Tuks and R28 000 from Eskom - could be withdrawn.

Nkwana (18) said he would have to drop out of university if the bursars decided to withdraw their funds as his father was a plumber and his mother a housewife.

"All these bursaries were based on my A symbols. If they are withdrawn there is no way my parents could afford my fees, I'll just have to forget about becoming an engineer," said a pensive Nkwana.

His story is one of many sad tales emanating from the Mpumalanga matric scam, which affected more than 9 000 students following a report by Advocate Eberhard Bertelsmann which found that the results had been tampered with.

Nkwana, who did his matric at KwaNdebele Science School in Siyabuswa, initially got distinctions in Sepedi, English, Afrikaans and maths. Now he has an A only in Sepedi and has no idea what his final symbols will be in the other subjects.

Agriculture student Eric Taala (20), who earned a place in the province's top 10 with six

A's, has lost two of his distinctions. His biology and English symbols have been altered to B's.

"I was initially given a R4 800 university achievement award based on my symbols. This afternoon I was told by the bursary section that the money would be reduced to R3 400," Taala said yesterday.

The university would not comment on Taala's case, but said problems regarding bursaries would be dealt with individually.

Engineering student Richard Manqele (18), who initially got four A's, learnt yesterday from his mother that only one A had survived the reshuffle.

Manqele, who did his matric at Ilanga Secondary School in Witbank, has already scored A's in most of his first-year mechanical engineering subjects.

"In my April test I got 91% in maths, physics 80%, statistics 75%, and other subjects are still pending," he said. His mother, Lilian, demanded that her son's papers be re-marked.

Leon Rademeyer, the university spokesperson, said no student would be expelled from the institution at this stage.

Apart from facing possible bursary cuts, the students said they also had to deal with the psychological impact of the problem. Vincent Phetla (17), a medicine student at Tuks, said he had to cope with the teasing from his hostel friends when he lost one of his five A's.

"There were students who came to me laughing and carrying a newspaper cartoon in which a doctor examines a patient and someone comes and says 'By the way, you are from the Mpumalanga class of 98?'," Phetla said.

Star 6/5/99

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## Victims of matric fiasco may get aid

(57) DD 7/5/99  
Justin Palmer

THE education ministry agreed to the possibility of financially aiding Mpumalanga students affected by the tampering of their matric exam papers following a meeting with the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) yesterday.

Cosas president Lebogang Maile said his organisation had persuaded the ministry that learners needed support, either psychological or financial.

"The department has not committed itself, but it may assist some students financially. The details will be finalised when we meet them again next week."

He said a research study was also needed to follow up on students for the next three years. This proposal was presented during the meeting.

Cosas was meeting Mpumalanga parents and students to ensure actions taken on their behalf were motivated by interaction with those affected, he said.

Maile said officials responsible for increasing the marks must be arrested and sent to jail. "We want justice to be done."

Despite agreement on certain issues, Maile said that Cosas had disagreed with the education ministry over the validity of the results. He declined to go into greater detail about this aspect.

However, he said, Cosas met the minister "and agreed on a number of issues".

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# MATRICES TO FACE AXE

## Sowetan Reporters

THREE tertiary institutions have indicated that they will expel all students affected by the Mpumalanga matric scam in which provincial authorities inflated pass rates by adding 20 percent to each pupil's marks.

The University of North West, Pretoria Technikon and Technikon SA were adamant yesterday that all the first-year students from Mpumalanga who were found to have failed would be kicked out.

However, the University of SA (Unisa), Pretoria University and Vista University have decided to offer bridging courses.

The looming expulsion of the students, announced by the three institutions, comes uncomfortably close to their mid-year examinations set to begin on May 17.

Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe said the whole debacle was tragic, with serious consequences for many individuals. "There is a need to do everything we can to help. No student is at fault here. The Education Minister has recommended that tertiary institutions and the national Education Department hold discussions to investigate positive scenarios and I would endorse that," Metcalfe said.

Unisa student counsellor and career development acting head Dr Ai van Schoor said one should expect anger, despair, helplessness and disappointment if the students were dumped by the institutions.

"For some the blow may be so devastating that they may see nothing but darkness. But there are ways of dealing with this. The students should be able to instigate legal proceedings as well as appeal to universities to give them a

chance, especially those who are performing well," Van Schoor said.

He said it was difficult to say whether some students would be inclined to suicide. "The students have been under huge pressure and some have made such enormous sacrifices that if everything they have been working for suddenly falls flat, anything can happen."

Political parties warned the three tertiary institutions not to expel the students and advised parents that they could sue the Mpumalanga department of education.

Pan Africanist Congress general secretary Mr Ngila Muendane said parents had already paid fees and it would not be cost effective to kick out the students. "It's going to be devastating to the students. The institutions should allow them to continue and give them special attention. Why should children suffer for the deliberate misdemeanors of officials

(52) Sowetan 7/5/99

prone to lying?" Muendane asked.

The Democratic Party's Mr David Quail was adamant that as it was not the fault of the students, the institutions should offer them special bridging courses. "If a student didn't pass maths and science and is studying arts, surely the institutions should exercise discretion?"

Azanian People's Organisation general secretary Mr Jarius Kgokong said institutions had the capacity to assess students to see if they should continue with particular courses or not. "These students should be assessed like those entering university with age exemptions rather than matric exemption," Kgokong said.

The United Democratic Movement's Ms Annelize van Wyk said while the students were facing the consequences, the MEC for education in Mpumalanga was "still sitting comfortably in his office".

# Mpumalanga pupils who passed matric, then failed, await their fate

By Tefo MOTHIBELI  
Education Reporter

(52)

The woes of failed Mpumalanga matric pupils continue, despite pleas from the Government that tertiary institutions deal compassionately with them.

These pupils are among the 7 000 who were wrongly passed last year and the 2 000 who were granted university entrance after officials in the provincial department of education irregularly increased marks on examination scripts.

Various institutions are taking different approaches. While some say they will allow the relevant pupils to keep their places if they prove themselves, others are going to show them to the door.

"Pupils who have failed completely will, according to the prerequisites of the law, be requested to leave the technikon and will be refunded for class and residence fees already paid," said Professor Rene Uys, Technikon Pretoria's chief director of corporate relations.

She said compulsory academic support programmes would be compiled for pupils who had passed, but with

marks that were lower than when they had registered.

Uys added that Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu would have to put in writing his request to institutions to treat the students leniently.

Technikon SA said the relevant learners would have to prove they deserved a place.

"We are giving them the benefit of the doubt at this stage and will not ask them to deregister," said Laura Ann Coetzee, the technikon's stakeholder relations manager.

"The onus is now on them, as it is on every other pupil, to demonstrate by their academic performance that they are able to meet the required standards.

"If they fail, the technikon's rules in regard to readmittance to courses will apply."

North West University spokesperson Rankuwa Molefe said management was expected to meet today to decide the fate of those pupils who had registered with the university.

Meanwhile, the Congress of South African Students has blamed the results debacle on enemies of the ANC who were intent on discrediting the organisation.

Star 10/5/99



# Legal action could follow over exam debacle

Nelspruit - Mpumalanga's matric exam scandal was racially motivated and could result in civil action against both the provincial government and Education MEC David Mabuza, the New National Party said yesterday.

NNP Mpumalanga spokesperson Kevin Evans confirmed yesterday that parents of disgruntled pupils were already contacting the party for assistance in launching civil court action.

The parents and the NNP in-

tend suing for financial and personal losses, Evans said, after hundreds of children were refused access to tertiary institutions because their exam marks had been tampered with.

The affected pupils are not part of the 7 000 pupils who were told they had passed their exams when they had failed, or the 2 000 other pupils who were wrongly granted university exemptions.

Evans said initial research by the NNP into the scandal had proved that exam results

(52)  
for white pupils were systematically marked down while those of black pupils were fraudulently inflated by up to 20%.

The tampering increased Mpumalanga's overall matric pass rate by more than 26% from 46% in 1997 to 72,5% in 1998.

A police and South African Certification Council investigation has, however, determined that the increase was actually only 6% and that the provincial average should have been only 52,6% in 1998. - African Eye News Service

Star 11/5/99

# Pupils protest mother's

right to star 13/5/99 learn.

Bill of Rights on her side, but classmates unhappy with ruling

BY TEFU MOTHIBELI  
Education Reporter

A challenge to the spirit of the Constitution played itself out on the grounds of Reasoma Secondary School in Soweto yesterday.

At the centre of the drama is a Grade 12 pupil who fell pregnant and, according to the school's policy, has to stay at home for a year, even though she has had her baby.

The pupil, instead of complying with the rules, refused to be sent home and took the matter up with Gauteng's education department, which ordered that she be reinstated because her suspension violated her right to education.

The Bill of Rights also prohibits discrimination on the grounds of pregnancy.

However, the decision to reinstate the girl was not well received by her schoolmates, who boycotted classes in protest yesterday. They planned to continue doing so today.

They argued it was important that the school policy be applied to everyone.

A part of the school's policy, which was drafted by representatives of parents, teachers and learners, states unequivocally: "Any learner who falls pregnant or renders another pregnant shall forfeit the remaining academic year. The said learner's readmission during the next academic year is assured."

This declaration forms part of the rules used in running the school for the past five years.

Over the years, girls who fell pregnant, and the boys responsible, knew what lay in store for them and duly obliged.

"This policy is the soul of the successful running of this school and the good reputation it has enjoyed in the community over the years," said Grade 11 pupil Bheki Tshabalala (18).

Tshabalala, a representative of learners on the school governing body, said if the rules

## 'It's a huge gender issue'

Education department policy prohibits girl children from being expelled if they fall pregnant and the Bill of Rights gives children the right to education, Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe said today.

"There have to be policies to accommodate the girl child and to ensure we reach the target of getting her educated.

"It is a huge gender issue. The practice of exclusion (from schools) is one of the main reasons for high levels of illiteracy among women internationally," Metcalfe said.

She said guidelines the department provided to schools stated that a learner could not be expelled on the grounds of pregnancy.

"The real issue here now is how do we translate the principle into a process that everyone can understand and defend," Metcalfe said.

She said department officials would meet Reasoma school management today to discuss and debate the issue and the principles introduced during the past five years of transformation.

Metcalfe said the Human Rights Commission had already dealt with a case in which a child was excluded on the basis of pregnancy. It had found, she said, that in the absence of alternatives a child could not be excluded because of pregnancy. — Staff Reporter

were waived in this case it would be unfair to those to whom it had been applied.

"At the moment there are other pregnant girls from the school who are at home because they understand the rules. What is so special about this instance?" he asked.

Tshabalala said if the Government insisted on the reinstatement of the girl, that

(52)  
would run against the wishes of the majority on how they wanted their school to be administered.

"There is no way we are going to allow pregnant girls to sit in our classes. This is not a maternity ward but a school. They are trying to break down discipline which has been the trademark of this school," he added.

A girl who had to stay at home after she fell pregnant in 1995 said it would be unfair if the rules were waived in this case.

"We all know what the policy says because we were party to its making. I served my punishment — why can't she?"

"Those rules have made this school into what it is, and it would be sad if they were to be changed because of this incident," she said.

The pupils' representative council president, Mxolisi Tale, said while they were concerned about the time they were losing by boycotting classes, they were not prepared to give in on their demand that the policy be implemented.

"We are fighting to protect the image of our school. We are very proud of it and we are not going to let anyone spoil its reputation. This is the best school around, and that is because of our policy," he said.

The principal, Smileth Ntutela, would only say of the events: "We applied our policy and were overruled. I followed the district education co-ordinator's instruction that the girl be reinstated, and the other children are unhappy about it."

The Human Rights Commission's legal department head, Mogam Moodliar, said the fact that the school had enforced the policy for some time did not necessarily make it right.

"The policy has to be consistent with the spirit of the constitution. Clearly the girl's rights have been violated here because the decision discriminates against her," he said.

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Fashion  
Clothes that Shout  
Rehab Chic  
Recovering  
In Style  
Sports Knight  
England's Secret Star  
The Queen of  
Wall Street  
Plus Anna...  
The Amber...  
D's Unsmile...

# Radical change due after exam scandal

By John Mojapelo

**T**HE role of the South African Certification Council featured prominently recently when the Mpumalanga Senior Certificate examination scam was revealed.

As a result of the recommendations of Advocate Eberhard Bertelsmann, who was the judicial overseer of the investigations into the provincial exam results, the council is bound to undergo radical change.

Both Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu and his provincial counterpart David Mabuza also mentioned the council in their reports on the Mpumalanga exam results.

In fact, Bengu announced at a media conference in Pretoria that he had put into motion a process to amend the Satecert Act to strengthen the role of the examining body.

Mabuza told the same conference that he announced the doctored results on the "unfortunate advice" of the Certification Council when the body was "already aware of the possibilities of irregularities".

After the investigation by a ministerial committee under Dr Morgan Naidoo last year, the committee recommended the complete replacement of the council.

But what is the council? And what was its role in the Mpumalanga examination results scandal, if any?

Although no one imputed any culpability or direct negligence to the council in the exam results debacle, there was consensus that there was an urgent need to transform the examining body.

The council was established in 1986 by an Act of Parliament to

ensure adherence to norms and standards in the exam and certification processes. Its main function is to monitor the Senior Certificate exam results.

Even council chairman Dr M Nkomo agreed that the body must be changed. After the Mpumalanga experience, it was necessary to amend certain aspects of the South African Certification Council Act, and correct certain shortcomings and loopholes in the monitoring process of the Senior Certificate exams.

Bertelsmann also analysed the legal competence of the council and recommended radical changes.

In his report, he said despite the rumours about irregularities around the exam in Mpumalanga, Bengu was only told on February 23 that there "was *prima facie* proof existed of tampering with the examination results". (The minister already announced the results on January 7.)

Bertelsmann also reported on the "considerable bitterness" of top management in Mpumalanga about the role of the council in events leading to the inflated results.

He said in his report: "Speedier action on the part of Satecert could have avoided the present disaster, at least partially, although this does not in any way diminish the seriousness of the fact that an orchestrated, organised unlawful action was conducted at a very high level in the Mpumalanga Education Department in respect of the senior certification examinations."

Bertelsmann recommended that the council should not only have the power, but also the duty, to prevent the publication of results that at first blush appear to be suspect.

He further recommended that the



Flashback: Mpumalanga matrices check their results, little knowing that a couple of months down the line it would be announced that some of the results had been doctored.  
Inset: Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu.

the council and regulations should be amended "to determine that the examining authority and Satecert must, after consultation with one another in the standardisation process, independently certify that they are satisfied that the results are genuine before publication thereof may take place".

"Satecert should also rearrange its schedules and programmes in order to be able to execute its monitoring function, if necessary, prior to the publication of the senior certificate examination results."

Bertelsmann also recommended that the council and the Mpumalanga education department should convene a joint meeting as soon as possible to clear the air and to determine proce-

dures which will ensure "cooperation and create mutual trust in the interest of the education and examination system as a whole".

Last year the Naidoo Committee suggested that council should gradually be taken over by a new body, the Further Education and Training Quality Assurer (Fetqwa).

The committee noted: "In the interim, Satecert should play a stronger role in the training function of examiners and moderators and in quality assurance, in general, rather than relying mainly on the adjustment of marks to ensure acceptable standards."

"This will help to lay the foundation for a smooth transfer of these

functions to the Fetqwa."

The Naidoo Committee complained that the annual report by Satecert to Parliament was "skeletal" and consists mainly of accounts of income and expenditure and statistics relating to the Senior Certificate exam results. Instead, the council could "play an important role in helping the Department of Education and examining boards to analyse the examinations results in order to pinpoint and solve problems of delivery, quality management and assessment".

(The author is chief director of the Department of Education's communication and liaison services.)

# Matric scandal: police quiz 40

(52) POLICE investigating the Mpumalanga matric scandal have questioned 40 of the 120 officials involved in marking the 480 000 final exam papers last year.

The investigating team had taken 40 statements and was continuing the probe, Pretoria police spokeswoman Captain Jennifer Chetty told African Eye News Service yesterday.

"We're still waiting for forensic results on 2 500 of the examination scripts to see if the handwriting on them matches," she said.

The investigation should be complete within the next few weeks and the report would be sent to the director of public prosecutions for a decision on whether to prosecute.

The provincial education department was conducting an internal investigation to expose officials who tampered with the results, inflating the pass rate to 72,6 percent.

It is believed some officials personally rewrote papers to inflate the marks.

An investigation by Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann found the actual pass mark was 52,5 percent.

Teachers' and students' unions have called for the urgent resignation of departmental head Faith Sithole and examination director Gogo Ndlovana.

The SA Democratic Teachers' Union and Congress of SA Students (Cosas) said Sithole and Ndlovana should resign because it was impossible for them not to have been aware of the tampering.

Cosas has threatened to bring the province's schools to a standstill unless matriculants whose marks were inflated are allowed to keep their marks.

The department has urged matriculants who failed after their papers were remarked to register to rewrite in November. The deadline for the registration is May 31. Earlier this month the Education Minister Sibusiso Bhengu appealed to universities and technikons to be sympathetic towards the affected matriculants.

Some institutions threatened to expel students already in their technikons and universities who were found to have failed their matriculation exams. - Sapa

Sowetan 26/5/99

# Senior officials suspended after exam scandal

CORNIA PRETORIUS (52)

ST 13/6/99

THE Mpumalanga Department of Education suspended two senior officials on Friday on charges of misconduct following last year's matric scandal.

The province's MEC for Education, David Mabuza, announced that Gogo Ndlovana, acting director of exams, and K T Mokone, an education specialist on assistant director level, were charged with misconduct and will face a disciplinary hearing. The provincial examination board was also dissolved with immediate effect, Mabuza said, because the body — which has about 10 members representing teachers' unions and departmental representatives — failed to fulfil its watchdog function regarding the running of the exams.

In January the department reported a 20 percent increase on its 1997 matric results. In February, the Minister of Education, Sibusiso Bengu, called for a high-level police and departmental probe under advocate Eberhard Bertelsmann, who released a report in April stating that high-ranking department officials appeared to have been involved.

The internal probe, conducted by MP Khumalo, an independent lawyer from Johannesburg, and officials of the provincial government's labour relations sections, found that certain officials had not complied with the department's examination procedures.

Mabuza said the officials had contravened departmental procedures by adjusting marks be-

fore a meeting with the South African Certification Council, the body which certifies matric marks, but kept quiet about it in the meeting.

He said he would not release the report now as it would prejudice the departmental hearing.

The department is awaiting the outcome of a police investigation, which may lead to criminal charges. If any other officials are implicated in the police probe, the department will take the necessary steps.

Mabuza repeated earlier criticism that the council did not fulfil its function because it allowed the department to release faulty results. He blamed the exam scam on a lack of control and did not want to commit himself to the motive behind the tampering with marks.

Because of the illegal adjustment of marks, 7 000 pupils who originally passed learnt in May that they had, in fact, failed. Another 2 000, who passed with university exemption, no longer had the right to study at university.

At a meeting on Friday between the Mpumalanga department, the council and the national Department of Education, it was found that at least eight institutions had already confirmed that they would definitely not "deregister" affected students.

The affected candidates have been given the opportunity to sit for a special supplementary exam in August or they can sit for the normal matric exam at the end of the year.

● The Mpumalanga provincial Cabinet will be announced this week. Mabuza is not expected to continue as MEC for Education.

# MEC aims to improve pass rate

BD 22/6/99 (52)

## Primarashni Pillay

KWAZULU-Natal education MEC Eileen kaNkosi-Shandu said yesterday her priority was to improve the province's matric pass rate by at least five percentage points.

KaNkosi-Shandu was reappointed education MEC. She had held the position for about five months since replacing Vincent Zulu.

Other new education MECs include Helen Zille of the Western Cape, who takes over from Nick Koornhof; Ignatius Jacobs who replaces Mary Metcalfe in Gauteng; and Fish Mahlalela, who is the acting education MEC of Mpumalanga, replacing David Mabuza.

Last year, KwaZulu-Natal achieved a 50,4% matric pass rate — down from the 54% pass it achieved in 1997. KaNkosi-Shandu said her administration would tar-

get schools that performed poorly with support programmes. "We want to make sure that every grade 12 pupil can sit with some measure of confidence for this year's exams," she said.

Her ministry would also work towards providing a relevant school curriculum and producing school leavers that meet to the needs of business in the province.

KaNkosi-Shandu said her ministry would place orders for next year's textbooks and stationery early to ensure that schools got their supplies on time. "Last year the orders were placed late in November and there was no money. This year we'll try to place the orders in July," she said.

KwaZulu-Natal is known to spend at least 93% of its education budget on staff salaries, leaving little for capital projects.

Responding to criticism that her department was bloated as it was divided into eight regions which each had a chief director and three directors, she said "the regions are necessary. The province is bigger than eight European countries put together. You can't run the province centrally".

She welcomed the appointment of Prof Kader Asmal as the new education minister. It is known that her predecessor and the former Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu were estranged. There were rumours that Zulu sometimes did not attend meetings of the Council of Education Ministers.

KaNkosi-Shandu said her department would work with Asmal as the national education department formulated policies. Asmal was "the right person" for the job, she said.

# Union wants inquiry into scandal

By Victor Mecoamere (52)  
Education Correspondent

SOUTH African Democratic Teachers Union president Willie Madisha called for a full investigation yesterday into Mpumalanga's 1998 matric scandal after the discovery of identical handwriting styles in 4 000 scripts.

Mpumalanga police have referred the scripts for forensic testing after at least two identical handwriting styles were spotted on each of the scripts.

So far about 100 Mpumalanga education department officials, including markers, moderators and invigilators have been questioned and possible prosecution of suspects is likely to take

place after the test results have been taken to the public prosecutions' directorate.

"Proper transformation cannot take place in the South African education system when such matters do not receive full investigations," said Madisha in his reaction to this latest incident.

Earlier this year the Mpumalanga education authorities proudly reported a 20 percent increase in matric examination passes. But an inquiry ordered by former minister of education Professor Sibusiso Bengu found the results were unlawfully increased by 20 percent to 72 percent.

Two senior officials, Ms Kate

*South African 5/7/99*  
Mokone and Ms Anna Ndlovana, were subsequently suspended by former education MEC Mr David Mabuza. They face a disciplinary hearing on charges of allegedly having adjusted pupils' marks without authorisation.

Madisha also repeated an earlier threat by the union not to cooperate with acting education MEC Mr Fish Mahlalela until he suspends the province's education department head, Miss Faith Sithole. She is alleged to have been involved in the unauthorised adjustment of the results.

"The suspension of those two was not enough. There should be a full investigation," said Mr Madisha.

## Mpumalanga matric scandal heats up (52)

JOHANNESBURG: A third senior official in the Mpumalanga Department of Education has been suspended in connection with the bungling of last year's matric results.

The provincial head of department, Faith Sithole, joined Gogo Ndlovana, acting director of examination, and education specialist Kate Mokone, among people suspected to have pulled off an embarrassing scandal for the province.

The three, for now, stand accused of tampering with the pupils' examination scripts, which resulted in the provincial pass rate being fraudulently inflated to 72%.

The dramatically improved pass rate was reduced by 20% and led to 7 000 pupils' senior certificates being nullified and 2 000 others having their exemptions withdrawn.

The South African Democratic Teachers' Union in the province earlier severed ties with the department over dissatisfaction in the way the scandal had been handled. It wanted more heads to roll and argued that the suspension of Ndlovana and Mokone was not enough and they should be fired. — Charmeela Bhagawat

CT 13/7/99



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# Dept head suspended

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(52)

**By Victor Mecoamere**  
Education Correspondent

MPUMALANGA education department head Ms Faith Sithole has been suspended in connection with the province's 1998 matric examination scandal, provincial education MEC Mr Fish Mahlalela announced in Nelspruit yesterday.

Sithole's suspension follows that of education specialists Ms Kate Mokone and Ms Anna Ndlovana by Mahlalela's predecessor, Mr David Mabuza, in May.

Mahlalela said Mokone and Ndlovana were due to face a departmental tribunal which would afford them the opportunity to answer the serious charges of violating systems and procedure relating to the conduct of last year's senior certificate examinations.

He said Sithole, whose suspension took effect on Friday, would remain suspended while charges were being formulated against her. She is suspected of having been present when the unauthorised adjustment of the results was made.

Earlier this year the provincial authorities, led by former premier Mr Mathews Phosa and Mabuza, proudly announced a 20 percent increase in the matric examination results.

A subsequent inquiry, which was ordered by former education minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu, found that the results had been unlawfully increased by 20 percent to 72 percent, affecting 7 000 pupils.

Sithole's suspension is expected to appease the South African Democratic Teachers Union, which had threatened not to cooperate with Mahlalela until Sithole was suspended and investigated for alleged involvement in the botched examinations.

Last month Mpumalanga police reported the discovery of identical handwriting styles in about 4 000 scripts of pupils who had written the same ill-fated matric examinations in the province, which resulted in the subsequent questioning of about 100 markers, moderators and invigilators.

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# Department proposes uniform exam policy

BD 14/7/99 (52)

## Single matric regulation will cover SA, writes Primarashni Pillay

UNTIL now, provincial education departments have run their matric exams without a uniform policy that establishes procedures for setting exams, marking question papers, identifying irregularities and acting on them.

Matric exams have been surrounded by rumours of leaked papers and poor security. In some cases question papers have been replaced with supplementary exam question papers in order to protect the integrity of the exams after leaks were discovered.

A few days ago the education department gazetted a policy that sets out norms and standards for the administration of exams.

The policy covers issues like rules, planning, security and the appointment of examiners.

A department official, who asked not to be named, said there had been "a growing need for consensus on exam policy, as each province has its own policy and this document aims to bring about uniformity".

A standard policy would mean that provinces would not have the "latitude" they had in the administration of exams in the past.

The policy identifies various irregularities in which pupils could be involved. If a pupil is found in possession of unauthorised material he or she will be punished by having marks for that subject declared null and void. The candidate will be banned from writing the exam for a year.

If a candidate is caught copying from notes or a textbook, copying from other candidates, or is assisting others or being assisted by others, the same punishment applies.

If a candidate has stolen a question paper the results in all the subjects must be cancelled and the candidate must be barred from writing the exams for three to five years, the policy says.

The official said this uniform punishment would prevent a candidate who is barred from writing examinations in his province from attempting to write the exams in another province where the punishment may not be as severe.

"Our computer system will record the individual's name and he or she will be blocked or black-listed and cannot ... write the exams in another province," the official said.

Prof Siphon Seepe of Vista University welcomed the document, saying it set out procedures and the definition of irregularities. In addition, the policy would prevent unequal punishment being meted out in different provinces.

While the policy allowed for punitive measures to be taken against cheaters, he warned, it could not prevent cheating.

John Pampallis, head of the Centre for Education Policy Development, said the policy on cheating could minimise dishonest practices by pupils. But he too argued that "even in the best system you will get cheating".

Seepe and Pampallis both expressed concern over the possibility that pupils might be charged exam fees.

The apartheid government's policy of exam fee payment was withdrawn before the 1994 elections due to protests.

However, the department could introduce fees as "there is a lot of wastage of taxpayers' money — pupils register for exams then don't turn up to write the exams," the department official said.

The interprovincial exams committee was pushing for the introduction of fees and it was possible that Education Minister Kader Asmal would take up the issue with provincial education MECs.

Seepe and Pampallis said some people might not be able to afford the fees.

The official said the new policy allowed the national department to continuously monitor the running of exams and check on "key points like the setting, writing, marking, and processing of scripts".

This would provide a mechanism for tightening up the administration of exams and help prevent mark tampering — such as in Mpumalanga last year.

An education analyst says the new policy means that "provincial education departments cannot be left on their own to do their own thing. This policy is aimed at creating a single education system and the national education department is taking responsibility."

# A helping hand for pregnant schoolgirls

By STEVE DLAMINI

PREGNANT teenagers who have been rejected by their schools and communities have found a place of their own at the Pretoria Hospital School which caters mainly for young expectant mothers.

This multi-racial school, which is the first of its kind in South Africa, was founded in 1987 after a pupil who fell pregnant was expelled by her school.

They also ensure that pupils who give birth write their examinations at home or in hospitals.

Earlier this year, an 18-year-old grade 12 pupil at Reasoima High School in Soweto, caused a major row after she fell pregnant. Opinion at the school was split on whether she should attend classes in her condition. The row led to a strike by those opposed to her attending classes in her condition.

Penelope Molefe was forced to leave the school premises by her fellow pupils, teachers and principal, but a directive from the Gauteng Education Department demanded her re-admission. The pupils revolted against Penelope saying that the school was not a "maternity ward" for young girls.

The Pretoria Hospital School is offering sanctuary to pregnant pupils who are attending classes without any prejudice.

However, it is not just an ordinary school, warned the principal, Rina van Niekerk.

"It is more like a bridging school for pregnant teenagers, meant to stay away from their schools for a 12-month maternity period before their return. There is no reason why these children should be absent from school for the whole year," Van Niekerk said.

"They should come here. This

school is meant for them. It is a necessity for young pregnant girls who feel discriminated against by their fellow pupils at their respective schools."

The rules and procedures at the school are the same as at other schools.

The only difference is that all the girls are pregnant and they are not in school uniforms and that the enrolment of these children is indefinite.

During enrolment, a fee of R130 a month is required and an additional fee of R50 for pupils registered for typing, computer and other commercial subjects.

Van Niekerk said that although the school's main focus was on pregnant school children, it also catered for rape victims (scholars), pupils with mental disabilities and scholars who are out of school due to serious injury owing to ac-

cidents or sports injuries.

She said pupils with psychological problems were situated at the premises of Pretoria's Weskoppies Hospital.

"Last year we had one pupil who was injured in a rugby match. If any of our pupils give birth during the time of the exams, special arrangements are made in order for them to write the paper at a later stage. They can write a supplementary paper if they want to."

The school offers 14 subjects including maths, science, biology, history, languages, economics, home economics and typing.

Although the school falls under the Gauteng department of education, it caters for pupils from all provinces.

There are currently 45 pupils and 12 classrooms. The staff consists of one permanent teacher and 13 temporary teachers.

"We have requested the department to provide us with at least one teacher who can assist us with African languages. So far, these requests have had no success," Van Niekerk said.

An 18-year-old teenager who is three months pregnant told City Press that she came to the school after she was discriminated against by some pupils at her school.

"The school is brilliant. We receive more attention from teachers than we did at our own schools. We like it here," she says with a smile on her face.

Shelly Mabusela, deputy chairperson of the Human Rights Commission, welcomed the school with open arms.

"This school is another way of dealing with pregnancy at schools, as long as the school policy is not discriminatory," Mabusela said.

(52) (237) CP 25/7/89

Tuesday August 3 1999 SOWETAN

# Plan for new exam board

**By Victor Mecoamere**  
Education Correspondent

NEW Mpumalanga education MEC Craig Padayachee is to head the formation of a new Provincial Examination Board after the dissolution of the old one in the wake of the province's 1998 matric examination results scandal.

Provincial education department spokesman Mr Peter Maminza said at the weekend that the new board would replace the old one which was dissolved after it failed to fulfil its watchdog role.

Maminza said the new board would be expected to advise the department head on the norms and standards for the

examinations and policy aspects affecting evaluation.

Nominations have to be submitted to the office of the department head by Friday, said Maminza.

The original board was dissolved by former education MEC David Mabuza in May after he and former Premier Mathews Phosa had announced a 20 percent pass rate increase which prompted former education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to order an inquiry.

Advocate Eberhard Bertelsmann, who headed the inquiry, pointed at the involvement of senior provincial education department officials in the irregular adjustment of the matric results.

Mabuza subsequently suspended

education specialists Ms Anna Ndlovana and Ms Kate Mokone after the inquiry found that the results had been unlawfully increased by 20 percent to 72 percent.

Last month, acting education MEC Fish Mahlalela suspended Mpumalanga education department head Ms Faith Sithole in connection with the same scandal.

Sithole is accused of having been present when the unlawful adjustment was made, while Ndlovana and Mokone are alleged to have violated systems and procedures relating to the conduct of the examinations.

The scandal affected about 7 000 pupils.

*Sowetan 3/8/99 (7a)*

# They're staying at school, and loving it!

(na) ARK 4/8/99

## Bright post-matric pupils opting for an extra year to do their A-level examinations

LINDA VERGMAN  
Contributing Editor

Most teenagers cannot wait to leave the school system for the freedom of university.

But at Wynberg Boys High School bright post-matric pupils from various schools have elected to spend an extra year doing Cambridge University A-levels, and appear to be loving it.

Lisa Womersly, 18, who got six As in matric at Herschel School last year, says: "I could have gone into any course at university but at the end of matric I was really clueless. I wanted a gap year to figure out my career."

She decided to pursue her interests in English literature, maths and fine art through A-levels.

She finds A-level subjects are studied at a much more intense level than in matric, with a fascinating approach that has "really opened my mind".

"In matric they spoonfeed you. It's so different with A-levels, it's so refreshing. Nobody is breathing down your neck. You just get on with it and research your subjects in depth."

Lisa says for financial reasons studying overseas is not really an option for her, but concedes A-levels would enable her to apply for overseas scholarships.

A requirement for entry into British and other international universities, A-levels are seen by some South African parents as an insurance policy for children who wish to study abroad or emigrate.

However, teachers at the handful of public and private Cape Town schools offering A-levels maintain most pupils take the post-matric qualification because they want to study subjects in greater depth.

Some pupils believe it will give them the clout to qualify for highly sought-after courses, like medicine, at local universities.

Passing A-levels is not required as an entry qualification by a single South African technician or university.

Yet proponents of A-levels claim they are an international benchmark of academic excellence and give pupils the skills to succeed at tertiary level and in the working world. This is in contrast to matric which relies heavily on rote learning and regurgitation of facts.

British passport holder William Lindsay, 18, is one of the few post-matric pupils at Wynberg doing A-levels to study abroad. He needs the qualification to join the Royal Air Force in Britain.

"I went to the University of Cape Town with friends of mine to have a look and got pretty put off. There were masses of people in lectures. I enjoy the smaller classroom situation in A-levels where you get more personal attention than at university."

In England completing A-levels usually



More school: Gemma Patten, 17, with teacher Glen Kriel at Wynberg High School, which offers A-level courses. Pupils take their A-levels either during their matric year or post-matric.

examination system is used all over the world including Zimbabwe, Singapore and Malaysia.

Mr Stout says his school is keen to offer A-levels "for students who may use it for entry to international universities".

"We have expatriate parents whose children will go to British universities. There is another category of parents whose children will probably go to South African universities but who want to leave their options open. They are looking at it as insurance."

Stout says while parents might want their children to study abroad, they also have to "bite the bullet and face the fact that it will cost R100 000 a year to go to university in Britain".

It is an option few can afford. But he believes the quality of experience A-level pupils get is invaluable.

He maintains South African universities welcome pupils with A-levels because they have a "pretty good education" and passing grades correlate closely with later success at university.

"The South African matric is still very much concerned with the recall of factual information. Yet with the internet and computers children don't need to be loaded with knowledge. They need to know how to research, how to handle information and how to report data."

A-levels incorporates this "methodological shift" and are about imparting skills needed to handle information and life.

A former A-level chief examiner for biology for the University of Cambridge Examination Board, Stout perceives A-levels as the culmination of a 14-year British school curriculum.

In this context A-levels are "a wonderful system which works". His school will offer A-levels as part of the entire British curriculum from the pre-primary level.

Barbara Eliot, director of A-levels at Fairmont High School in Durbanville, says the governing body has decided that this is the final year the school will be offering Cambridge A-levels.

She is saddened by this decision as she believes A-levels are "a Rolls Royce product in the market place that must be made accessible to the more intelligent child".

Ms Eliot would like to see an A-level option available to all academically bright pupils in South Africa and believes that commerce and business would be prepared to sponsor such a venture.

She contends A-levels are far more intellectual, academic and rigorous than matric and give the pupils an intensity of experience they would not otherwise get. "It steeps intelligent children in thinking."

Ms Eliot says: "I would like to see a marriage of South African student potential, the means of technology and an international benchmark like the Cambridge A-levels."

### W Cape schools that offer A-levels

A number of schools in the Western Cape offer A-levels. They are:

- Wynberg Boys and Girls High schools in Wynberg
- Paarl Valley High School in Somerset West
- Diocesan College (Bishops) in Rondebosch
- Rhenish Girls High School in Stellenbosch
- International School of Cape Town in Rondebosch

"But most parents are quite realistic and say 'Even if we could send our children to British universities the cost is prohibitive'."

Martin says most Wynberg pupils are doing A-levels as "a rearguard action to make sure they can get into UCT" or for enrichment.

"Higher grade matric pupils can crack the system if they have a really good memory."

In contrast, A-levels gave pupils the ability to apply knowledge, think on their feet and equipped them for careers.

Wilf Stout, headmaster of the International School of Cape Town, which will offer A-levels from 2000, says A-levels were originally designed for "the top 10% in the ability range of pupils in Britain".

He says A-levels were developed by various British universities as entry examinations to their institutions. There are currently about four "university syndicates" offering A-levels, of which the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate is the biggest. The Cambridge A-level

involves two years of schooling - the first year equivalent to the South African matric and the second year equivalent to a grade 13 post-matric. Pupils select two or three A-level subjects.

At Wynberg Girls and Boys High schools - which have combined resources to offer A-levels as an after-school hours option - pupils can complete A-levels in a single year. A-levels are either done in combination with matric or as a post-matric year. The cost is R3 300 a subject compared to around R20 000 for each of two A-level years at private schools.

The after-hours A-levels at Wynberg can be taken by Grade 11 and 12 pupils after their normal school day. Some students are doing the course post-matric.

Bianca Fermi, 17, a Grade 11 pupil at Springfield Convent is doing two A-levels at Wynberg simultaneously with her matric subjects this year.

"I wanted something to help me get into university and to give me more perspective on what I want to do."

An Italian passport holder, she says: "At

side this community. If we want South Africa to do well, the bright kids have to be encouraged to get A-levels."

"I think there is a feeling that people who do A-levels will leave the country. I'm not in favour of that. I'm incredibly proud South African and I think we are the most amazing country in the world."

Martin says if people want to immigrate they will leave anyway. Of the 24 pupils doing A-levels at Wynberg, "about six are toying with the idea of leaving the country".

# Dogs to sniff out drugs at schools

Government plan to smash the spiralling scourge among children (S2) (87)

YVETTE VAN BREDA

**T**HE government is planning to smash the scourge of drug abuse by schoolchildren in the wake of damning research which shows that teenagers are increasingly turning to drugs in the Western Cape.

In a national first, the provincial education department is to send sniffer dogs into schools. They also plan to increase the use of surveillance cameras which have already been effective in rooting out drugs at some schools.

Neighbourhood watches, police community forums and peer counsellor training for older students, are also being used to combat drug use.

The drastic steps come in the wake of statistics released this week which show that drug abuse is rife among Cape Town teenagers.

Figures show local teens are the most susceptible to peer pressure when it comes to taking drugs. Capetonians between the ages of 12 and 19 are more likely to be offered drugs than their national counterparts. And they are more likely to



**SCHOLAR PATROL:** Sniffer dog Flash, a border collie, gets to know the pupils at one of the schools at which canines will be used to root out drugs

Picture: DAVID BLOOMER

conjunction with other strategies, such as the hidden cameras.

He said neighbourhood watches supplied intelligence to school authorities on drugs, and police community forums were playing an increasing role.

A programme in which senior students were trained to counsel their peers had proved successful, Daniels said.

Schools also ran the usual drug awareness programmes.

Hard drugs like crack cocaine, ecstasy and heroin were being sold in schools, but alcohol and dagga remained the biggest problems, said Daniels.

This week Cape Metro watched as Flash, a border collie, sniffed out a package of dagga which had been confiscated from a primary school child and placed in a safe in the principal's office.

Imperial Primary School principal Colin Barron said the governing body of his school had agreed to run the programme there because of the drug scourge.

"I've confiscated drugs from pupils in the past and it does not help having drug dealers living in the area," said Barron.

Drug surveys show SA youths spend R22-million a year on dagga, mandrax, cocaine and increasingly heroin, often at schools.

The Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre, which treats 700 new patients a year, says 40 per cent of those they help are teenagers.

Research showed that 87 per cent started taking drugs before the age of 20.

Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein. Now, the Education Department's Safer Schools Project has embarked on a 40-school pilot project in Mitchells Plain in conjunction with security companies. If successful, it will be used in problem schools across the peninsula and eventually the country.

Project programme manager Eugene Daniels said the dogs would be used as a means of detection and deterrent rather than to criminalise pupils. The dogs would operate in

... a restructuring programme based on an agreement with the NUM and other unions.

... agreement wanted to end the dispute "more than anything". Seroba said management's half

Randfontein Estates, which upped its offer from 7,5% to 9%. Agreements are still outstanding.

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# Mpumalanga to beef up security for matric exams

Primarashni Pillay (MP) 9D 18/8/99

THE Mpumalanga education department needed to pay attention to the capturing and moderation of matric examination marks this year, provincial education MEC Craig Padayachee said yesterday.

He said he was confident last year's unlawful adjustment of the province's matric exam marks would not be repeated. Mpumalanga raised eyebrows when it posted a 72% pass rate last year, compared with 1997's 45,7% rate.

Investigations later disclosed that there had been across-the-board tampering of marks by exam moderators and that the real pass rate was 52%.

Three department officials were suspended a few weeks ago, pending a disciplinary hearing.

Padayachee said the areas of mark-capturing and moderation were "precisely (where) ... these ... unwarranted, unapproved mark adjustments were unlawfully effected".

He said his department would use the services of the safety and security department and security firms to ensure that the exams are not corrupted. There will be physical inspections and monitoring teams at the province's seven marking centres.

Padayachee said the appointment of a new examinations board would be announced later this month and members would be required to sign declarations of confidentiality.

# Week labour act changes



# 'Separate exams not a wise idea' (52)

By Victor Mecoamere  
Education Correspondent

SEPARATE examinations are unwise as they will lead to unequal standards and affect admission and registration of pupils at tertiary institutions, Professional Teachers Union (PEU) president Mr Leepile Taunyane said in Johannesburg yesterday.

He was reacting to the debate sparked last week by the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) whose demand for separate examinations or the postponement of the examinations was rejected by Education Minister Kader Asmal after a meeting with the student body.

Cosas, who were disappointed by Asmal's response, had based their demand on syllabi backlogs and the latest teachers' salary strike.

Asmal said separate examinations would affect logistical and security arrangements around the examinations process, and asked Cosas to develop a

concrete proposal on the matter.

"It would be very unwise to postpone the examinations for black townships-based schools or for them to sit for separate matric examinations. This would lower standards.

"Separate examinations will lead to unequal standards. It will also promote a serial effect on the admission and registration of pupils at tertiary institutions. My plea to Cosas is for them to bite the bullet and write the examinations," Taunyane said.

Taunyane was supported by Mr Mpho Makola of the Pan Africanist Youth Congress of Azania and Federation of Governing Bodies of SA Schools chairman Mr Paul Colditz who said separating the matric examinations would be tantamount to reverting to the status quo of the previous dispensation.

Both Makola and Democratic Party spokesman Mr Manny de Freitas said most pupils had always been unprepared and were using the teachers' strike and the syllabi backlog as an excuse.

## Specialists to help fight exam fraud (52)

By Waghied Misbach  
Political Correspondent (52)

LEADING international education specialists will visit South Africa at the end of the month to help the Education Ministry stamp out fraud in the matric examinations at the end of year.

Education Minister Kader Asmal announced in Parliament yesterday that the Cambridge International Examination Board (CIEB) will lend their expertise to prevent a repeat of last

year's Mpumalanga matric exam fraud.

The CIEB has worked extensively in the Britain and other European countries, Asmal said.

They will assist the Government in securing all exam papers until the start of exams.

CIEB will also provide assistance to various provincial ministries on how to run examinations effectively and smoothly, said Dr Trevor Coombe, the ministry's acting director-general.

Asmal also announced a new school calendar for the 2000 examinations.

The calendar for coastal provinces (Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and KwaZulu Natal) will start on 18 January, with teachers reporting for duty on January 17.

The second school term begins on April 3 and ends on June 23, instead of June 22 as originally planned.

The third term begins on July 17 and ends on September 22. April 25 and the 26 will be retained as official school days.

The calendar for the remaining five provinces remains the same.



# Cosas calls for separate matric exams for some

ND 13/9/99 (52)

WITH matriculation examinations weeks away and poor results expected, senior certificate candidates should only be tested on what they have been taught this year, Congress of SA Students (Cosas) president Lebogang Maile said yesterday.

Addressing a media conference in Sandton, Maile said his organisation was "pessimistic" about the outcome of this year's matric examinations.

He said some schools had only completed half the required syllabus and that the problem affected both township and public schools.

"Few white students are affected. It (the problem) is mostly in the black, coloured and Indian schools," he said.

He denied that his call for separate papers for certain students would result in the lowering of standards.

"Students cannot be examined on what they don't know. It's not a fair measurement," Maile said. Government had the resources to make the necessary logistical arrangements for separate tests "within three days".

He said Cosas, which claims a membership of 300 000 high school students around the country, did not have the organisational capacity nor the funds to co-ordinate such a complicated endeavour on its own.

"We therefore challenge Education Minister Kader Asmal to provide enough and concrete reasons (for) his rejection of our proposal."

However, Asmal's spokesman Bheki Khumalo dismissed Cosas's suggestion that matriculants be only tested on what they have been taught.

"Education will be a laughing stock if we agree to that. The government must preserve the integrity of the examination process," he said.

Khumalo said it "was all systems go" and that the normal matric examination writing process would be followed.

The present education crisis was not a new development, Khumalo said.

"Black education has been in a crisis since 1976," he said.

He conceded that certain schools had not completed their work schedule.

However, the government had appointed an interprovincial committee to deal with the problem.

Khumalo said there were measures in place to ensure that students were given catch-up and revision lessons. He said students had to use the September break to complete their syllabus.

Khumalo said the education department would only respond formally to Cosas's demand once it had received a written presentation. — Sapa.

By Charity Bhengu

EDUCATION Minister Kader Asmal has invited Britain's Cambridge International

Examination Board to assess the integrity of this year's matric exams.

The team, which is expected in South Africa later this month, will also assess security arrangements to ensure the exams proceed smoothly.

This move follows problems which confronted some provinces, including security problems. Mpumalanga, for instance, is determined to prevent a scandal like that which hit the 1998 exam results.

This week Mpumalanga Education MEC Craig Padayachee and the provincial exam board had a meeting to ensure that the exams proceeded without any problems.

Spokesman for the department, Peter Maminza said the board - which had endorsed the department's examination management plan - would help to re-establish the public's confidence in the validity of exams.

Consistent with its commitment to plugging every possible security loophole, the department, together with the provincial safety and security

# Exams process set to get top marks this year

SAWUBHONGA 11/10/1998

department and security companies, has added additional security measures.

The department is confident that the harm inflicted on many pupils through the 1998 exam irregularities will never be repeated.

Maminza said it would pay special attention to the capturing and moderation of marks.

The new board, under the acting head of department Duncan Hindle, will play a direct role in monitoring all processes, including invigilation and marking sessions.

In Mpumalanga, about 62 000 candidates have already registered for this year's matric examination.

The department has also organised 102 centres, in addition to special tutorial programmes, to assist pupils and teachers who have volunteered to

has refused to bow to the calls by the Congress of South African Students for matric exams timetable to be changed or for students to write separate exams.

Soweto's Mafori Mphahlele Comprehensive School is an example of a school which defied all odds last year to achieve a 65 percent pass rate - after registering only a 13 percent pass rate.

Principal Willie Masemola said the strike had partly affected their readiness for exams, but the students were willing to work during the holiday.

Pupil Lebogang Thothela said to catch up he had decided to join a group which studies in the evening. During the strike, his team stayed at school and studied by themselves while most pupils roamed the streets.

The school's guidance teacher Nozipho Ndlela said many pupils had struggled with their work throughout the year.

"Most of them come from dysfunctional and poor families and their performance is affected by circumstances beyond their control," the teacher said.

tions to help with revision work in townships where the situation is desperate. Teachers have formed a group called *Uzulu* (Zulu for cultivating) to help schools which have not finished the main syllabus.

Spokesman for Gauteng Education Ismail Wadee said the timetables were out, markers appointed and security reviewed and upgraded. The department has found volunteers to help pupils with revision.

Meanwhile, most townships schools have indicated their willingness to give up the spring holidays to catch up with lost work.

Spokesman for Department of Education Bheki Khumalo said township schools were worst affected by the recent teachers' strike.

In addition, pupils now have to bury themselves in books since Asmal

# Strict matric security plan

(52)  
**By Victor Mecoamere**  
Education Correspondent

STRINGENT security for this year's matric examinations, starting on October 18, will include physical and electronic surveillance and armed security guards, said Gauteng education MEC Mr Ignatius Jacobs in Johannesburg this week.

The Gauteng department of education (GDE) has promised tough action against defaulters after having suffered from examination irregularities - including unlawful possession or theft of question or answer

worksheets by pupils or staffers.

Candidates are warned about trying to gain access to examination material as this could result in them being barred from writing examinations for up to five years, or two years' imprisonment.

Jacobs said his department's matric intervention programme, launched early this year, was being intensified at 71 independent and public schools which had posted poor marks last year: "The short term, high impact intervention programme for grade 12 pupils will entail supplying video cassettes and

workbooks in mathematics, biology, physical science, accounting, geography and English," Jacobs said.

"These subjects are perceived as being difficult and teaching them needs monitoring and improving."

The programme will be carried out through revision, pupil and teacher motivation and support sessions by experts on Saturdays, Sundays and the September holidays.

Both the South African Students Congress (Sasco) and the Congress of SA Students (Cosas) in Gauteng said schools that had not completed the syllabus should be targeted.

*Sowetan 17/9/99*

# Cosas agrees to postpone separate exams call

**Pule Molebeledi**

DURBAN — The Congress of SA Students (Cosas) has agreed to put its controversial call for separate matriculation exams in abeyance and rather intensify its efforts by assisting students lagging behind with their schoolwork.

This emerged yesterday after a weekend meeting between Cosas and the African National Congress Youth League. The league's secre-

tary-general Fikile Mbalula said his organisation supported Cosas' seven-point plan which emphasised the pooling of resources to ensure that all students were adequately prepared to face exams.

"The issue of a separate exam is not a matter for now... It was discussed, but we are saying we will put it in abeyance and concentrate on the seven point plan," he said.

Mbalula said they would meet with Education Minister Kader As-

mal and all nine education MECs before the end of the week to emphasise the question of assisting students lagging behind with their schoolwork.

He said the meeting would also look into the general preparedness of the education system for next year's opening of schools and delivery of textbooks.

Mbalula said they would also hold meetings with teacher organisations to discuss the plan.

ED 20/9/99

(sa)

CORNIA PRETORIUS

# Matrics in last-ditch bid to succeed

(57)

ST 26/19/99

Poorer provinces doomed to repeat past failures

**I**N A desperate race against time, 74 Grade 12 pupils at Serarubele High in Northern Province will work through their October holidays to improve on the school's zero pass rate in last year's matric exams.

But, despite their efforts, South Africa's poorest provinces are headed for another matric results disaster.

In Northern Province, only one in 10 matrics passed the preparatory exams in June. In the Eastern Cape, a large number did not write trials at all.

Only three of the matric pupils at Serarubele High, near Tzaneen, passed in June. But the four percent pass rate was good enough to improve its standing from bottom of the 138 schools in its region to number 74.

Serarubele is likely to produce better results because it now has a dedicated principal and sufficient discipline.

Matric pupil Michael Malatji, 17, says: "Before principal Justice Buthezi came last year, people arrived late and left at 10am. They cannot do

that any more."

About 100km away, Acornhoek Lekete Secondary School faces disaster. Three weeks ago, pupils drove the principal away in a dispute over school fees. Since then, they have boycotted classes.

A spokesman for the province's Education Department, Rapule wa ga Matsane, said they expected a matric pass rate of 35 to 40 percent, compared with the 11 percent June results, as pupils had covered more work in the past three months. But the Eastern Cape department warned that, unless schools began functioning, the pass rate would continue to decline.

Education Minister spokesman Bheki Khumalo said Minister Kader Asmal was aware that provincial departments and schools had worked hard to improve results, but many schools were still dysfunctional.

"Matric results are the barometer of the education system's performance. As long as the performance levels remain where they are, we are indeed facing a crisis," he said.

Provincial departments said the wage disputes between public sector unions and the government had disrupted classes at a crucial stage for the completion of the matric syllabus. In Gauteng and Mpumalanga, teachers have been accused of taking advantage of the dispute to stay away from classes.

In addition, the redeployment process, now in its third year, has deprived matric classes of teachers and led to demoralised educators.

Other problems facing

schools have included:

- Absenteeism and late arrivals of teachers and pupils;
- Large numbers of underqualified teachers giving matric classes in subjects such as maths and science;
- Poor management;
- Strict financial controls, which have left provinces with little money to improve facilities and provide enough textbooks; and
- Grade 12s refusing to attend extra lessons.

Educationist Penny Vinjevold said schools such as Leshata Secondary, in the Vaal Triangle, had proved that results could be turned around in only a few years. The school had improved its matric pass rate from 30 to 92 percent

over the past three years. But she warned that it might take 10 years to see a national improvement because of "the low levels of literacy and numeracy when pupils enter high school".

A key problem is that schools don't complete the matric syllabus in time for the exams.

The North West Education Department is predicting a five to 10 percent improvement on its 54,6 percent pass rate last year after setting target dates to complete the syllabus. But there are indications that schools in the Free State, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal are behind.

● See the Sunday Times education web site at [www.suntimes.co.za/edu/](http://www.suntimes.co.za/edu/)

# Cosas wants tight exam security

**By Victor Mecoamere**  
Education Correspondent

**T**HE national and provincial education departments should ensure that the senior certificate examinations are free of leaks or irregularities, Congress of South African Students president Mr Lebogang Maile said yesterday.

Maile was reacting to a message of good luck and motivation to all 807 877 candidates in South Africa who will be writing their matric exams from

October 5 to November 25. (57)

The candidates are due to know their fate between December 28 and December 30 as the government is eager to avert the possible technical hitches associated with the Y2K or millennium bug.

It is feared that most computer-based communication technology faces many yet unforeseen dangers between December 31 and January 1.

Deputy Education Minister Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa wished the candidates well at the weekend, adding

that those who passed with university exemptions would have the chance to enroll at tertiary institutions of their choice.

"Those achieving school leaving certificates will be restricted to some tertiary institutions and other further education and training institutions," said Mkhathshwa.

Candidates who fail face an uncertain future, although those who are ill-prepared need not despair because there is still time for them to make up in different ways.

Maile welcomed Mkhathshwa's good wishes and motivations but warned that the national and provincial education department's responsibility lay in the security and integrity of the examination process.

"We are ready after ensuring that a matric intervention programme led by Cosas is up and running. It is being implemented by public schools and independent educational institutions and is at an advanced stage," said Maile.

He said the programme involved

extra classes on weekdays and weekends and during the September school holidays and was designed to make up for the first six weeks of the year, which SA Democratic Teachers Union (Sandtu) president Mr Willie Madisha said was taken up by pupil registration.

Madisha has encouraged Sadtu's 240 000 members to support Cosas's intervention campaign, which the students' organisation said was aimed at making up for untaught parts of the syllabus and the time lost during the recent public sector unions' strike.

*Sowetan 30/9/99*

# SA has a dual exam system, probe finds

BD 4/10/99 (52)

## Only three provinces use continuous assessments to test pupils

**Primarashni Pillay**

THOUSANDS of pupils in six provinces will start their matric exams at a disadvantage compared with those in Gauteng and the Western and Northern Cape, who will have their year's work taken into account.

A percentage of the year's marks achieved by pupils in these three provinces will be added to their final examination marks.

Pupils in the six provinces will have only their exam marks taken into account as their education departments cannot handle the new system of continuous assessment.

It was announced on Friday that provincial education departments were ready for the matric exams. This followed an investigation by the Cambridge International examinations team, appointed by Education Minister Kader Asmal, into the integrity of this year's exams.

Last year officials from Mpumalanga's education department sanctioned illegal mark adjustments which resulted in inflated overall results.

The Cambridge team said that while all systems were in place for this year's exams, SA had a dual matric examination system in which some provinces used continuous assessment.

Sources said KwaZulu-Natal would start using continuous assessments from next year, while other provinces had not said when they would implement this.

Last year the education department released a policy document which stipulated that tests and exams would not be the sole basis for decisions on whether pupils progressed to the next grade. The policy advocated a combination of continuous assessment, where pupils were assessed throughout the year on assignments, knowledge, values and skills.

A year mark varying between 25% and 50% of the total assessment in a subject is being allowed in some provinces.

Sources said the Western Cape had been using this system since 1996. "We have one country with two exam systems, and everybody will be compared on the same level," one source said.

The Western Cape's top matric result rating in three consecutive years was attributable partly to this system. "The SA Certification Council (Safcert), aligned to the National Party, which then ruled the Western Cape, allowed this to happen. It meant advantaged pupils were being further advantaged," the source said.

Meanwhile, Ihron Rensburg, a

deputy director-general in the education department, said the department intended moving towards school-based assessment and exams.

"We are keen to move towards a system where learners work throughout the year instead of preparing just three weeks before a major exam."

Rensburg said provinces implementing the new system this year were ahead of others in terms of administration.

He did not regard this as unfair, and stressed that "there is no question of blocking these three or four provinces which have this component. One cannot hold up provinces that are ready," he said.

The department would come up with plans to accelerate the process of getting all the provinces to use the new system.

It is known that Asmal favours exams as an objective means of gauging pupils' performance. Sources say the minister supports the concept of continuous assessment but intends giving more weight to exams.

He is expected to reduce the value of continuous assessment to 20%-25% of pupils' year mark, in line with the practices of the Cambridge Exam Board, which administers exams in several countries.

By Smangaliso Mkhathshwa

**L**AST year the Department of Education spent about R275 million to run the senior certificate examinations for more than 585 737 full-time candidates. This excludes about 248 989 part-time candidates.

The recorded pass rate was 52 percent. This means that the money spent on the remaining 48 percent candidates who failed went down the drain.

But these discouraging statistics should serve as an additional spur to ensure that we work to minimise the number of failures.

It is that time of the year again when anxiety grips not only pupils who are on the verge of sitting for their senior certificate school exams, but also those who have relationships with them.

These may include education officials, teachers, governing bodies, community leaders, parents, siblings and members of their extended families.

Matric, in our education system, is vitally important - it is the last year of schooling before one can access higher education, find a good job, start training or become an apprentice.

As things stand now, a matric certificate is in many ways a determinant of the future social status of an individual. The pass rate symbols may open or close one's future prospects.

The matric exam decides in a few days whether 12 years of schooling were a waste of parents' and taxpayers' money or were a boost for the pupil's ambitions.

For students, a good matric pass enhances their dignity and self-esteem; for extended families and the destitute, success in matric has the potential of improving financial prospects. One can therefore understand the anxiety.

It is good that many people should have this concern about school exams and results. It shows that we care about education and the future of our children; it is above all a demonstration of our love and concern for the wellbeing of our country.

But is there really a need to subject ourselves to so much stress every year during this time? Is it necessary for officials, parents, students and teachers to start bracing themselves for pointing fingers at one another if the results are poor?

Why should we spend enormous amounts of money on science-fiction type of security to secure our exam centres? Is there a need for our youngsters to think of or even commit suicide in fear of the embarrassment that accompanies failure?

Is there any need for teachers to become "panic mechanics" at the 11th hour to ensure that as many pupils as possible get over this hurdle?

In a competitive society such as ours, failure carries a stigma. We also attach much importance to quality performance and outcomes. Cheating would militate against this ethic.

# A better new-look matric on the way?

(52) Sowetan 5/10/99



Although the exam anxiety is understandable, the question remains: Is all the panic really necessary?

We should, of course, endeavour to ensure all matriculants pass their exams with flying colours, if possible. But to achieve this ideal, all of us must pay a price. That price is something that we all know already, and that is, the value of hard, hard work.

You cannot reap what you have not sown. This presupposes that all key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education, district officials, principals,

teachers and pupils and governing bodies must pull out all stops to ensure the success of this venture.

We should not, however, see exams as an end in themselves. The ministry's philosophy is to create an environment for lifelong learning. But what can be done in the short term to maximise the pass rate every academic year?

Apart from government officials, the two key players in any learning enterprise are the teachers and pupils themselves. The Government can provide essential resources, but it cannot

learn for pupils, teach for educators, manage for managers or govern for school governing bodies.

The Government can only create an enabling environment through policy formulation, drawing up norms and standards and, of course, put in place monitoring mechanisms. In the final analysis, what determines success is the way a school is managed, led and, of course, good practice.

I therefore make a call especially on teachers and pupils to add extra effort as the winning goals are now in sight. I

would not make this call unless I knew they would heed it. The call is for them to go an extra mile in the few weeks left before the first paper is written.

It is a call on the teachers to sacrifice even more to prepare the pupils, and for the pupils to spend all their time on their books, in the libraries, laboratories and behind their computers.

The department is presently working on an assessment policy to replace the current senior certificate exam.

Instead of a pupil sitting nervously in an exam room for three hours trying to recall the history of South Africa from 1910 to the present, grappling with mathematics, accountancy, technology and so on, he/she will be assessed periodically throughout the 12 years.

The determinant for passing will no longer be limited to what one is formally taught, but will depend on several other aspects of learning as well. These will include skills, attitudes, values and the application of knowledge.

The new policy will bring to an end a situation where a pupil can avoid doing his/her school work the whole year until the last moment when he/she sits to memorise what is required and pass the exams.

What happens in this situation is that all that knowledge is forgotten as soon as the exam is over. Such an exam does not assess a pupil's ability properly.

The implication of this is that assessment at grade 12 level will include continuous school-based assessment and a summative external assessment. Continuous assessment will focus on the assessment of knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and the application of knowledge which cannot be easily assessed in a written exam.

The assessment methodologies that can be used will include: observation, project work, assignments, tests (written and oral), simulations and so on.

This is in the future. For the moment all of us who have an interest in education must give our children the best support we can for the matric exam.

(Father Mkhathshwa is the Deputy Minister of Education.)



# Three plus six equals one uneven matric

Some will benefit from system, some will not, writes Primarashni Pillay

COMPARING this year's matric exam results from three provinces with those of the other six will be like comparing apples with pears.

That is because a dual matric exam system gives advantages to three provinces and penalises others that lack the mechanisms for a new system.

The Cambridge Exam Board, which was appointed by Education Minister Kader Asmal to investigate the integrity of this year's matric exams, revealed a fortnight ago that SA had different exam routes to certification.

The board said that this year pupils from Gauteng, the Western Cape and the Northern Cape would have a percentage of their class marks in all subjects added to the marks they attain in the final exams.

In the Eastern Cape, pupils will have their history class mark added to the final mark, while in Mpumalanga, the year mark in the languages and biology will be taken into account.

Parents and some analysts argue that matric pupils in the rest of the country are disadvantaged before they even sit down for their exams — they will earn their marks from this once-off exam. This is because their provincial education departments do not have the capacity to implement the year-mark system.

About 215 000 full-time matric pupils from these provinces will have their subject results

based on matric exams and year marks.

About 300 000 full-time candidates from other provinces will have their results based

solely on external exams.

The five provinces are using a year mark varying in weight between 25% and 50% of the total assessment in a subject. Some analysts and parents say this is an unfair advantage.

One parent said that pupils in these provinces would be at an advantage in terms of working hard throughout the year and securing bursaries to study at tertiary institutions. This would contrast sharply with a bright pupil in another province who sat for an exam, had a bad day, failed the subject and did not have the year mark to lean on.

Gauteng is awaiting the go-ahead from the SA Certification Council to use a 40% across-the-board year mark. The Western Cape uses up to 25% of a pupil's marks on the higher grade and up to 33.3% on standard grade.

KwaZulu-Natal is expected to implement with the year-mark system next year.

An exams official, who asked



Picture: ROBERT BOTHA Graphics: KAREN MOOLMAN

## Skewed exam system

not to be named, said: "We have one country with two exam systems and everybody will be compared on the same level." He suggested that the year-mark system should have been implemented in all provinces from 1996.

Pupils are expected to perform better in provinces using the year-mark system, as it encourages them to work hard throughout the year.

Ilhron Rensburg, a deputy director-general in the education department, said a fortnight ago that the department intended moving towards school-based assessment and exams.

Rensburg said provinces implementing the new system this year were ahead of others in terms of administration. He did not regard this as unfair and emphasised that "there is no question of blocking these three or four provinces which have this component. One cannot hold up provinces that are ready."

The department would come up with plans to accelerate the process of getting all the provinces to use the new system. Yesterday, Asmal's

spokesman Bheki Khumalo said "the continuous assessment system being used by these three provinces will not substantially affect the performance of pupils in other provinces that are not using it". The three provinces were being used as part of a pilot project.

"The year marks will be given to the exam bodies, which will statistically moderate them to bring them in line with the performance of their schools in the external exams," he said.

Education analyst Salim Vally said the year-mark system being used in some exams was a "step in the right direction" but should be consistent across the provinces.

He said matric exams had high stakes and "anything that can be done to minimise this is good".

"The exam system needs a complete review of the high stakes (it carries)," Vally said.

Prof Jonathan Jansen of the University of Durban-Westville said the implementation of the year-mark system had reinstated unevenness in policy in provincial education departments.

"One should expect that the public in provinces without the year-mark system will always feel that those who have it are advantaged relative to those who don't."

The intention of scrapping the 19 former education departments was precisely to avoid the multiplicity of administrative systems based simply on the logic of race, Jansen said.

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# Matrics pay R150 for leaked exam

PRISCILLA SINGH  
EDUCATION WRITER  
(52) BD 3/11/99

POLICE are investigating how maths Standard Grade exam papers (Paper-1) were leaked and sold to matric pupils at Hector Petersen High School for R150 each on the eve of the examination on Monday.

Education MEC Helen Zille said yesterday the results of the school's SG maths candidates would be nullified on the recommendation of the irregularities committee of the Examinations Board. The pupils could be asked to re-write the paper.

Zille held a press conference yesterday and confirmed the leakage of the papers. She said at this stage it seemed that the leak, which took place on Sunday, was confined to one school.

The papers had been delivered to the school on Friday and handed over to principal C. Ramaselele, who was responsible for locking them up in a safe. Western Cape Education Department official Eddie Kirstens said it appeared that somebody at the school, other than Ramaselele, had access to the safe and removed them.

All the answered papers would be closely examined to find correlations and seek out the culprits who purchased the papers. So far nobody had been questioned or come forward with information, Kirstens said.

It is the second time this week that Hector Petersen High has made headlines. At the weekend, four pupils aged between 16 and 18 were arrested for carrying liquor in their backpacks during a matric outing to Camps Bay beach.

Camps Bay police were alerted that pupils and teachers had been drinking during a joint beach party for matrics, with pupils from two other schools, which turned into a drunken bash.

Police later dropped all charges. The WCED, however, is investigating the

ing the teachers involved.

Zille was alerted to the possibility of an exam paper leak at Hector Petersen High, which is in Kraaifontein, when it requested extra question papers.

The school claimed on Monday morning that it had not been supplied with enough papers.

A team of officials from the Western Cape Education Department were immediately dispatched to establish whether a leak had indeed taken place.

Before the exam began at 9am on Monday, the team had established that a leak had probably taken place but it was decided to allow the candidates to write as the investigation continued.

"The investigation confirmed that Hector Petersen High was indeed the source of the leak and it appeared that a packet of the examination papers was prematurely opened and that copies of the paper were available to candidates of the school on Sunday at a cost of R150 each," Zille said.

Two copies of the leaked paper, both originals, came into the department's possession before the exam ended at midday.

Statements have been taken from all the Hector Petersen candidates and the matter has been handed to the police, Zille said.

"Although intensive investigations are continuing, it appears at this stage that the integrity of the examination has not been compromised beyond one school and that the leak was confined to one paper on one subject.

"However, the papers will be evaluated as part of a research exercise to establish what impact the cheating would have had on the results and to identify patterns in answer papers that could alert examiners to the possibility of cheating in examinations in the future," Zille said.

Ramaselele was not available for comment.

# Maths exam paper leaked from Western Cape school

THE mathematics standard grade matric examination paper was leaked from a school in Kraaifontein, Kuis River, Western Cape education MEC Helen Zille said yesterday.

She said it appeared the leak was confined to one school and occurred on Sunday, a day before the paper was written.

A team of Western Cape education department officials established that a leak had "probably" taken place at the Hector Petersen High School in Kraaifontein, but it had been decided to allow the candidates at the school to write the examination while the investigation was in progress.

The investigation confirmed the school was the source of the leak, Zille said.

"It appears that a packet of examination papers was prematurely opened and that copies of the paper were made available to Hector Petersen High School candidates on Sunday, the day before the examination, at a cost of R150 each."

Zille said the school had been identified as a possible source of the leak after a claim by the school that it had not been supplied with sufficient papers.

Although investigations were continuing, it appeared that the integrity of the examination was not compromised beyond one school.

She said the results of the Hector Petersen standard grade mathematics candidates would be nullified on the recommendation of the irregularities committee of the examination board. — Sapa.

(52) BD 3/11/99

# Zille bid to plug leaks in exams

TROYE LUND

POLITICAL REPORTER

(92)

ARC 4/11/99

Provincial Education Minister Helen Zille has requested that officials deliver matric papers on the day of the exam to schools at risk of having papers leaked.

This comes after the standard-grade maths paper was sold to pupils at Hector Petersen Secondary in Kraaifontein for R150 a copy about 24 hours before Monday's exam.

Papers are usually dropped off at schools a few days before the exam.

Ms Zille said: "It's impossible to deliver papers on the exam day to every school in the province."

The point at which exam papers were delivered to a school to be locked up until the exam, Ms Zille believed, was the weakest part of the system. It was the only point where "humans" had to be trusted.

When invigilators at Hector Petersen opened the maths paper envelopes to hand out in the exam room, they assumed too few papers had been delivered and contacted the department.

Officials discovered there had been a leak. But pupils were allowed to write the exam.

Ms Zille said a breakthrough had been made in this case.

"As soon as police have pinpointed exactly who did what, when and where, we will scrutinise the system to see whether adjustments are needed for particular schools."

While police interview parents, pupils and staff over the next few days, department officials will compare the papers written by the 79 Hector Petersen standard-grade maths candidates against year-marks in an attempt to establish how widespread the leak was and how it affected the results.

# Police arrest high school principal over matric exam leak

(52) ARG 12/11/99  
**YUNUS KEMP**  
 STAFF REPORTER

**Police have made a major breakthrough in their investigation into the matric exam leak that occurred at the Hector Petersen High School in Kraaifontein last month.**

A school principal was arrested yesterday after a 25-year-old man of Bloekombos in Kraaifontein, suspected of selling standard grade maths papers to pupils for R150 each, told police he had got the papers from the principal.

Police are going to ask the principal to undergo a lie detector test at the weekend. Both men are expected to appear in court on Monday.

The Bloekombos man, who is alleged to have sold the exam papers in Bloekombos and Wallacedene on October 31, the day before the exam, gave himself up to the Kraaifontein police early yesterday.

Police had issued a warrant for his arrest last Friday.

Police spokesman Riaan Pool said a warrant of arrest for the principal was issued and he was subsequently summoned by education department officials to their regional offices in Bellville where he was arrested.

"We did not want to arrest him at the school and decided it would be better if he was arrested at the department's offices in Bellville," said Superintendent Pool.

The principal's arrest followed an initial investigation by the department which was taken over by police.

On the day of the exam, the education department was alerted to a possible leak of exam papers at the school, when the school notified it that there were not enough papers.

Department officials went to the school to investigate and discovered

that there had been a leak, but allowed pupils to continue their exam.

Shortly after the incident, provincial education minister Helen Zille said she was sure the leak had been confined to the standard grade maths paper and only at Hector Petersen High School.

The department's investigations revealed that one of the packets with the paper was "prematurely opened" and that only those originals were made available to the schools' pupils.

The department announced on Wednesday it was offering a reward of up to R10 000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the theft of the papers.

"We are committed to protecting the integrity of our examination and we must establish beyond doubt the precise circumstances around the theft of this paper," Ms Zille said.

Tony Eaton, the department's spokesman, said the law would now take its course. The action taken by the department who "cottoned on to the leak immediately" would hopefully send out the message that the department was committed to getting to the "bottom of such incidents".

This is the second incident in two weeks that has tarnished the image of the school, named after Hector Petersen, one of the first students who lost their lives in the 1976 school riots in Soweto and whose death became an inspiration to student struggle around the country.

Two weeks ago, four of the schools' pupils aged between 16 and 18, were arrested for possession of liquor during a matric outing to Camps Bay beach.

Police later dropped the charges.

Superintendent Pool said the Bloekombos man and the principal, who police believe could be friends, would remain in custody until their court appearance.

# Underachiever schools to get help from the state

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

**Cape Town – The high matric failure rate cost South Africa an estimated R140-million last year, but government had no plans to take action against schools with consistently low pass rates, Education Minister Kader Asmal said yesterday.**

It cost the government an estimated R500 to administer the examination of each matric candidate, Dr Asmal said in written replies to Parliamentary questions by Democratic Party MP Richard Ntuli.

A total of 279 977 candidates in all nine provinces failed – a rate of 50,6% – resulting in a financial loss to the state of R139 988 500, Dr Asmal said. The figures did not include part-time candidates and do not take into account the cost of repeating a school year.

Dr Asmal said the education department had identified schools

that performed poorly in the 1997 and 1998 exams and provincial departments had put in place strategies to improve the performance at those schools.

These included the supply of examination aids, trial exams to familiarise pupils with exam procedures and standards, workshops for teachers, and classes for pupils during holidays.

The performance of schools would continue to be monitored and “appropriate measures” would be taken to support under-performing schools identified after next year’s exams, Dr Asmal said.

However, the government was not considering action against schools which consistently underperformed, Dr Asmal said.

“This is not a matter of discipline at all. Underperformance cannot just be attributed to lack of discipline. There are many other factors involved,” he said.

ARC 24/11/99

# Union slams Zille's plan for more matric stars

## Disadvantaged schools would lose out, says Sadtu <sup>(52)</sup>

**LYNNETTE JOHNS**  
EDUCATION REPORTER

**A plan to broaden the recognition of excellence in matriculants has been slammed as ill-conceived by the SA Democratic Teachers Union.**

Union leaders say the "immediate good intentions" of provincial Education Minister Helen Zille have negative implications, especially in township schools.

Earlier this week, Ms Zille unveiled a plan

to extend recognition. Up to now only the top 20 matriculants have been acknowledged. And since the amalgamation of the four racially divided education departments, all those named have come from "advantaged" schools.

The new plan will give credit to the top three schools in each of the the former departments, acknowledge the top student at every school and reward with equipment five historically disadvantaged schools whose matric results have improved substantially over the past few years.

ART 26/11/99

But Sadtu provincial spokesman Don Pasquallie said instead of improving possibilities of learning and development for all children, the plan would "serve to further undermine the fragile learning environment in schools of the previously disadvantaged".

The plan would make selection of pupils to schools more rigorous if they were to be judged on their matric performance alone.

This would result in the more academically qualified children going to the better schools, to the detriment of disadvantaged schools.

# Marking of matric scripts well under way at Pen Tech

PRISCILLA SINGH  
EDUCATION WRITER

THE marking of the 1999 matric exam scripts is well under way at the Peninsula Technikon, the nerve centre that contains the fate of thousands of pupils who wrote what was probably the most important exam of their lives.

Yesterday education MEC Helen Zille visited the Bellville South campus to assess the progress of the marking, which began on Friday, and left rate at which the papers were being processed.

Marking will end on Saturday morning, after which the marks from every script will be manually processed into computers. These marks will be "double-captured" to ensure they correspond with the scripts.

Zille said all the different levels of marking were deliberately double-edged in that it went through stringent checking and re-checking by markers, checkers and examiners.

"It's been a badly disruptive year for pupils and

I regret that, but it was for reasons beyond my control.

It's difficult to make a realistic assessment, but I would be happy if the results either went up or down by about two percent because it means that the results are stabilising and this will indicate a good performance," she said.

The marks are being moderated simultaneously so that they can be adapted if necessary, she added. Meanwhile, the markers have employed several students to assist them with tallying the marks and to ensure that the totals are correct.

In addition, the Western Cape Education Department has employed 280 students from universities, technikon and colleges in the province to check that marks have been correctly added. All the students have to sign a confidentiality contract before they are employed by the department at R9,50 an hour.

Pupils will receive their results at their respective schools on the afternoon of Thursday, December 30. The results will also be published in the *Cape Times* on Friday, December 31.

# Cape markers tackle a million

ARKT 7/12/99 (5a)  
It's on track, says Zille as 1 900 go flat out to grade matric papers

LYNNETTE JOHNS  
EDUCATION REPORTER

A million matric exam scripts are being marked under tight security at the Peninsula Technikon.

Yesterday, provincial Education Minister Helen Zille visited Pentech to offer her moral support to the hundreds of teachers diligently marking the scripts.

"Everything is going according to plan," she said. This had been a very disruptive year for education because of teachers striking for salary increases.

The department has hired 280 people - university and college students - to check the marks.

Some teachers, however, have hired their own checkers.

This is to make doubly sure students get correct results.

Chadli Solomons, a second-year science student at the University of the Western Cape, said he had checked 146 papers in just over an hour, and queried two scripts.

The Western Cape has had the highest matric pass rate in the country for the past two years.

A total of 580 020 matric pupils in the Western Cape wrote the exams this year.

The 1 900 markers will be working flat out to December 10 under stringent security.

Marks will be transferred to computers by the examinations department and then sent to the South African Certification Authority.

Results will be known on December 30 and will be published - including in the *Cape Argus* - on December 31.



ROY WISLEY  
Passing comment: Education Minister Helen Zille checks up on Na-Eim Wentzel as he marks matric papers at Peninsula Technikon

## Sweeping changes on the cards for exam policy

STAFF REPORTER

The report also hints at a review of the number of subjects offered for examination, supplementary examination and examination finance.

It focuses on delivery of textbooks and stationery, administration of this year's matric exams, the implementation of norms and standards for funding of public schools and implementation of the admissions policy in public schools.

Professor Asmal said education management capacity in the provinces had been beefed up.

Major changes were under consideration in exam policy, including the setting of papers at a national rather than provincial level.

Johannesburg - The Department of Education could introduce sweeping changes to matric exam policy, including the setting of question papers at national instead of provincial level, a report by Education Minister Kader Asmal said.

# Independent board matrics have high pass rate

Xolani Xundu

SA SCHOOLS writing matric under the independent examinations board achieved a 98% pass rate, the board's director of formal examinations, Lyn Scott, said yesterday.

Scott said this year's pass rate was the same as last year's, but there was an increase — from 88% to 93% — in the number of pupils who obtained matric exemptions.

Schools that write their examinations under the board are mainly independent schools and some Catholic schools. This year there were three pilot schools from the Gauteng education department which also

wrote under the independent examinations board.

Scott refused to divulge how the three schools performed, saying the board did not compare schools nor did it give out the names of top candidates.

A total of 5 555 full-time candidates from 114 schools sat for the examinations and 4 420 of them registered for matric exemption. Of these, 815 achieved A aggregates, 30 pupils achieved more than seven distinctions, 63 achieved six distinctions and 84 got five distinctions.

"This is a tribute to excellent teaching and learning," Scott said. The board stressed that the high level of achievement in these schools was reached in

the process of assessment which emphasised higher order skills.

"No independent examinations board candidates can achieve a significant line-up of symbols without real, useful knowledge in the subjects assessed," Scott said.

All of the board's subjects were designed to demand and encourage problem solving, insight, integration, application and a love of learning.

Scott said examinations were run in consultation with the SA Certification Council and top educationists.

Last year, 4 566 full-time candidates who wrote the independent examinations board senior

certificāte exams passed. A total of 661 of the exemption candidates achieved A aggregates, while 18 candidates achieved seven or more distinctions and 58 achieved six distinctions.

Candidates who sat for the education department matric examinations will know their fate next week when the results are released.

In October, the Cambridge Exam Board, which was appointed by Education Minister Kader Asmal to investigate the integrity of this year's matric exams, found that SA had a dual matric exam system that gives advantages to three provinces and penalises others that lack the mechanisms for a new system.



# No better this year

## So far, only KZN's pass rate has shown a slight improvement

By Victor Mecoamehe and Sapa

(52) Sowetan 28/12/99

The first batch of matric results was released today with matriculants in the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga being the first to know how they fared.

Matriculants in Gauteng and North West will receive their results tomorrow, followed by Northern Province on Thursday.

In all, 792 306 candidates, 553 299 of them full-time and 239 007 part-time, sat for the examinations from October 5 to November 25. Originally, 807 877 candidates had registered for the examinations.

The national Department of Education said the results were being released before the New Year to avert possible technical hitches associated with the Y2K or millennium bug.

The pass rate in the Free State dropped by 1,3 percent this year to 42,1 percent from 43,4 percent in 1998.

Free State education MEC Papi Kgumane announced at a news conference in Bloemfontein yesterday that the number of Free State schools that had recorded a 100 percent pass rate dropped from 47 in 1998 to 32 this year.

The number of schools with improved averages dropped from 128 to 95.

Those that had achieved an average of more than 60 percent dropped from 114 to 112, while the number of schools with decreased averages

rose from 160 to 211.

The released results will be available on the Internet from today.

In reaction to the fall in the pass rate, Kgumane said the provincial government would take strong action against principals and teachers who did not report for duty on January 11.

There was a slight improvement in the overall matric results in KwaZulu-Natal this year.

Announcing the official results at a media briefing at Durban's Truro House yesterday, provincial MEC for education Ms Filleen Shandu said the province had gained a 51 percent pass rate.

She believes this is a fair reflection given the status quo and we can only improve from this point onwards, said Shandu.

In 1998 the pass rate percentage was 50 percent.

Sowetan today publishes the results from Mpumalanga, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal. *Sowetan* readers from outside Gauteng, who are on holiday in Gauteng, can buy *Sowetan* which will carry results from Mpumalanga, Free State, North West, Northern Province, KwaZulu-Natal, at Allied Publishing branches in Gauteng.

For more information about matric results readers can phone *Sowetan* on these numbers: 011 471 4029 or 471 4116.

**Gauteng and North West results will be published tomorrow with Northern Province results following on Thursday**

# Improved pass rate in Gauteng bucks trend

Pearl Sebolao  
and Sibusiso Bubesi

THREE of the four provinces which released their matric results yesterday showed a drop in pass rates, with only Gauteng showing an improvement.

Gauteng matriculants improved slightly on last year's 55,6% pass rate to achieve a 57,1% pass rate.

The Northern Cape pass rate dropped to 64,3% compared with last year's 65,5%, while Mpumalanga achieved a 48,3% pass rate compared to 52% last year. North West's pass rate dropped to 52,1% from 54,6% last year.

Gauteng education MEC Ignatius Jacobs said the class of 1999 had done the province proud with the increase.

The pass rate represented a 1,5 percentage point increase over last year's results and a 5,5 percentage point improvement on 1997.

"We can proudly claim that over the (past) two years we have successfully arrested the decline and have now turned the tide," Jacobs said.

A total of 71 757 candidates wrote the examination, 4 965 fewer than last year. Overall, candidates obtained 10 836 distinctions compared to 10 289 distinctions last year.

Jacobs said the year-mark system used by three provinces, including Gauteng, did not have a direct effect on the results. "Instead, the system helped to improve the culture of learning."

The system, in which pupils' year marks were factored into their final results, was expected to improve results.

Sixty schools attained a 100% pass rate, while nine public schools attained a pass rate of between 4% and 10%. Five independent schools obtained a 0% pass rate and 10 obtained a pass rate of between 10% and 20%.

Jacobs said his department would monitor schools that recorded pass rates of below 50%.

Results released so far this week suggest an end to the improvements of the past two years.

The first batch of matric results re-

leased on Monday showed that Kwa-

Zulu-Natal nudged up its pass rate from 50,3% to 51%, while Free State dropped 1,3 percentage points to 42,1%.

Northern Cape and Mpumalanga also fared badly, despite implementing the year-mark system.

Mpumalanga education MEC Craig Padayachee said the province would have achieved an overall 49% pass rate if the pupils who were repeating the matric examination had been excluded from the calculations.

Of the 2 901 repeaters who sat for the exams, only 39,9% passed, he said.

Padayachee said he was satisfied the province had restored its dented image which suffered in last year's exam results scandal.

The province's results were found to have been inflated by 20 percentage points at the time and were subsequently reversed.

Padayachee congratulated the province's best performing schools and top 10 pupils, among them Irma Paquet of Ermelo High School, who achieved 10 distinctions.

Northern Cape education spokesman Annelie Potgieter said although the province's pass rate had declined slightly (by 1,1 percentage points), there had been a qualitative improvement as the number of matric endorsements were higher than last year.

Rural schools performed better than urban schools and most of them were in the province's top 20 schools. Amalgamated schools, which had been merged so that they shared teachers and resources, also showed vast improvement, she said.

Potgieter said the province expected the year-mark system to have a greater effect next year as the province would "insist that grade nine, 10 and 11" marks be included.

Northern Cape education MEC Tina Joemat-Petterson blamed the decrease in results on inappropriate subject and grade choices by learners, as well as discrepancies between the internal and external assessment papers.

# Results still poor

(52) Sowetan 29/12/99

## Sowetan Reporters

**G**AUTENG matric results released yesterday have shown an overall pass rate of 57,1 percent - an improvement of 1,5 percent over last year's performance and an increase of 5,5 percent over the 1997 results.

In a statement to the media, MEC for education Mr Ignatius Jacobs said: "We can proudly claim that over the last two years we have successfully arrested the decline and have now turned the tide."

But he released shocking figures revealing that five private schools had attained a zero pass rate, with a further 10 attaining pass rates of between 10 and 20 percent. He pointed out that nine public schools attained pass rates of between four and 10 percent.

Of the candidates who opted to register for a Senior Certificate with university endorsement, 35,3 percent passed with a full endorsement while 12,6 percent attained a conditional endorsement.

The department attributed the improved results to:

- The introduction of common examinations;
- Compulsory trial examinations;
- School visits by department officials;
- Interaction between examiners and Grade 12 teachers;
- The implementation of a year-mark; and
- Developing the managerial skills of principals.

According to the department, a total of 71 757 candidates wrote the matric examination this year. Overall,

candidates attained 10 836 distinctions compared to the 1998 examinations when they obtained 10 289 distinctions.

The department noted that 60 schools had attained a 100 percent pass rate, among them, Leshata Secondary at Orange Farm, south of Johannesburg.

Of those that have shown tremendous improvement "in spite of less ideal conditions" were Morris Isaacson Secondary in Soweto which increased from last year's 23,5 percent to 51 percent.

Also in the same league was Dr Harry Gwala Secondary in Ekwatwa in Benoni, with a percentage increase from 32,8 percent to 62,03 percent.

Nine public schools attained a pass rate of between 4 percent and 10 percent. About 58 public schools attained

a pass rate of between 10 percent and 20 percent.

In his reaction to the results, educationist Professor Es'kia Mphahlele said: "I don't see any radical measures being adopted to improve the situation."

The one percent improvement is nothing when you consider the vast majority of non-achievers.

"I firmly believe that the fault lies with the pupils themselves. They are not motivated enough, they play around a lot and are too politicised. Secondly, the teachers themselves are not motivated to be able to do their job properly."

"Lastly, the national Department of Education does not communicate with the public about its intentions for addressing the situation."

● See pages 2 and 3

# Mixed reaction to matric results

*fontein 30/12/99 (122)*

By Eddie Mokoena

**O**PPPOSITION parties and teacher unions have expressed mixed views on the national matric results released so far, with some of the parties laying the blame largely on the Government and the teachers.

Of the seven provinces which have received their results since Monday only Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Northern Province have shown nominal pass rate increases of 1,5 percent, 1 percent and 2,3 percent respectively, Western Cape and the Eastern Cape results will be released next week.

However, despite having the highest increase of a 2,3 percent pass rate (from 35,2 percent to 37,5 per-

cent) the Northern Province has the lowest pass rate overall.

Yesterday the South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) Gauteng provincial representative Jabu Ngwenya said the pupils who did not perform well should take a leaf from the Gauteng province.

"We welcome the matric results in the Gauteng province. We congratulate the learners who have achieved success in these examinations. Sadtu salutes the educators and school communities who worked tirelessly to assist learners in their quest for success."

He, however, expressed concern about the continued inadequate facilities, mostly in the township schools.

"The achievement of the class of

'99 should not detract from the difficult conditions that faced a number of schools in Gauteng. There are schools that still operate without adequate facilities."

The Azanian People's Organisation, on the other hand, said the 1999 results reflected the poor state of education in the country. "Six months ago Minister of Education Kader Asmal claimed that our education system was in crisis and the 1999 matric results amplified that claim."

The director of the African Institute for Personal Excellence and Leadership, Mike Muendane, said: "In fact there is no cause for joy and complacency will definitely hurt us."

South African Students Congress president Mandla ka Mabuza said:

"The results are not a surprise to us. We say this because there were a number of activities like protests in 1999."

Mabuza said it must be ensured that there was culture of learning and teaching complemented by an aggressive involvement of parents in education.

"Parents involvement in education is disappointing and parents no longer have an excuse to stay away from their responsibilities."

Democratic Party (DP) MP and chairperson of the Federal Council, Douglas Gibson, welcomed the fact that there has been a small improvement in the matric pass rate for provinces such as Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal.

● **More reactions on page 2.**