

**For immediate release:**

**14 October 2022**

**Umalusi approves the writing of the 2022 end of the year examinations**

Umalusi, the Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training, has completed its role of monitoring and verifying the readiness of the public and private assessment bodies to manage and conduct the 2022 end of the year national examinations. The assessment bodies are the – Department of Basic Education (DBE), Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Independent Examinations Board (IEB), and South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI).

As part of its quality assurance mandate, Umalusi is required to assess the levels of readiness of the public and private assessment bodies to conduct, administer and manage the examinations prior to the commencement of such examinations. In doing so, Umalusi uses a framework that focuses on the following areas: (a) management of examinations, (b) registration of candidates, (c) registration of examination centres, (d) moderation of school-based assessment (SBA), (e) printing, packaging and distribution of question papers, (f) conduct of examinations, (g) selection and appointment of marking personnel, (h) standardisation of marking guidelines, (i) audit of marking centres, (j) audit of the systems for mark capturing, and (k) development of systems for the management of examination irregularities. Based on the findings, Umalusi provides a comprehensive report to each assessment body and members of the South African public regarding the readiness of the assessment body to manage, administer and conduct the national examinations. The focus of this statement is only on the processes which have been concluded to date.

In connection with candidature, all assessment bodies have successfully completed registration of candidates and the national registration outlook is as follows at the time of the release of this statement:

<b>Candidate Enrolled for the National Senior Certificate (NSC)</b>			
<b>Assessment Body</b>	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>DBE</b>	755 981	167 479	<b>923 460</b>
<b>IEB</b>	12 599	968	<b>13 567</b>
<b>SACAI</b>	-	4 951	<b>4 951</b>

The DBE's candidature has increased to 923 460 in 2022 from 897 786 in 2021. The candidates will sit the examinations at 6 885 examinations centres across the country. Marking will be conducted at 186 (193 in 2021) marking centres by 53 926 (41 596 in 2021) markers.

The IEB has 13 875 (12 857 in 2021) candidates who will write the examinations at 232 examination centres for full-time candidates and six (6) centres for part-time candidates. These numbers include 15 new IEB schools.

The SACAI, which will for the first time be managing and conducting the examinations as a fully accredited assessment body after Umalusi granted it accreditation to assess the NSC and the General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Education and Training (GETC: ABET) with effect from 1 October 2022, has registered 4 951 part-time NSC candidates (a steady increase from 4 361 in 2021). The examinations will be written at 85 examination centres (compared to 72 centres in 2021).

Overall, approximately 942 000 candidates distributed across the three assessment bodies are registered to write the NSC in 2022.

With regard to the qualifications assessed by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the National Certificate Vocational (NCV) examinations will start on 24 October and conclude on 28 November while the NATED (N2 – N3) ones are scheduled to take place between 14 and 30 November 2022.

The application of the Umalusi criteria, outlined at the beginning of this statement, to assess the readiness of the public and private assessment bodies to manage and conduct the 2022 end of the year national examinations has yielded differing results for each of the assessment bodies. The results are summarised below per assessment body.

### **Department of Basic Education**

- The inadequate staffing at both the National and District Offices in key Examinations and Assessment Chief Directorates. In 2021, a directive was issued in this regard and no significant improvement has been observed to date.
- The continued non-compliance with the criterion on the storage and nodal points. This continues to be observed in the Free State, Limpopo, North-West and Western Cape provinces. With reference to Limpopo, whereas Umalusi issued the directives on the same risk in 2021 no significant improvement has been noticed.
- The non-functionality of the District Assessment Integrity Committee (DAIC) and the School Assessment Integrity Committee (SAIC) to address irregularities at these two levels has the potential to compromise the management of

irregularities associated with internal assessment and the reporting thereof. This finding is made with reference to the Free State, Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North-West provinces.

- The disruptions caused by load shedding and the lack of sustainable back-up systems at examination centres during the writing of the examinations, especially in connection with subjects with a practical component, namely Computer Applications Technology (CAT), Information Technology (IT), and South African Sign Language Home Language (SASL HL).
- The over 500 candidates who are based at Lebombo in Eswatini and registered to write the NSC examinations under the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Education Department.

### **Department of Higher Education and Training**

- The unavailability of a system for the management and approval of accommodations something which leads to examination centres granting accommodations to candidates without the approval of the DHET.
- The unavailability of the list of reserve markers for the replacement of markers who may be unavailable during marking due to unforeseen circumstances.
- There are some private colleges that continue to be implicated in irregularities.
- The inadequate monitoring of high-risk examination centres.

Based on the foregoing, these assessment bodies have been directed to provide Umalusi with reports detailed reports to explain how they plan to mitigate the risks identified.

### **Independent Examinations Board (IEB) and South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI)**

Based on the audit conducted on the reports and the evaluation of the supporting evidence submitted independently by the IEB and SACAI, Umalusi is satisfied that each of these assessment bodies is ready to conduct, administer and manage the November 2022 NSC examinations.

After conducting a thorough assessment of the readiness of the basic education system and the post school education and training (PSET) system to manage and conduct the 2022 national examinations, Umalusi is generally satisfied that all assessment bodies are ready to undertake this massive task. Umalusi has therefore granted approval to the public and private assessment bodies to manage and conduct the 2022 end of the year national examinations in respect of the:

- National Senior Certificate (NSC) – assessed by the Department of Basic Education (DBE); the Independent Examinations Board (IEB), and the South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI);

- National Certificate Vocational (NCV: L2 - L4) – assessed by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET);
- NATED Report 190/191 (N2 - N3) – assessed by the DHET.

The identified shortcomings are not of such a magnitude that they have the potential to put the credibility of the examinations at risk. Umalusi appreciates the effort made by all assessment bodies in putting systems in place to ensure that the integrity of the 2022 national examinations is not compromised.

Similar to the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic in the past, the education sector, like the other sectors of society, continue to experience challenges related to load shedding. Umalusi calls upon the assessment bodies to make alternative arrangements for the supply of power during the writing of the examinations to mitigate the risk of load-shedding.

Regarding incidents of cheating, the CEO of Umalusi, Dr Mafu Rakometsi, issued a stern warning to all stakeholders: “Once again, as we have done in the past, we would like to issue a stern warning to all learners and teachers to refrain from all forms of cheating, including group copying where teachers are sometimes implicated. We berate and condemn this criminal practice with the contempt it deserves. Cheating compromises the integrity of our national examination system, which we are mandated to jealously protect as a Quality Council.” He went further to say “We also discourage communities from using national examinations as leverage for their protest actions. This is unacceptable as it jeopardises the future of our children. The education of our children is something that each and every South African should protect jealously.”

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