

For immediate release:

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Umalusi approves the writing of the 2024 end of year examinations

Umalusi has concluded the audit of the state of readiness of the public (Department of Basic Education and Department of Higher Education and Training) and private assessment bodies (Independent Examinations Board and South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute) to conduct, administer and manage the 2024 end of year national examinations in respect of the:

- National Senior Certificate (NSC)
- National Certificate Vocational (NC(V): L2 - L4)
- NATED Report 190/191 (N2 - N3)
- General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC: ABET)

The framework that Umalusi uses to audit the readiness of the system is made up of various aspects including: (a) the adequacy of the appointed personnel to manage the examinations, (b) the registration of candidates, examination centres, and marking centres, (c) the moderation of internal assessments, (d) the adequacy of security measures in relation to printing, packaging, storage and distribution of question papers, (e) the functionality of the systems used to capture learner marks, and (f) the functionality of the structures established to deal with and handle examination irregularities. The overall goal of the audit is to determine whether the measures put in place by assessment bodies are sufficient to ensure the credibility and reliability of the examination outcomes.

Based on the audit outcomes, Umalusi issues assessment body-specific directives showing areas of improvement so that the overall credibility and integrity of the examinations is not compromised.

Shape and size of the system

The 2024 end of year examinations will be administered to over 1.1 million candidates at approximately 9 200 examination centres across the country.

The following tables provide the breakdown of the numbers.

Table 1: Number of candidates by assessment body

Examination	DBE	DHET	IEB	SACAI
National Senior Certificate (NSC)	882 336	n/a	16 321	5 789
National Certificate (Vocational) Levels 2- 4	n/a	165 507	n/a	n/a
NATED Report 190/191 N2	n/a	X ¹	n/a	n/a
NATED Report 190/191 N3	n/a	X ²	n/a	n/a
General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC: ABET)	n/a	55 184	364	254

The next table presents the spread of the examination centres by qualification.

Table 2: Number of examination centres by assessment body

Examination	DBE	DHET	IEB	SACAI
NSC	6 909	n/a	256	84
NC(V) Levels 2- 4	n/a	262	n/a	n/a
NATED Report 190/191 N2 – N3	n/a	X ³	n/a	n/a
GETC: ABET	n/a	1 562	52	38

The state of public assessment bodies

The outcomes of the audit of the systems used by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) revealed that both these public assessment bodies are ready to conduct, administer and manage the exams. While the audit process flagged some weaknesses, they are not of such a magnitude that they can put the overall credibility of the exam at risk. The risks identified have been brought to the attention of the relevant Heads of Provincial Education Department and the Directors-General of the DBE and DHET so that corrective steps can be taken to remedy the situation before the start of exams.

The readiness of private assessment bodies

Based on the outcomes of the evaluation of the readiness of the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) and South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI), Umalusi is satisfied that the two private assessment bodies are ready to conduct, administer and manage the 2024 NSC and GETC end of year exams. Where risks were identified, they have been brought to the attention of the CEOs of these organisations. Umalusi comments the IEB and SACAI for their efforts in safeguarding the credibility of the national exams.

¹The DHET will provide the number of registered candidates by 21 October 2024.

²The DHET will provide the numbers of registered candidates by 21 October 2024.

³The DHET will provide the numbers of examination centres by 21 October 2024.

Umalusi will monitor the running of the exams in both the public and private assessment systems to ensure that their conduct, administration and management is in full compliance with the relevant regulations.

Factors that can disrupt the smooth running of the exams

Loadshedding, cheating and community protests are some of the factors that can negatively affect the smooth running of the exams. Concerning loadshedding, Umalusi advises all assessment bodies to make alternative arrangements for the supply of power during the writing of exams to mitigate the possibility of loadshedding.

Finally, Umalusi 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. At the same time, Umalusi discourages communities from using the national exams as leverage for their protest actions.

Umalusi wishes the class of 2024 well in the coming examinations.

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