

Umalusi Approval Statement for the November 2024 Examinations in Respect of the National Senior Certificate (NSC), National Certificate Vocational (NCV) L2 - L4, NATED Report 190/191 (N2 - N3), General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC: ABET)

The CEO of Umalusi: Dr Mafu Rakometsi,
Umalusi Management and staff,
Assessment Bodies: DBE, DHET, IEB and SACAI
Members of the media,
Class of 2024,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

INTRODUCTION

1. I would like to start by reiterating that Umalusi draws its mandate in relation to quality assurance of exit-level national examinations from the General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance (GENFETQA) Act (58 of 2001), as amended. The Act assigns to Umalusi a range of powers and functions, including approval of the publication of the learner results if the Council is satisfied that the assessment body or education institution has –
 - (i) conducted the assessment free from any irregularity that may jeopardise the integrity of the assessment or its outcomes;
 - (ii) complied with the requirements prescribed by the Council for conducting assessments;
 - (iii) applied the standards prescribed by the Council with which a learner is required to comply in order to obtain a certificate; and
 - (iv) complied with every other condition determined by the Council.
2. Following the conduct, administration and management of the National Senior Certificate (NSC), National Certificate Vocational (NCV) L2 - L4, NATED Report 190/191 (N2 - N3), General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC: ABET) examinations by the four assessment bodies, namely Department of Basic Education (DBE), Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Independent Examinations Board (IEB) and South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI), and the monitoring thereof by Umalusi, both the assessment bodies and Umalusi presented their reports for



the consideration of the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council during EXCO's approval meetings on 7 and 9 January 2025.

3. The approval statements bring together decisions taken after careful consideration of available evidence by various role players at different stages of Umalusi's quality assurance cycle. EXCO's approval for the release of candidates' results is confirmation that the assessment leading to certification in schools, adult education centres and technical and vocational education and training colleges was of the required standard across all qualifications for all examinations conducted in this period under review.
4. One critical quality assurance process that precedes the approval meetings is standardisation of the examination results by the Assessment Standards Committee (ASC) of Umalusi Council. During its standardisation meetings, the ASC conducted careful analysis of the results for each of the over 500 subjects, spread across four assessment bodies and qualifications to arrive at standardisation decisions. The process is detailed and rigorous and is guided by standardisation principles, which are supported by numerical evidence and narrative reports. The standardisation principles are a matter of public knowledge and I will not speak to their detail. The principles are available on the website of Umalusi.
5. I will now present the approval decisions of EXCO of Council for each assessment body starting with the results of the South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI). Thereafter, I will move on to the results of the Independent Examinations Board (IEB), followed by those of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and then conclude with the results of the Department of Basic Education (DBE).

STANDARDISATION AND APPROVAL DECISIONS FOR SACAI

6. The SACAI has for the third year in succession conducted and managed the examinations as a fully accredited assessment body after Umalusi granted it full accreditation status to assess the General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC: ABET) and the National Senior Certificate (NSC) with effect from 1 October 2022.

GETC: ABET standardisation decisions: SACAI

7. The SACAI administered the examinations to **257** candidates at **38** examination centres. Concerning standardisation of the **7** learning areas, 4 learning areas had

their results accepted in their submitted or 'raw' form while 3 were adjusted mainly upwards.

Table 1: Comparing SACAI GETC adjustments by year, 2020-2024

Description	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total subjects presented	7	7	7	7	6
Raw marks accepted	4	7	7	6	4
Number adjusted mainly upwards	3	0	0	1	1
Number adjusted mainly downwards	0	0	0	0	1
Total subjects standardised	7	7	7	7	6

Approval statement for the release of GETC: ABET results: SACAI

8. *Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council concluded that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI) Policy for the General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC: ABET) external examinations. There were no systemic irregularities reported that might have compromised the overall credibility and integrity of the **November 2024 GETC: ABET** examinations administered by the **SACAI**.*

*EXCO of Council approves the release of the **SACAI November 2024 GETC: ABET** examination results.*

In respect of identified irregularities, the SACAI is required to block the results of all the implicated candidates, including the candidates who are implicated in the alleged acts of dishonesty, pending the outcome of further SACAI investigations and verification by Umalusi.

*The SACAI is required to address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report and submit the improvement plan by **14 March 2025**.*

EXCO of Council commends the SACAI for conducting a successful examination.

NSC standardisation decisions: SACAI



9. The SACAI administered the NSC examinations in **24** subjects to **5 789** candidates at **84** examination centres. After considering all the evidence available, the ASC arrived at the following standardisation decisions:

- a) raw marks were accepted for 14 subjects (58.3%),
- b) the results in 8 subjects (33.3%) were adjusted mainly upward, and
- c) the results in the remaining 2 subjects (8.3%) were adjusted mainly downward.

Table 2: Comparing SACAI NSC adjustments by year, 2019-2024

Description	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total subjects presented	24	25	25	25	25	25
Raw marks accepted	14	14	15	12	14	17
Number adjusted mainly upward	8	7	7	5	5	4
Number adjusted mainly downward	2	4	3	8	6	4
Total subjects standardised	24	25	25	25	25	25

10. Since some in our society may be interested to know the actual standardisation decision per subject, we have tabulated the information in the statement. It will be published on the Umalusi website immediately after this briefing.

Table 3: Standardisation decisions per subject: SACAI NSC subjects

Raw marks accepted	Mainly upward adjustments	Mainly downward adjustment
Accounting	Afrikaans Home Language	Computer Applications Technology
Afrikaans First Additional Language	Agricultural Science	Economics
Agricultural Management Practices	Consumer Studies	
Business Studies	Engineering Graphics and Design	
Dramatic Arts	English First Additional Language	
English Home Language	Life Sciences	
Geography	Mathematical Literacy	
History	Visual Arts	
Hospitality Studies		
Information Technology		
Life Orientation		
Mathematics		

Physical Sciences		
Tourism		

Approval statement for the release of NSC results: SACAI

11. Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council concluded that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the Regulations Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate Examinations. There were no systemic irregularities reported that might have compromised the overall credibility and integrity of the November 2024 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations administered by the South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI). EXCO of Council approves the release of the SACAI November 2024 National Senior Certificate examination results.

Regarding the identified irregularities, SACAI is required to nullify the results of the candidates implicated in the irregularities and implement sustainable strategies to mitigate the recurrence of reported administrative errors and omissions. The SACAI is required to address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report and submit the improvement plan by 14 March 2025.

The EXCO of Council commends SACAI for conducting a successful examination.

STANDARDISATION AND APPROVAL DECISIONS: IEB

GETC: ABET standardisation decisions: IEB

12. The GETC: ABET examinations of the IEB were administered to **378** candidates at **53** examination centres. The results in the seven learning areas were standardised as follows:

- a) raw marks were accepted in 2 (28.6%) learning areas,
- b) mainly upward adjustments were made in 2 (28.6%) learning areas, and
- c) mainly downward adjustments were made in 3 (42.9%).

Table 4: Comparing IEB GETC adjustments by year, 2020-2024

Description	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total subjects presented	7	7	7	7	7
Raw marks accepted	2	4	4	6	2



Number adjusted mainly upwards	2	1	0	1	3
Number adjusted mainly downwards	3	2	3	0	2
Total subjects standardised	7	7	7	7	7

Approval statement for the release of GETC: ABET results: IEB

13. Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council concluded that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) policy on the conduct, administration and management of examinations. There were no systemic irregularities reported that might have compromised the overall credibility and integrity of the **November 2024 General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC: ABET)** examinations administered by the **IEB**.

EXCO of Council approves the release of the **IEB November 2024 GETC: ABET** examination results. In respect of identified irregularities, the IEB is required to block the results of all the implicated candidates, including the candidates who are implicated in the alleged acts of dishonesty, pending the outcome of further IEB investigations and verification by Umalusi.

The IEB is required to address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report and submit the improvement plan by **14 March 2025**.

EXCO of Council expresses its concerns to the IEB on the management of irregularities and requests the IEB to submit the improvement plan by 31 March 2025.

NSC standardisation decisions: IEB

14. A total of **16 304** candidates wrote the NSC examinations at **256** examination centres under the IEB. The IEB presented **58** subject results for standardisation and, after considering the available evidence,

- a) raw marks were accepted in 42 subjects (72.4%),
- b) mainly upward adjustments were made in 8 subjects (13.8%), and
- c) mainly downward adjustments were made in 8 subjects (13.8%).

Table 5: Comparing IEB NSC adjustments by year, 2019-2024



Description	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total subjects presented	58	60	61	65	66	64
Raw marks accepted	42	48	47	44	46	52
Number adjusted mainly upwards	8	12	10	14	8	4
Number adjusted mainly downwards	8	0	4	7	12	8
Total subjects standardised	58	60	61	65	66	64

15. From the above table it is worth noting that the number of subjects presented for standardisation by the IEB has been on a downward trajectory since 2020. The next table presents the subjects by the type of adjustments made.

Table 6: Standardisation decisions per subject: IEB NSC subjects

Raw marks accepted	Mainly upward adjustments	Mainly downward adjustment
Accounting	Afrikaans Home Language	Design
Afrikaans First Additional Language	Arabic Second Additional Language	Dramatic Arts
Agricultural Management Practices	Economics	Engineering Graphics and Design
Agricultural Science	Geography	French Second Additional Language
Business Studies	History	Hospitality Studies
Computer Applications Technology	Life Sciences	Life Orientation
Consumer Studies	Physical Sciences	Mathematics
Dance Studies	Sepedi First Additional Language	Nautical Science
English First Additional Language		
English Home Language		
Equine Studies		
German Second Additional Language		
Gujarati First Additional Language		
Gujarati Second Additional Language		
Hebrew Second Additional Language		



Hindi First Additional Language		
Hindi Second Additional Language		
Information Technology		
IsiXhosa First Additional Language		
IsiZulu First Additional Language		
IsiZulu Home Language		
Italian Second Additional Language		
Latin Second Additional Language		
Mandarin Second Additional Language		
Marine Sciences		
Maritime Economics		
Mathematical Literacy		
Modern Greek Second Additional Language		
Music		
Portuguese Second Additional Language		
Sepedi Home Language		
Sesotho First Additional Language		
Sesotho Home Language		
Setswana First Additional Language		
SiSwati First Additional Language		
Spanish Second Additional Language		
Sport and Exercise Science		
Tamil Second Additional Language		
Tourism		
Urdu Second Additional Language		



Visual Arts		
Xitsonga First Additional Language		

Approval statement for the release of NSC results: IEB

16. Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council concluded that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the Regulations Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration, and Management of the National Senior Certificate Examinations. There were no systemic irregularities reported that might have compromised the overall credibility and integrity of the **November 2024 National Senior Certificate (NSC)** examinations administered by the **IEB**.

EXCO of Council approves the release of the **IEB November 2024 National Senior Certificate** examination results.

In respect of the identified irregularities, the IEB is required to nullify the results of the candidates implicated in the irregularities. The IEB is also required to address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report and submit an improvement plan by **14 March 2025**.

EXCO of Council commends the IEB for conducting a successful examination.

STANDARDISATION AND APPROVAL DECISIONS: DHET

17. This section of the approval statement focusses on the three sets of results for the examinations administered by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). These are the General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC: ABET), National Certificate Vocational (NCV: L2—L4) and NATED Report 190/191 (N2— N3).

GETC: ABET standardisation decisions: DHET

18. The DHET administered the GETC: ABET examination to **39 804** candidates at **1 562** examination centres. The following standardisation decisions were made for the **26** learning areas:

- a) raw marks were accepted in 12 learning areas (46.2%),
- b) 10 learnings (38.5%) areas were adjusted mainly upward, and
- c) 4 learning areas (15.5%) were adjusted mainly downward.

Table 7: Comparing DHET GETC adjustments by year, 2020-2024

Description	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total subjects presented	26	26	26	26	26
Raw marks accepted	12	11	10	12	9
Number adjusted mainly upwards	10	8	11	6	12
Number adjusted mainly downwards	4	7	5	8	4
Total subjects	0	0	0	0	1
Total subjects standardised	26	26	26	26	25

Approval statement for the release of GETC: ABET results: DHET

19. Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council concluded that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the National Policy Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the Examinations of Colleges, Established, Declared or Registered in Terms of the Continuing Education and Training Act, 2006. There were no systemic irregularities reported that might have compromised the overall credibility and integrity of the **November 2024 General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC: ABET)** examinations administered by the **Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)**.

EXCO of Council approves the release of the **DHET November 2024 GETC: ABET** examination results. In respect of identified irregularities, the DHET is required to block the results of all candidates implicated in irregularities, including the candidates who are implicated in the alleged acts of dishonesty, pending the outcome of further DHET investigations and verification by Umalusi.

As mentioned in November 2022 and November 2023, the high number of irregularities remains a concern.

The DHET is required to address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report and submit the improvement plan by **14 March 2025**.

EXCO of Council expresses its concern at the persistent lapses in the management of these examinations and requires the DHET to actively engage with Umalusi on the implementation of an agreed improvement plan.

NC(V) Levels 2-4 standardisation decisions: DHET

20. The NC(V) L2-L4 examinations were written by **138 000** candidates (53 867 at L2; 49 200 at L3 and 34 933 at L4) at **261** examination centres.

21. The standardisation decisions arrived at are as follows:

- a) raw marks were accepted for 182 subjects (67.9%),
- b) mainly upward adjustments were made in 37 subjects (18.3%),
- c) mainly downward adjustments were made in 49 subjects (13.8%), and
- d) one subject was not standardised.

Table 8: Comparing the DHET NCV L2-L4 adjustments by year, 2020-2024

Description	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Subjects presented	269	264	261	261	260
Raw marks accepted	182	170	146	131	132
Number adjusted mainly upwards	37	57	66	91	102
Number adjusted mainly downwards	49	37	49	39	26
Subjects not standardised	1	-	-	-	-
Total subjects standardised	268	264	261	261	260

22. The ASC could not standardise Materials Level 2 because the DHET administered a wrong question paper. Consequently, the examination will be re-administered on 21 February 2025 during the supplementary examinations.

23. The tabulated information shows an upward trend in the number of subjects for which raw marks were accepted over the period. Once again, this is a sign of a maturing system, and it is highly commendable.

Approval statement for the release of NC(V) L2-L4 results: DHET

24. Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council concluded that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the National Policy Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the Examinations of Colleges, Established, Declared or Registered in Terms of the Continuing Education and Training Act, 2006. There were no systemic irregularities reported that might have compromised the overall credibility and integrity of the **November 2024 National Certificate (Vocational) [NC(V)] L2 - L4** examinations administered by the **Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)**.

EXCO of Council approves the release of the **DHET November 2024 NC(V) L2 - L4** examination results.

The DHET is required to:

- a. In respect of identified irregularities, block the results of all candidates implicated in irregularities including the candidates who are implicated in the alleged acts of dishonesty pending the outcome of further DHET investigations and verification by Umalusi;
- b. Nullify the November 2024 Materials NC(V) L2 examination results;
- c. Block the results of candidates and centres that failed to comply with ICASS and ISAT/PAT requirements pending the outcomes of further investigations by the DHET and verification by Umalusi; and
- d. Address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report and submit the improvement plan by **14 March 2025**.

EXCO of Council expresses its concern at the persistent lapses in the management of these examinations and requires the DHET to actively engage with Umalusi on the implementation of an agreed improvement plan.

N2-N3 standardisation decisions: DHET

25. This year's N2-N3 examinations were written by **49 421** candidates at **379** examination centres.
26. The following decisions were taken for the 55 instructional offerings that were standardised:
 - a) raw marks were accepted for 28 subjects (50%),
 - b) mainly upward adjustments were made in 15 subjects (26.8%), and
 - c) mainly downward adjustments were made in 12 subjects (21.4%).

Table 9: Comparing the NATED (N2-N3) adjustments by year, 2022-2024

Description	2024	2023	2022
Number of subjects presented	55	57	56
Raw marks	28	32	35
Adjusted mainly upwards	15	13	11
Adjusted downwards	12	11	9
Subject not standardised	-	1	1
Total subjects standardised	55	56	56

27. This table shows that the number of subjects for which raw marks are accepted is declining while upward adjustments are increasing.

Approval statement for the release of N2-N3 results: DHET

28. Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council concluded that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the National Policy Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the Examinations of Colleges, Established, Declared or Registered in Terms of the Continuing Education and Training Act, 2006. There were no systemic irregularities reported that might have compromised the overall credibility and integrity of the **November 2024 NATED Report 190/191 Engineering Studies N2 - N3** examinations administered by the **Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)**.

EXCO of Council approves the release of the **DHET November 2024 NATED N2 - N3** examination results.

The DHET is required to:

- a. In respect of identified irregularities, block the results of all candidates implicated in irregularities, including the candidates who are implicated in the alleged acts of dishonesty pending the outcome of further DHET investigations and verification by Umalusi;
- b. Block the results of candidates and centres that failed to comply with ICASS requirements pending the outcome of further investigations by the DHET and verification by Umalusi;
- c. Block the results of the learners that wrote at unaccredited centres without concessions from Umalusi pending the outcome of further DHET investigations and verification by Umalusi; and
- d. Address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report and submit the improvement plan by **14 March 2025**.

EXCO of Council expresses its concern at the persistent lapses in the management of these examinations and requires the DHET to actively engage with Umalusi on the implementation of an agreed improvement plan.

29. The three approval statements for the examinations administered by the DHET raise several concerns about various aspects of the conduct, administration and management of the GETC: ABET, N2-N3 and NC(V) L2-L4 examinations. It is for this reason that EXCO of Council requires the DHET to actively engage with Umalusi on the implementation of an agreed improvement plan. The specific

lapses, which the DHET's improvement plan must consider, will be detailed in the letter that Umalusi will write to the Director-General of the DHET.

30. In this final section of the statement, we present the NSC examination results of the Department of Basic Education (DBE).

NSC standardisation decisions: DBE

31. Out of the **880 209** candidates who were registered to write the NSC examination under the DBE, **810 900** managed to write. That implies that **69 309** or **7.9%** of the registered students were absent from the examinations. The **810 900** candidates who sat for the examinations include **704 401** full-time candidates and **106 499** part-time candidates.

32. The examination was written at **6 933** examination centres across the nine provinces. The DBE presented results of **68** subjects for standardisation, and, after careful analysis of the numerical evidence and narrative reports presented, the ASC arrived at the following decisions:

- a) raw marks were accepted for 53 subjects (77.9%),
- b) mainly upward adjustments were made in 2 subjects (2.9%), and
- c) mainly downward adjustments were made in 13 subjects (19.1%).

Table 10: Comparing DBE NSC adjustments by year, 2019-2024

Description	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Subjects presented	68	66	66	67	65	67
Raw marks accepted	53	49	47	35	48	47
Number adjusted mainly upwards	2	6	16	28	9	13
Number adjusted mainly downwards	13	11	3	4	8	7
Total subjects standardised	68	66	66	67	65	67

33. A year-on-year comparison shows a clear pattern of an upward trend in the number of subjects for which raw marks were accepted over the last four years. This is a clear signal that the system continues to produce consistent and reliable results over time.

34. The standardisation decisions taken for each of the 68 NSC subjects administered by the DBE are shown in the next table.



Table 11: Standardisation decisions per subject: DBE NSC subjects

Raw marks accepted	Mainly upward adjustments	Mainly downward adjustment
Afrikaans First Additional Language	Dance Studies	Accounting
Afrikaans Home Language	Sesotho First Additional Language	Business Studies
Afrikaans Second Additional Language		Civil Technology (Civil Services)
Agricultural Management Practices		Civil Technology (Construction)
Agricultural Science		Civil Technology (Woodworking)
Agricultural Technology		History
Computer Applications Technology		IsiZulu First Additional Language
Consumer Studies		Life Orientation
Design		Life Sciences
Dramatic Arts		Mathematical Literacy
Economics		Mechanical Technology (Fitting and Machining)
Electrical Technology (Digital Systems)		Mechanical Technology (Welding and Metal Work)
Electrical Technology (Electronics)		Tourism
Electrical Technology (Power Systems)		
Engineering Graphics and Design		
English First Additional Language		
English Home Language		
English Second Additional Language		
Geography		
Hospitality Studies		
Information Technology		
IsiNdebele First Additional Language		
IsiNdebele Home Language		



IsiNdebele Second Additional Language		
IsiXhosa First Additional Language		
IsiXhosa Home Language		
IsiXhosa Second Additional Language		
IsiZulu Home Language		
IsiZulu Second Additional Language		
Marine Sciences		
Mathematics		
Mechanical Technology (Automotive)		
Music		
Physical Sciences		
Religion Studies		
Sepedi First Additional Language		
Sepedi Home Language		
Sepedi Second Additional Language		
Sesotho Home Language		
Sesotho Second Additional Language		
Setswana First Additional Language		
Setswana Home Language		
Setswana Second Additional Language		
SiSwati First Additional Language		
SiSwati Home Language		
South African Sign Language Home Language		
Technical Mathematics		
Technical Sciences		
Tshivenda First Additional Language		
Tshivenda Home Language		
Visual Arts		



Xitsonga First Additional Language		
Xitsonga Home Language		

Approval statement for the release of NSC results: DBE

35. Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council concluded that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the Regulations Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration, and Management of the National Senior Certificate Examinations. There were no systemic irregularities reported that might have compromised the overall credibility and integrity of the November 2024 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations administered by the Department of Basic Education (DBE).

EXCO of Council approves the release of the DBE November 2024 National Senior Certificate examination results.

In respect of identified irregularities, the DBE is required to block the results of all candidates implicated in irregularities including the candidates who are implicated in the alleged acts of dishonesty pending the outcome of the DBE investigations and verification by Umalusi.

The DBE is required to address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report and submit the improvement plan by 14 March 2025.

EXCO of Council commends the DBE for conducting a successful examination on such a large scale.

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

36. On the basis of the foregoing information, the overall picture of the 2024 end of year national examinations can be summarised as follows:

- a) That the examinations were written by 1 060 852 candidates distributed across four assessment bodies and four qualifications, with the NSC candidates contributing approximately 78.5% of the total. The finer details are provided in Table 12 below.

Table 12: Number of candidates by qualification and assessment body

Qualification	DBE	DHET	IEB	SACAI	TOTAL
NSC	810 900	n/a	16 304	5 789	832 993
NCV L2	n/a	57 867	n/a	n/a	57 867
NCV L3	n/a	45 200	n/a	n/a	45 200
NCV L4	n/a	34 933	n/a	n/a	34 933
N2	n/a	22 197	n/a	n/a	22 197
N3	n/a	27 224	n/a	n/a	27 224
GETC	n/a	39 804	378	256	40 438
TOTAL	810 900	227 225	16 682	6 045	1 060 852

b) Of the 514 subject results that were presented for standardisation, raw marks were accepted in 337 or 65.6% of the subjects, generally upward adjustments were made in 85 subjects or 16.5% and generally downward adjustments were made in 91 or 17.7% of the subject results. The breakdown by qualification is as follows:

- i. NSC (DBE, IEB and SACAI): Out of the 150 subjects, raw marks were accepted in 109 subjects, 18 subjects were adjusted mainly upwards and the remaining 23 subjects were adjusted mainly downward.
- ii. NC(V) L2-L4 (DHET): 182 of the 268 subjects had their raw marks accepted, mainly upward adjustments were made in 37 subjects while 49 subjects were adjusted mainly downwards. Materials L2 was not standardised for the reasons explained elsewhere in this statement.
- iii. N2-N3 (DHET): Raw marks were accepted in 28 subjects; 15 subjects saw their results adjusted mainly upwards and mainly downward adjustments were made in 12 subjects.
- iv. GETC: ABET (DHET, IEB and SACAI): Raw marks were accepted in 18 of the 40 subjects, mainly upward adjustments were done in 15 and 7 subjects had their marks adjusted mainly downwards.

37. During the processes for standardisation and approval of results, Umalusi noted specific issues that require the attention of the relevant assessment bodies. Whereas those issues will be covered in the assessment body-specific composite reports, detailing areas of best practice, areas of non-compliance, and directives for compliance and improvement, it is worth mentioning that a high absenteeism rate has, once again, been noted in some of the examinations. Equally important, there are subjects that continue to produce unusually high failure rates. These observations raise the question about the levels of support

that candidates find in their teaching, learning and examination preparation experiences.

CONCLUSION

38. Umalusi is extremely pleased that there were no detected cases of paper leakages, or other irregularities that could have compromised the overall credibility and integrity of the examinations. We are very grateful to all examining bodies and related role players for tightening up the entire value chain, including the work done by the State Security Agency in relation to the places where question papers were printed, packaged, and stored.

39. Umalusi congratulates the Class of 2024 who have succeeded in the examinations. Words of appreciation are also due to their teachers, parents, guardians and all those who have supported the learners throughout their journey – including the maintenance and cleaning staff at our schools and colleges, the taxi and other public and private transport drivers who took care in bringing our learners to school and the community members who show concern for the learning of our children. We thank all role players for ushering the Class of 2024 to this important day.

40. To those learners who have not succeeded, please do not give up - work harder and you will do better in this year's examinations. For guidance in terms of what to look for in choosing an institution (school or private college) to register with to improve your results, you are advised to visit the website of Umalusi. That will ensure that you do not fall prey to bogus institutions.

41. Umalusi congratulates all the assessment bodies for successfully conducting and managing the 2024 end-of-year examinations. As evidenced by the numbers presented, the examination system is large and complex. It is not an easy task to ensure that (a) each one of the over 1 million candidates across the length and breadth of South Africa receives the correct question paper at the right time and in the correct venue, (b) individual scripts are collected and marked, (c) marks are verified and then transferred onto the computer systems and submitted to Umalusi for standardisation purposes, (d) standardisation decisions are implemented on the system and (e) that learners are resulted in a timely manner – all this done with proper attention to the integrity of the process. This is certainly most deserving of our commendation.

42. I wish to thank all the members of the Assessment Standards Committee under the chairpersonship of Professor Loyiso Jita and his deputy, Professor 'Mabokang

Monnapula-Mapesela, who worked tirelessly to ensure the delivery of credible outcomes. This committee of 15 members, constituted by some of the finest minds drawn from various universities and research institutes in South Africa, is always willing to sacrifice valuable time during the festive season to ensure the best outcome for the South African learners.

43. I extend words of appreciation to my colleagues in EXCO of Umalusi Council for investing time to consider the reports presented by the four assessment bodies, which led to the approval of the eleven sets of results.

44. I also thank the CEO of Umalusi, Dr Rakometsi, his management team and staff for the excellent work that they do behind the scenes. The CEO and his team work tirelessly and under very difficult time pressures to deliver the best for the country. Their commitment has ensured that South Africa's education system is anchored in quality, credibility and integrity.

45. Nobody doubts what we do in the service of every single young person in this country who chooses to walk the path of building their lives through education. Nobody is ever hesitant about the fact that the best service we can do to each of those young people is to give them a certificate that has credibility.

46. Wishing you all the best for 2025.

Professor Yunus Ballim

Chairperson: Umalusi Council

13 January 2025