

Free State matrices lead the pack once more



The Free State has clinched the highest number of learners who passed their 2022 National Senior Certificate (NSC) exams for four years in a row, scoring a pass rate of 88.5%, an increase of 2.8% from 2021. The province is followed by Gauteng, which achieved 84.4%, an increase of 1.6% from 2021, while KwaZulu-Natal, the most improved province, attained 83.0%, an increase of 6.2% from 2021.

Basic Education Minister, Angie Motshekga, revealed this during the much-awaited 2022 Matric results announcement at the Mosaïek Church in Fairlands, Gauteng, last week. While COVID-19, load shedding and service delivery protests may have impacted the academic programme, the Minister said the Class of 2022 managed to bag an overall pass rate of 80.1% – an increase of 3.7% compared to the previous year.

The results show that none of the provinces performed below the 70% pass rate and none had a decline when compared with the previous year. In addition, Motshekga announced that five provinces performed above the 70% pass rate, while four achieved over 80%. The provinces with

the highest improvements in their performances are KwaZulu-Natal with 6.2%, Limpopo with 5.3%, and the Eastern Cape with 4.2%. This information is based on the 922 034 candidates who registered for the 2022 Matric exams (with 725 146 full-time candidates).

Meanwhile, the Minister said the National Development Plan (NDP) recognises districts as a crucial interface of the Basic Education sector in identifying best practices, sharing information, and providing support to schools. “The continued growth in the performance of districts is closely monitored and evaluated by both the provincial and national Basic Education departments. From the monitoring oversight, analyses of the performance of all schools... will be done and made available to districts. This will assist and enable districts to reprioritise their support and intervention programmes.”

According to the Minister, none of the 75 districts attained pass rates lower than 60%, while four districts performed at 60% and 69.9%. In addition, 29 districts – nine in the Eastern Cape, one in KwaZulu-Natal, seven in Limpopo, four in

Mpumalanga, two in the North West, two in the Northern Cape, and four in the Western Cape, performed between 70% and 79%.

Meanwhile, 42 districts – three in the Eastern Cape, five in the Free State, 15 in Gauteng, 11 in KwaZulu-Natal, two in the North West, two in the Northern Cape, and four in the Western Cape, performed at 80% and above.

Provincial-level performance:

- The Free State is the leading province at 88.5%, an increase of 2.8% from 2021.
- Gauteng achieved 84.4%, an increase of 1.6% from 2021.
- KwaZulu-Natal, the best-improved province, achieved 83.0%, an increase of 6.2% from 2021.
- Western Cape achieved 81.4%, an increase of 0.2% from 2021.
- North West achieved 79.8%, an increase of 1.6% from 2021.
- The third best-improved province, is the Eastern Cape, with an achievement of 77.3%, an increase of 4.2% from 2021.
- Mpumalanga achieved 76.8%, a 2.9% increase from 2021.
- Northern Cape achieved 74.2%, a 2.7% increase from 2021.
- The second best-improved province is Limpopo, with an achievement of 72.1%, a 5.3% increase from 2021.

The top 10 district-level performances in the country in descending order:

- Motheo in the Free State, with 90.8%.
 - Fezile Dabi in the Free State, with 90.4%.
 - Johannesburg West in Gauteng, with 89.7%.
 - Tshwane South in Gauteng, with 89.0%.
 - Gauteng North in Gauteng, with 87.7%.
 - Xhariep in the Free State, with 87.5%.
 - Thabo Mafutsanyana in the Free State, with 87.3%.
 - Ugu in KwaZulu-Natal, with 87.2%.
 - Umkhanyakude in KwaZulu-Natal, with 86.3%.
 - Johannesburg North in Gauteng, with 86.2%.
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Festive season fatality statistics show a 13.9% decrease

Government has recorded significant gains in its efforts to arrest road fatalities during the 2022/23 festive season period, as 1 451 people lost their lives compared to 1 685 fatalities in the previous period. Addressing media, Minister of Transport, Fikile Mbalula, said the decrease in road fatalities for the period, which began on 1 December 2022 and ended on 11 January 2023, translates to 13.9%.

“We also recorded a 6.5% reduction of fatal crashes compared to the previous year when we recorded 1 295 fatal crashes, compared to 1 211 this year. Human factors remain a principal driver of fatalities on our roads, accounting for 87% of all crashes. These are followed by road and environmental factors at 8%, with vehicle factors at 5%,” Mbalula said at the briefing held at the N1 Grasmere Toll Plaza.

The Minister said pedestrian fatalities remain a major source of concern, as pedestrian fatalities significantly increased by 10% year-on-year, from 31% in the previous period to 41% in the current festive season. “In Gauteng and Western Cape, pedestrian fatalities constitute 54% of all fatalities, implying that for every 100 people that died from a road crash, 54 were pedestrians. “For this festive season, passenger fatalities recorded a 7% decline, with 31% recorded in the current period, compared to 38% in the previous festive season.

“Driver fatalities declined from 28% in the previous period to 27% in this festive season.

Cyclist fatalities also declined from 3% in the previous period to 2% in the current festive season,” Mbalula said. Most crashes occurred between 5pm and 10pm, particularly on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Light motor vehicles contributed 39% to the total fatal crashes, followed by light delivery vehicles at 16%. Minibus vehicles contributed 7% and trucks accounted for 4%.

Performance in respect of each province is as follows:

- Western Cape fatalities dropped from 207 to 131, resulting in a 36.7% reduction.
- Mpumalanga fatalities dropped from 189 to 144, resulting in a 23.8% reduction.
- Northern Cape fatalities dropped from 65 to 51 resulting in a 21.5% reduction.
- North West fatalities dropped from 119 to 94, resulting in a 21% reduction.
- Limpopo fatalities dropped from 226 to 179, resulting in a 20.8% reduction.
- KwaZulu-Natal fatalities dropped from 275 to 240, resulting in a 12.7% reduction.
- Eastern Cape fatalities dropped from 210 to 205 resulting in a 2.4% reduction.
- Free State fatalities dropped from 119 to 117, resulting in a 1.7% reduction.
- Gauteng fatalities increased from 275 to 290, resulting in a 5.5% increase.

Law enforcement interventions

The Minister said law enforcement interventions were critical in reducing the carnage on the roads

during the festive season.

“Over 370 joint operations were executed during the period under review, in line with the focus areas that were presented on 8 December 2022, which focused on pedestrian enforcement, vehicle road worthiness, public passenger transport, drunken driving, execution of warrants of arrest and speed law enforcement.

“Four hundred and seventy-four (474) K78 road blocks were effected during this period, with over 1.3 million vehicles stopped and checked. Over 255 000 notices were issued during this period,” the Minister said.

During December 2022, over 1 200 vehicles and trucks were stopped and checked, with this number increasing to 1 204 vehicles stopped in the month of January 2023.

“Unlicensed vehicle offences stood at 25 244. This corruption translated to a revenue loss for the Gauteng government of R1.2 billion in the last financial year. The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), the Hawks and the Gauteng province must urgently attend to this matter and bring the perpetrators to book,” Mbalula said.

“Speeding infringements remain high on the offence list at 32 110. The majority of arrests over the 2022 festive season have been for warrants executed at 1 600, operating licences at 1 094 and 947 drunken driving cases were opened,” Mbalula said.

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