

## MEDIA STATEMENT

RELEASED ON 21 October 2025

EMBARGO: NONE

### CLASS OF 2025 – THE TIME HAS COME

The SAOU wishes the Class of 2025 the best of success with the NSC examinations which commenced on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

The National Senior Certificate examination is one of the time indicators in the education sectors, which shows that the end of the school year is looming. It is an indicator that the 40 000 markers who are tasked with marking the NSC question papers of 903561 candidates before the end of the year, which will commence after the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2025, after the last question paper is finalised, will have to finalise a mammoth task in 185 marking centres.

This time of the year is an indicator to schools where these exams are being conducted, that an increased accountability is required. The integrity of the South African education system is annually measured against the quality of the NSC examination which is conducted and the results which will be released.

The educators in the whole education system, from Grade R to Grade 12 are being held accountable for the results of the NSC qualification. The SAOU salutes every teacher who provided an input into the lives of these learners, whether it was to teach them how to read and write, or who taught subject content, but who contributed in forming this group into the learners who form part of the Class of 2025.

The onus of a successful exam rests on the whole education system. The implication thereof is that all the preparations, distribution of papers, invigilation as well as the marking process should be conducted with as little interruption as possible to provide the learners with the best possible opportunity to achieve.

What is the profile of the Class of 2025? They were born in 2006 and 2007. They were of the first learners who had access to Grade R classes. 2007 was the year in which the Apple Iphone was released. These learners entered Grade 1 in 2014. The CAPS policy was implemented in all grades.

These learners were in Grade 7 and 8 during the Covid-19 period and were severely impacted by the disruptions in learning and teaching. The implication thereof was that these learners started their high school period without the expected traditions and experiences of their predecessors.

This group had to work so much harder than previous groups to catch up on the learning deficits and had to diligently prepare to enable them to have an equal opportunity to succeed in the NSC examination.

The NSC examination is the key to the future of all learners. It is therefore crucial that Grade 12 learners diligently approach the next month. This is one month in your life which will be decisive for your future. Therefore it is necessary that a positive and supportive environment should be created where learners can have the optimal opportunity to study and a peaceful and focussed atmosphere in which the exams can be conducted.

The SAOU encourages the Grade 12 learners of 2025 to approach the exams with integrity. No short cuts should be considered because your decisions inside and outside the exam venue can now determine your future. Be mindful of “question papers” or notes which are distributed via WhatsApp. As in all other aspects of our society there are always those who will attempt to provide challenging choices. It is therefore very important that the environment surrounding the learners should be as safe and without interruptions as possible.

And... should there be a subject which proves to be very challenging, there is always an opportunity for a supplementary exam in June 2026.

The SAOU wishes every learner, parent and teachers the best for this period. Hard work will be rewarded!