

# Congratulations CLASS OF 2005



### Advice for this year's matriculants.

- Start learning and working from day one
- Keep balance between school work, sport and social life
- Don't leave everything for the last minute.

### For matriculants who failed last year.

- Deal with your disappointment properly and allow yourself to heal.
- Remember, when one door closes, another opens.
- Enroll at an institution that offers rewrite programme.
- Seek professional counseling.

By Ndivhuwo Khangale

**T**he 2005 national matric examination was tough, but more learners managed to pass with high results.

### Encouraging

Education Minister Naledi Pandor said the 2005 matric results showed that there were more learners who wrote and passed the exams compared to 2004.

It is encouraging that 16 500 more learners passed than in 2004.

But there were also more than last year who didn't pass and government is going to work to change that.

Umalusi, an organisation that makes sure that the exams are free and fair, said given the high standard of the 2005 examination, the 68,3% pass rate was a good

result, even though 2.4% lower than the 70.7% achieved in 2004.

Education Minister Naledi Pandor supported Umalusi's statement and added that some of the national papers were tough.

### Well-managed

The process of writing the examinations and the marking were also checked more properly with extra care than in the past years.

Pandor said the entire process

was managed more professionally and showed an improvement with teachers and learners.

### Democratic

"It's clear from these examinations and our past experience that success does not come in one year, but takes several years and hard work to achieve good results."

The Minister said the matric class of 2005 was very important as they were the ones who started learning under the new democratic education system.

"This year's (2005) matriculants started school in 1994. They are the first to learn from the beginning until the end under a democratic system. They learned the principles of equality, non-racialism and non-sexism at school. They are our measure of how our education system is growing." □

# Hope for UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES

By Justice Mohale

**G**etting a university degree is no guarantee that a person will move straight into a job. Instead, it could prove the most difficult time for a new graduate. So government set up the Unemployed Graduate Initiative.

### Find jobs

This initiative helps jobless graduates find jobs or start their own businesses.

The project was launched jointly with the Umsobomvu Youth Fund last month.

As part of the project the government makes a list of unemployed graduates which is forwarded to the Umsobomvu.

### Opportunities

This project is a response to President Thabo Mbeki's call for a register of unemployed young graduates.

Umsobomvu has formed the Jobs and Opportunities Seekers' Database. The database contains information on jobs, learnerships, practical work, skills development and business opportunities that are available for young graduates.

So far, 61 000 young graduates have registered on the database.

### Launch

During the launch of the Unemployed Graduates Initiative, Deputy President Phumzile Mlam-



bo-Ngcuka said companies and government departments would find suitable candidates on the database.

"Private companies and departments will have an opportunity to select graduates from different areas and those who were denied opportunities during apartheid," she said.

Companies and departments will be able to use the database to place advertisements on the internet about job opportunities. All candidates who have registered on the database will have their curriculum vitae (CVs) checked with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

The Umsobomvu chief executive officer Malose Kekana said the database will make it easier for unemployed graduates to find job opportunities that are available through its programmes and partners.

"We want employers to register the positions they have on our database and that of the Sector Edu-

cation Training Authority (SETA). We are happy because everybody will be a winner," he said.

### Asgi-SA

A few months ago Cabinet discussed development of young people, as part of the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative (Asgi-SA). The Agsi-SA task team, headed by the Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, has been working at how to ensure that the economy grows up to 6% a year between 2010 and 2014.

### What is a database?

A database is a collection of information organised like a telephone directory. Information is put in computers making it easier to find and use.

### Contact

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