



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Address by Hon. Dr David Namwandi

Minister of Education

**on the Official Opening
of the 2013**

National Examination Marking

15 October 2013

Good Morning to you all;

It is that time of the year again, where markers have to meet at a centralised location for the execution of the marking exercise. This has become an annual important activity on the Ministry of Education's calendar that every year a number of about 2600 markers are brought together for the marking of the Grade 10 and 12 answer scripts.

The task that awaits you all is not easy. I know it is not an easy one but I am confident that you will overcome and shall certainly produce superior performance.

Last year I said and I want to repeat it again, "At times like these, the magnifying glass is placed squarely on you as markers. Grade 10 and 12 learners have successfully executed their responsibilities and the onus now remains on you as markers" to fairly and justly mark their answer scripts. You will be or have been engaged in this battle from the 29th September 2013 and thus will continue until 6th December 2013.

A total number of 44 374 Grade 10 and 42 861 Grade 12 candidates are awaiting their results eagerly and patiently.

As usual, I want to know whether you are certain to win this battle? i.e the battle against the nightmares of misplacing scripts, not being able to understand what the learner is trying to convey?

Are you ready to make a break through?

I want you to believe in yourself as usual. Display positive attitudes during this exercise, knowing very well that you are armed with the necessary competencies (subject knowledge and marking skills).

Dear Colleagues,

It is an open secret that this Ministry has embarked on the effective slogan i.e **“Are You Ready”** campaign. This has been going on for some time now. The ultimate aim is to encourage grade 10 and 12 learners as well as teachers (some of who are here today) to go the extra mile in order for the learners to pass well.

It is my advise that marking should be for that purpose. Therefore a range of solutions able to meet diverse needs should be encouraged at all times.

I direct that this exercise be transparent, fair, effective but not cumbersome.

Remember the book "Animal Farm" there may be markers with brilliant ideas, well equipped, innovative, creative and inventive than others, let them share, after all life is all about sharing. Borrow from each other as you are from a distinctive or unique "Family" Family of markers.

I believe that from any process quality results are obtained through persistence, consistency and appropriate application of knowledge and skills. We always say a good marker is he/she who treats the last script of the day precisely in the same manner he/she treated the first script of the day, that consistency is crucial as it maintains the standards more so because same skills and techniques are applied equally to every script. For us to join the elite club of the first world of nations, we should benchmark ourselves with the best not second best. Fair and just marking process shall enhance quality, credible and authentic education system. I know

marking is demanding, stressful and sometimes intense, please don't say die, sacrifice for the children of this land. Remain focussed, rest well so that you get the extra energy and stamina you need for the next day. I urge you to be calm, cool, forward looking and enthusiastic, knowing very well that you are doing this for the generation IY, a digital generation that will be the saviour of our land as they will lead us into a new epoch, the era of industrialisation and prosperity. Kindly take my advice never let the temper, frustrations or emotions negatively influence the fairness of your marking. Let us be tolerant and willing to accommodate fellow markers, your team leader and chief markers.

I urge chief markers as well as team leaders to constantly monitor (not policing) all markers and act if it is found that a certain marker has violated marking principles and lacks relevant competencies.

It is therefore paramount that chief markers and team leaders ensure that markers mark as per directed marking schemes, rules and guidelines without unnecessarily disadvantaging learners of a particular school. It is my directive that all markers are listened to with respect at all times. Let the treatment we give to learners be fair, it would also be advisable if we treat the scripts of each learner as if the learner is our own child.

Dear Markers

Your marking must be inclusive to ensure, that both rural, urban schools and learners with disabilities are taken on board during the marking. It is required from you to promote a harmonised and standardised approach to the marking to both full-time and part-time candidates to ensure a levelled “playing field”. You should not relegate the marking of the part-time answer scripts to the last days of marking when you run have out of energy, but attend to them within the same perimeters as the full-time answer scripts.

Dear Markers

The critical weapon in this demanding activity is critical thinking and analysis of the answers given by the candidates. Your cognitive skills must be sharpened from now on to assist you in levelling the playing field for every answer script of each particular Grade 10 and 12 candidates.

As much as we require proper services from you, I still urge you to relax and have short breaks to stimulate the

flow of blood in your bodies. You need to revitalise yourself with fresh fruits to energise your bodies like an eagle that feeds only on fresh meat for acquiring more energy for it to focus on its prey.

Let me thank you in advance for your continuous and redoubled stamina, you are indispensable as without your commitment nothing concrete shall ever happen. To DNEA and members please help us to reduce the waiting period by three or four weeks.

Lastly, I urge the DNEA officials responsible for the coordination of marking to ensure that the process of marking receives the attention it deserves from all participating officials.

With these few words I suppose let me declare the 2013 marking session officially open.

I thank you