
EDITORS/REPORTERS

13 OCTOBER 2026

**MEDIA STATEMENT: CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION WISHES THE MATRIC CLASS OF 2026
SUCCESS AS FINAL EXAMINATIONS COMMENCE.**

The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL Rights Commission) extends its heartfelt good wishes to the Matric Class of 2026 as learners across South Africa commence their National Senior Certificate examinations.

This moment marks far more than the start of a series of examinations. It represents years of hard work, perseverance, personal growth and determination. Behind every learner is a story of early mornings, late nights, challenges overcome, sacrifices made and dreams pursued. The Commission commends every matric learner for reaching this important milestone and encourages them to face the coming weeks with confidence, courage and hope.

While examinations are an important part of the educational journey, they do not define a person's worth, character or future. Every learner possesses unique talents, strengths and potential that extend far beyond a set of results. The Commission encourages learners to believe in themselves, trust in the effort they have invested throughout the year and approach each paper with a positive and focused mindset.

The Commission also recognises that this can be a stressful and emotional period. Learners often carry the expectations of families, schools and communities while striving to achieve their personal goals. It is therefore essential that they are surrounded by encouragement, understanding and support.

The Chairperson of the CRL Rights Commission, Ms Thoko Mkhwanazi-Xaluva, said:

“To the Matric Class of 2026, we want you to know that South Africa believes in you. You have already demonstrated remarkable resilience by reaching this stage of your academic journey. As you enter the examination room, do so with confidence and the knowledge that your hard work

has prepared you for this moment. Give your best in every paper, stay focused on your goals, and remember that your future remains filled with limitless possibilities.”

The Commission calls on parents, guardians, educators, religious and traditional leaders, as well as communities across the country, to rally behind learners during this crucial period. A supportive home, an encouraging word, a prayer, a message of motivation or a listening ear can provide the confidence and reassurance that learners need to perform at their best.

Families, cultural institutions, faith communities and community organisations are encouraged to continue nurturing environments that promote dignity, resilience, inclusion and hope. By working together, society can help ensure that learners feel supported, valued and inspired throughout the examination period.

The Commission further encourages learners to manage their time wisely, maintain healthy routines, seek assistance when needed and take care of their physical, emotional and mental well-being. Asking for support when facing challenges is a sign of strength and determination.

As South Africa's future leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs, innovators and nation-builders, the Matric Class of 2026 represents the promise of a brighter future. Their achievements will contribute not only to their personal success, but also to the growth and development of their families, communities and the country as a whole.

The Commission wishes every matric learner strength, wisdom and success in the weeks ahead.

Issued by the CRL Rights Commission

Mpiyakhem@crlcommission.org.za / 082 527 3859

Ends//