



14 January 2025

To all media houses

COPE Statement on the 2024 Matric Results and the State of Education

For immediate release:

The Congress of the People welcomes and applauds the improved quantitative results of the 2024 matric class in both the public (NSC) and private (IEB) sectors. We congratulate learners, teachers and parents for their hard work and dedication. We also wish success to both those who have succeeded and those who have not achieved their desired outcomes.

However, while we celebrate the quantitative achievements, we remain concerned about the quality of the outcomes. Despite South Africa spending more on basic education compared to other developing nations, the results of our education system still fall short when it comes to quality. Each year, universities report challenges in dealing with the preparedness of matriculants. The emphasis on quantity cannot continue at the expense of quality; this poses a serious risk to the country's future economy and undermines the ability of future generations to compete in a rapidly advancing technological world.

We call on the government to do more in encouraging and motivating those who did not meet the criteria for university entrance to enrol in vocational and technical colleges. The country urgently needs more skilled workers such as plumbers, technicians, welders and other trades to build our economy and provide opportunities for youth to engage in meaningful employment. COPE also urges the government to strongly promote TVET colleges and invest in improving the conditions at these institutions.


Of greater concern are those who will seek to join the job market only to find them scarce or unavailable, especially in small towns and rural areas. This situation is a direct consequence of over 16 years of economic mismanagement by the current government. As the job market becomes increasingly inaccessible, young people, especially from disadvantaged communities, are left without viable opportunities to secure employment.

COPE remains committed to advocating for transformation in our education system, not just in terms of quantity but in content and quality as well. We believe this is essential in preparing our young people to compete effectively in the global, technologically driven economy. We owe it to our future leaders.

Issued by: Teboho Loate
COPE Acting National Treasure
076 016 8573/ 061 267 3301

For more information,
Contact Cope Media on 061 994 7572

25 Medgate Centre. 05 Kingfisher Street, Helderkruijn, Roodeport, 1724
Johannesburg 2092

 Tel: 083 450 1358

 media@copesa.org.za

www.copesa.org