

REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION OF 2019 PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION (PSLCE)

The 2019 Primary School Leaving Certificate Examination (PSLCE) was administered from 8th to 10th May 2019. Six papers were administered; English, Social and Religious Studies, Mathematics, Chichewa, Primary Sciences and Arts and Life Skills.

Registration of candidates

Preparations for the 2019 PSLCE examination included several processes, among them, registration of candidates. Registration commenced on 10th September 2018 and ended on 23rd November 2018.

The registration process was generally a success and one of the greatest successes is the compliance of the deadlines for submission of registration data and identity card photos to MANEB. Most headteachers submitted their candidates' data and id photos to their respective District Education Managers (DEMs) offices within the stipulated period for compilation of the district data base. This enabled the district offices to make timely submission of the data to MANEB.

Despite the good response from most headteachers, some were negligent of the deadlines. For instance, some brought the id photos for processing during the week when MANEB was about to administer the examinations, a case which to a certain extent contributed to missing of examination identity cards for some candidates. In view of the fact that it was not the candidates' liability for the missing identity cards, MANEB made the necessary communication to all examination administrators through DEMs to allow the Bonafede candidates to sit for the examination as long as their examination numbers and names appeared on attendance registers and nominal rolls, respectively.

Payment of allowances to administrators

Funds were readily made available by government and this facilitated timely payment of allowances to examination administrators, including security personnel. Administrators and security officers were paid before their deployment to examination centres.

Delivery of examinations

The District Education Managers (DEMs) did a very commendable job in terms of ferrying examination materials from hoarding centres to distribution centres. There were no reports of late delivery of examination to distribution centres.

Examination Centre Supervisors collected the examination materials on daily basis from the distribution centres to cluster centres. Collection was done early in the morning to ensure that times for administering examination were adhered to. After the last paper for the day, the written scripts were taken back to the distribution centres.

Monitoring of examination administration

Monitoring of examination administration was done across the country by MANEB officers, DEMs, Officers from Education Division Offices, and other stakeholders. The monitoring teams visited a good number of centres in the country to ensure compliance with examination regulations.

Arrests for examination malpractices

Nine people were arrested for various cases of examination malpractices. Among those arrested were; two invigilators, three school teachers and three secondary school students.

The two invigilators were; James Kapesa at Mavwere cluster centre in Mchinji and Boniface Thewe at Kochi cluster centre in Mangochi.

Gift Kalimbakatha Banda, headteacher of Bowe school in Dowa was arrested for allowing three secondary school students to write examinations for three candidates. The secondary school students were; Memory Keffa a Form 1 student at Mponela CDSS , Hopeson Anderson of Chimkoka CDSS and Yakwanika Yemba a form 4 student at Natola CDSS .

Mr Martin Banda and Mr Mumba, who were Mr Gift Kalimbakatha Banda's accomplices, were also arrested. In this regard, MANEB is reminding all examination administrators to refrain from examination malpractices to avoid embarrassment.

During the monitoring, it was noted that candidates as well as examination administrators observed punctuality. Examination starting and finishing times were generally adhered to.

Vote of thanks

MANEB extends utmost appreciation to members of the general public, its greatest partners in the fight against examination malpractices, for exposing the examination malpractices. The information that was received from the public enabled MANEB to act promptly and curtail the clandestine activities.

MANEB is also sincerely grateful to DEMs, Malawi Police Service, all security personnel and examination administrators for the commitment, professionalism, ownership and teamwork demonstrated during the administration of PSLCE examinations. It is anticipated that these attributes will prevail during the forthcoming MSCE examinations.

Media institutions complemented MANEB's efforts in ensuring a smooth administration of the PSLCE examination. MANEB, therefore, commends the media institutions for the gesture.