

16 DECEMBER 2021

## STORM DAMAGES MARKING CENTRE IN THE FREE STATE

The Department of Basic Education has become aware of the damage caused to a marking centre in Thaba Nchu, Free State on the afternoon of Wednesday 15 December 2021.

A storm followed by hail hit parts of the province and affected one of the centres where the roof was blown off while marking was in progress. Markers ran for cover as the storm pounded the venue where the scripts were being processed.

One marker was slightly injured while the rest escaped unscathed. The marking centre is situated at the Albert Moroka High School where Accounting Paper 2 and Business Studies Paper 2 were being marked.

Initial reports indicate that some scripts were damaged in the hail that followed.

“A high-powered delegation consisting of senior officials from the DBE and Umalusi will be visiting the marking centre. We appeal for calm at this stage while we establish the extent of the damage. We are working as fast as possible to resolve the matter but we can assure the candidates that nobody will be disadvantaged as a result of this natural disaster,” said Dr Rufus Poliah, Chief Director for Public Examinations and Assessments at DBE.

Dr Poliah said DBE was working together with the Free State Education Department and UMALUSI to ensure that the marking at this centre is restored and that the marking credibility and integrity, is intact.

The Department will relocate the marking to another location as soon as possible.

“We thank all our colleagues on the scene for working hard to ensure that everybody is safe. We will provide counselling to members of the marking team following the trauma and shock of the events that threatened their lives this afternoon,” said Dr Poliah.

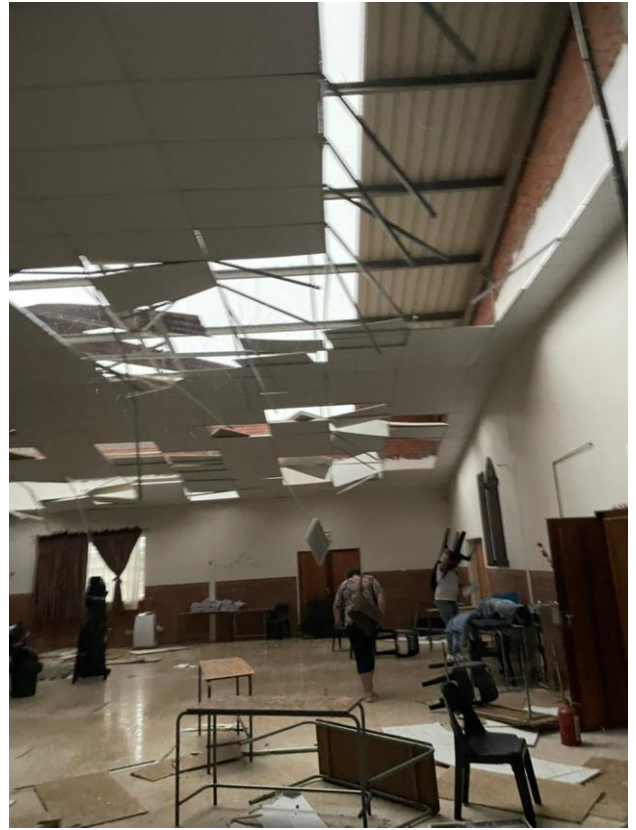
Marking at this centre commenced on 8 December and was scheduled to conclude on 22 December 2021. There are 112 markers at this marking centre.

### Media Enquiries:

**Elijah Mhlanga** - Head of Communication: 083 580 8275 | **Hope Mokgatlhe** - Spokesperson to Minister: 079 817 0427

**Terence Khala** - Media Liason Officer: 081 758 1546

The DBE is confident that this incident will not impact adversely on the finalisation and release of results in the province.



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Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

