

2 EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2009



Department changes design

THE Department of Basic Education has changed the design and format of the National Senior Certificate to ensure greater prominence of the national coat of arms.

Dr Mafu Rakometsi, chief executive Officer of Umalusi, a statutory body responsible for producing the National Senior Certificates, was instructed this week by the office of the Minister of Basic Education to change the current design format to ensure the national coat of arms was given more prominence.

Usually the matriculation certificates are printed within a week of receipt of the final results, which is normally before the end of May.

Rakometsi stated that the matter had been taken up by the Umalusi Council under the chairmanship of Prof. John Volmink with the minister.

Umalusi's certificates are printed on watermark paper for security reasons and are sourced overseas.

The process has been expedited and a consignment of this

special paper has already been ordered.

Delivery of the newly formatted certificate paper is expected in the middle of August and the printing of all National Senior Certificates are to be completed by no later than the end of August 2009.

Priority will be given to assessment bodies that have already paid for their certificates.

Rakometsi apologised that "this delay could have been avoided and I can only apologise to all learners who have suffered as a result.

"I can assure you that I will give my best attention to ensure delivery of the certificates by the end of August."

Although the actual National Senior Certificate provides the final and most accurate result of exams written by candidates, a statement of result issued by the national Department of Education at the beginning of the year to all candidates serves as proof of exam results until such time the newly formatted certificates are issued.