

# The Citizen

Tuesday January 13 2009 / 515 days to kickoff

Home [News](#) [Opinion](#) [CitiVibe](#) [CitiMotoring](#) [Classifieds](#) [Sport](#) [Win With The Citizen](#) [Citizen Cares](#) [Services](#) [About](#)

Local

[News](#) [People in the News](#) [UnCut](#) [World News](#) [Business](#) [Eish!](#) [Weather](#) [Health](#) [News in Pictures](#)

## News

Published: 1/12/2009 16:02:31

[Home](#)

+ [News](#)

+ [Local News](#)

## Tags

Most used in News  
in the last 4 days

+ [Zuma](#)

+ [court](#)

+ [ANC](#)

+ [NPA](#)

+ [crime](#)

+ [education](#)

+ [Cope](#)

+ [Tutu](#)

+ [IFP](#)

+ [Zimbabwe](#)

+ [Lekota](#)

+ [IEC](#)

+ [UDM](#)

+ [University](#)

+ [weather](#)

## Matric and University failures costing SA billions

PRETORIA - Parliamentarians must prioritise efforts to help failed matriculants or risk further economic failures, the CEO of training organisation AstroTech & BizTech said on Monday.

“Parliament needs to urgently address the challenge of close to half a million matriculants who have failed in the past two years and who have scant future prospects in a rapidly globalising world where education is the key to competitive advantage,” said Liza van Wyk.

She said failures in schools and universities coupled with exceptionally high drop-out rates were costing the taxpayer billions in wasted tuition and imperilling the economy with low skills and deepening poverty.

Citing a 2002 paper by the University of Pretoria’s Daan Gouws and Hendrik Wolmarans, Van Wyk said university failures cost the taxpayer R1.3 billion a year.

This was in terms of the amount of government subsidy



Add our RSS feeds to your Google page

[Print friendly format](#) / [Mail this article](#) / [Bookmark this article](#) / [Write a letter about this article](#) / / [Subscribe to The Citizen](#)

Bookmark

latest news

### Zuma decision not entirely to blame for Rand's woes

JOHANNESBURG - While the continued prosecution of ANC president Jacob Zuma would be a negative for the rand, this was only partially the reason for the currency’s woes, RMB currency research said on Tuesday

### NPA confirms correspondence from Zuma lawyers

JOHANNESBURG - Lawyers for ANC leader Jacob Zuma have sent a letter to the National Prosecuting Authority declaring their intention to make representations in his graft case, the NPA confirmed on Tuesday.

### Search resumes for missing pilot

JOHANNESBURG - The search for a missing Johannesburg pilot resumed on Tuesday morning, the

[articles you have](#)

[browsed](#)

-  
-

**more news**

**Breaking news**

Vucinic denies  
Beckham winning debut  
as Pato shines

**Breaking news**

Redknapp slams Spurs  
after Wigan reverse

**Breaking news**

Gourcuff magic for  
Bordeaux heats up title  
battle

**Breaking news**

Del Piero, Raul strike  
blow for soccer senior  
citizens

wasted by a failure rate of approximately 20 percent of enrolled students or roughly 125,000 students at tertiary education institutions.

Van Wyk said these rates had worsened in the past six years and around 35 to 40 percent of students that enrolled in tertiary institutions had dropped out before completing their studies.

The internationally acceptable rate was that of about 10 percent.

She said that adding half a million failed matriculants, to the millions already without work would further ignite crime, deepen poverty and the diseases associated with it.

“Instead of university being pushed as the only way for ambitious young people to direct themselves, government should be considering widespread apprenticeship programmes.”

Van Wyk said parliamentarians needed to focus on the growing group of young people with scant future prospects.

“There have been persistent changes in the education system over the last two decades with a steady dumbing down that sees people leave school with poor English comprehension and scant financial literacy,” she said.

- Sapa



### Have your say

Name:

Email: (required, not published)

SA Search and Rescue Organisation in Johannesburg said. The massive search for Chris Combrinck, 52, a property developer from Roodepoort, was suspended on Monday morning due to bad weather.

---

latest sport

### Flower is budding new coach

HARARE – Former Zimbabwe batsman Andy Flower has received backing from home to become the next England coach.

### Ford perfect for the English job

LONDON – Kent captain Rob Key believes Graham Ford would be the perfect man to save English cricket from crisis.

### Poor finishing cost Sundowns

JOHANNESBURG - Dillon Sheppard has cited poor finishing as Mamelodi Sundowns' biggest problem in recent matches.

---

---

Search our archive

**most read**

News/