

MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE MATRIC CLASS OF 2018 BY THE  
PREMIER OF LIMPOPO HONOURABLE CHUPU MATHABATHA ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE PROVINCIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF GRADE 12  
RESULTS HELD AT THE RANCH HOTEL, POLOKWANE.

04 January 2019

Programme director,  
Khosikhulu Vho-Toni Mphephu Ramabulana;  
Kgoshigolo Victor Thulare III;  
MEC Ishmael Kgetjepe and other MECs present,  
His Grace, the Right Reverend, Dr. Bishop BE Lekganyane;  
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature,  
The Speaker of our Provincial Legislature, Mme Polly Boshielo, and other MPLs  
present,  
Executive Mayors and Mayors of our district and local municipalities,  
Our traditional leadership,  
The business community,  
Representatives of various academic institutions,  
Our Director General, Ntate Nape Nchabeleng,  
The HOD for the department of Education, Mme Mutheiwana and your team,  
School Principals,  
Leadership of the School governing bodies,  
Leadership of the teachers' Unions,  
Leadership of learner and students' organisations,  
Our friends in the media and the people of Limpopo:

Good morning!

Today is a special day of celebration and ululations. We have made it, our children have made it –they have given us a reason to smile and celebrate. Before I can go any further, I wish to take this opportunity to thank our MEC, Ntate Ishmael Kgetjepe for his detailed presentation of the 2018 Matric Results. We also want to thank MEC Kgetjepe for having been such a capable and reliable captain of the ship. Your leadership has contributed immensely to what we are celebrating today.

During the announcement of the 2016 results the MEC made a commitment to ensure we do not ever again experience a sharp decline in our Grade 12 results. At that time, our results had dropped from 65.9% in 2015 to 62.5% in 2016. All of us were not happy with that result. We all wanted to see our results increasing in line with the national trend. We could not accept a situation where so many of our kids fail to pass their Matric. Some even went as far as suggesting that we should revise down our 80% target simply because of the difficulties we were facing.

As the Premier and the head of our government I said NO to the idea of revising down targets. Our view has always been that there was nothing wrong with the target.

Last year this time, we announced a whopping 3.2% increase in our 2017 Grade 12 Pass Rate. That increase was a result of persistence and hard work.

That increase took our pass rate from 62.6 in 2016 to 65.6 for the Class of 2017. Today we have yet another reason to celebrate. Our kids have made it again. The Class of 2018 has managed to improve our pass percentage with an impressive 3.1%.

This is a milestone achievement.

This has taken our pass rate to 69.4%!!

Programme Director;

When it comes to Matric results, Limpopo is known for producing quality. It is for this reason that we must also celebrate the fact that our bachelor passes have increased from 21.4 in 2017 to 23.5% in 2018.

Our learners are also doing exceptionally well in gateway subjects such as Mathematics, Accounting, Life Sciences, Physical science and History.

What is even more important is the fact that our learners are doing exceptionally well with regard to technology subjects.

On average, our learners have recorded between 90% to 100% on subjects such as; Civil Technology, Electrical Technology, Computer Application Technology, Engineering Graphic and Design, Information Technology and Mechanical Technology.

For us as Limpopo these are very critical subjects. Our soon coming mega project of Musina-Makhado SEZ needs such skills.

As you know, as part of this SEZ initiative, we are going to construct several plants which will require exactly this type of skills.

Programme Director;

Am also glad to note that that not even a single Districts has performed below the 60% mark this time around.

Last year our worst performing District was Sekhukhune at 57.3%. Our specific mandate to the MEC, the District and the School Principals was this year we would not accept anything less than 60%.

The MEC has already indicated that our districts have been reconfigured from the usual 5 District to 10 education districts.

Even with that reconfiguration, this year, Sekhukhune has performed at an aggregate of 63.4%.

This aggregate is made up of 66.8% from what is now known as Sekhukhune 2 and 60% from what is now known as Riba Cross District.

Our top performing District is what is now known as Vhembe East at 80.1%, followed by Vhembe West at 79.4%.

The good story is continuing in Waterberg. This District used to be amongst the worst performers a few years ago.

Last year the District was at position two with 69.4%.

Today what was known as Waterberg is now divided into Waterberg 2 and Mogalakwena.

Waterberg 2 is at position 3 with 73.2%.

Mogalakwena is at position 4 with 71.6%.

This is an impressive increase from the position of last year.

What was known as Mopani is now divided into Mopani 2 and Capricorn Tzaneen.

The situation in this District is similar with the situation in what was known as Capricorn –

What is now known as Mopani 2 has performed well at 68.6% whilst Tzaneen is lagging behind at 63.5%. In terms of positions, Mopani 2 is at position 5 whilst Tzaneen is at position 9.

Lebowakgomo which was part of Capricorn is now position 6 at 68.8%. Capricorn 2 is at position 9 with 63.5%.

As I have said, Sekhukhune 2 is on position 2 with 66.8% whilst Riba-Cross is rooted at position 10 with 60%.

Programme Director;

I must also take this opportunity to congratulate our top performing schools in the province.

We congratulate Mbilwi at position 1;

Hoerskool Pietersburg at position 2;

Thengwe at position 3;

Tshivhase at position 4, and;

EPP Mhinga at position 5.

Well done to the Principals, the teachers and the learners.

I must also add that we are happier to note that all our best performing learners are female learners. Indeed, this is the age of a girl child.

Programme Director;

These results belong to our SGBs, the principals, the teachers and our hard working learners.

Our teachers always go beyond the ordinary call of duty to serve our province to the best of their abilities. Most of you work in very unfavourable conditions deep in the belly of our rural areas, but you still manage to produce good results. We thank you and your unions for putting the education of our learners first. These results also go to our parents –these are the people who deny themselves the many luxuries of life just to make sure that their children are able to go to school. We say well done to all our parents.

We also dedicate this increment to all members of our SGBs who work selflessly to ensure that our school remain strategic centres for learning and teaching. We want you to keep on doing the good work you are doing.

The truth is that there are so many stakeholders in our Education System who have contributed in one way or the other for this improved results.

Programme Director;

As I conclude, please allow me to also speak to those of our kids who did not make it.

This is not the end of your lives. Those who can repeat are urged to go back to school and try again.

Some of you will have a second opportunity through the supplementary examinations –please make full use of that opportunity.

Once again, we take this opportunity to say thank you to the Class of 2018.

I wish you all of the best in your future studies and life in general.

I THANK YOU.