

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO  
HONOURABLE CHUPU STANLEY MATHABATHA ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE PROVINCIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2022  
GRADE 12 RESULTS HELD AT THE RANCH HOTEL, POLOKWANE.**

20 January 2023

Programme Director

Education MEC Mavhugu Lerule-Ramakhanya;

All other Members of the Executive Council;

His Grace, The Right Reverend, Bishop Dr. BE Lekganyane of ZCC;

Bishop Dr. Engenas Lekganyane of ZCC, St. Engenas;

Bishop Jeremiah Masela;

The Speaker of our Provincial Legislature, and all MPLs present;

Executive Mayors and Mayors of our districts and Municipalities;

Our Esteemed Traditional Leaders here today;

Representatives of various academic institutions;

Our Director General, Mr Nape Nchabeleng and the HOD for the  
Department of Education, Ms Onicca Dederen;

Senior Management together with the entire management of the  
Department of Education who are here;

School Principals and Leadership of the School Governing Bodies;

Leadership of our Teachers' Unions;

Leadership of learners' and students' organisations;

Our friends in the media;

The people of Limpopo.

**Good morning! Thobela! Avuxeni! Ndaa! Goeie More!**

I am honoured and privileged to address this important occasion of the presentation of the 2022 National Senior Certificate examination results.

First of all please allow me to congratulate the 2022 Matric Class of Limpopo for obtaining 72,1 percent pass rate.

This class deserves all the accolades we can think about because, they did not experience normal learning and teaching. We all recall that, during the academic year 2020 and 2021, they were in Grades 10 and 11, respectively, when Covid-19 disrupted our normal way of living.

However, through their dedication and resilience, this class has conquered, and that is why we celebrate them today.

My special accolades goes to the Honourable MEC Mavhugu Lerule-Ramakhanya and her team, teachers, principals, parents, school governing bodies, teacher unions, learners representative bodies, and all stakeholders for having contributed immensely to this great achievement.

Programme Director

Today is indeed special day in Limpopo. For the past two successive academic years, we hung our heads in shame due to the poor academic performance.

However, this year's 5,3% improvement from last year, is moving close to the results we have been yearning for, the 80% target as set in the Limpopo Development Plan.

We are filled with profound joy and happiness. The Matric Class of 2022 has led Limpopo into celebration. You have indeed made us proud. This class is a true reflection of what Maya Angelou referred to when she said 'And still I rise'.

Programme Director

Having gathered here today, we all embrace the fact that, this kind of occasion has always been emotive in its character and shape. Therefore, we take this opportune moment to congratulate our top three schools, namely, Mbilwi, Thengwe, and Dendron, for their superb performance.

We also wish to extend our congratulations to the Mogalakwena District for being the best in our province. In the same breath, we say to all the top Districts and Circuits in Limpopo, keep shining the light.

On this important note, I am reminded of the words of President Matamela Ramaphosa, while addressing an Education Lekgotla when he said, and I quote:

"If we are to seize the opportunity of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, our education system must be re-orientated towards its development in our country.

Knowledge and skills for a changing world also include emotional stability, intelligence and an environment where learners are safe from abuse. We need to build stronger social compacts that put learners and their education first. And with our focus on developing the skills that children need for a changing world, we also have a clear path for the future." Close quote.

Programme Director

I also wish to praise all the learners who continue to represent Limpopo at the national stage. This is what I refer to as a quality that we continue to produce.

We are also proud that having singled out mining, agriculture, tourism, and infrastructure development as our key economic focus areas, our children continue to excel in the relevant streams that are closely along these lines.

It is well known fact that I believe in an education system that responds to the needs of our economy. That is why I need to stress this point, we need to ensure that learners are encouraged to study subjects that are relevant to the current needs of the economy and to the development of the province.

It is on this particular point that Professor Tshilidzi Marwala once said, and I quote:

"If we compare South Africa to the rest of the world, then we are behind in terms of the embracing the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We therefore need to unlock the bottlenecks that exist in our

education system. Unless we unlock this bottleneck, we will always be behind. But if we compared ourselves with the rest of Africa, we are doing well." Close quote.

Indeed, through education, we can defeat triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

Programme Director,

In conclusion, please allow me to reflect on some areas of focus that I believe can assist us moving forward.

At the core of it is the issue of infrastructure development at schools. This is a serious matter that will continue to beset us as the population grows.

That is why I have since directed the MEC to work tirelessly with the relevant cluster, to decisively deal with this emotive matter, with renewed zeal and dedication that it deserves.

Within the infrastructure development programme lies one issue that continues haunting me, the eradication of pit latrines toilets.

It is also on this important note that I have also directed MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya, to ensure an immediate solution to this anomaly.

We are heading towards the last financial year of the Sixth Administration, that is the 2023-2024 financial year, I do not wish to abuse learners of Limpopo, by concerning themselves with issues of infrastructure at schools.

That is squarely the function of government, hence the need to have pit latrines eradicated in our term.

Secondly, I wish to appeal to our communities to STOP disrupting learning and teaching in the name of service delivery protests.

While we acknowledge that the concerns which are being raised are genuine, we are however saying that, education and schools are not, and will never be correct platforms to raise those concerns.

Programme Director

It is on this important note that, I wish to applaud all those Councillors, who continue playing active roles in the running of our schools in Limpopo.

On the other hand, I wish to appreciate the significant role being played by the independent schools in building education capacity of our children.

Like the public private partnership during the fight against Covid-19, I am saying, education of our children is our collective responsibility.

**Programme Director**

To all those who did not make it, I want to extend a message of support and solace to you.

Remember you too can RISE. You must know that this is not the end of your lives. I urge you to go and repeat, because you can make it.

To the Class of 2023, I want to say the time has started last week.

Please work hard and make us proud, let's improve on the foundation

we laid this year and outperform other learners across the country.

The future of our country is in your hands, therefore, as a special generation with a mission, please go out there and conquer the universe.

On this important note please allow me to say the following, and I quote:

"Many things may become baggage, may become encumbrances if we cling to them blindly and uncritically.

Having made mistakes, you may feel that, come what may, you are saddled with them and so become dispirited, if you have not made mistakes, you may feel that you are free from error and so become conceited.

Lack of achievement in work may breed pessimism and depression, while achievement may breed pride and arrogance.

A comrade with short record of struggle may shirk responsibility on this account, while a veteran may become opinionated because of his long record in the struggle.

Worker and peasant comrades, because of pride in their class origin, may look down upon intellectuals, while intellectuals because they have a certain amount of knowledge, may look down upon worker and peasant comrades.

Any specialized skill may be capitalized on and so may lead to arrogance and contempt of others.

Even one's age may become ground for conceit. The young

because they are bright and capable, may look down upon the old, and the old because they are rich in experience, may look down upon the young.

All such things become encumbrances or baggage if there is no critical awareness," Chairman Mao Zedong.

With those few words, I THANK YOU!