

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY LIMPOPO MEC FOR EDUCATION
MAVHUNGU LERULE-RAMAKHANYA DURING THE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2022 MATRIC EXAMINATION
RESULTS, 20 JANUARY 2023, AT THE RANCH HOTEL,
POLOKWANE, LIMPOPO**

**Thank you Programme Director, Mr. Putla Sehlapelo
(Meneer Magongwa)**

**The Premier of our beautiful Province, Stanely Chupu
Mathabatha, Mahlatji a Hlabirwa**

**Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature Hon.
Rosemary Molapo.**

**Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Hon
Tshitereke Matibe**

My colleagues in the EXCO, Honourable MECs

**The Chairperson of the Education Portfolio Committee, Hon.
Violet Mathye**

**Honourable Members of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature
Director General, Mr. Nape Nchabeleng**

**Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers, Chief Whips and
Councilors.**

Leaders of various political parties organizations.

The Provincial Secretary of the ANC

**Our esteemed Royal Leadership being led by the Provincial
Chairperson of the House, Hosi Penny Ngove**

Religious Leaders & Pastors

**Our Social partners and Leadership of our teacher unions,
SADTU, SAOU, PEU, NAPTOSA, NATU and NEPSAW**

Our Organized Labour, NEHAWU and PSA

Leadership of our SGBs and Civic Associations

Learner Organizations, COSAS and Representatives

Council of Learners (RCL)

South African Council of Educators (SACE)

**Head of the Limpopo Department of Education, Ms
Khathutshelo Onicca Dederen and your Executive
Management Team, Senior Management, District Directors,
Circuit Managers, Principals and Educators**

Heads of Limpopo Provincial Departments

Parents and guardians

Our Sponsors and Education Partners

Members of the fourth estate, the Media

The most important guests, my VIPs, our beautiful learners

Comrades and Compatriots

Ladies and Gentlemen

Nndi Matsheloni

Avuxeni

Thobela

Programme Director, it is my singular honour to be standing before you this morning, after a gruelling academic year. Team education was hard at work , they did their utmost best to ensure that when this time arrives, we are counted among the best. Turning the tide was a mammoth task for both our learners, the Educators and senior management team in the department. Challenging as it was, we had no option but to pull together so that we could achieve our common objective, to improve our Grade 12 National Senior Certificate results. We have today gathered under one roof with our learners of course, to give account for all the work done.

I want to take this time and thank each one of you for being here, you came solely to support our learners who have made us extra proud against all odds. We had the honour to celebrate their achievement last night in Johannesburg when the Minister of Basic Education Mme. Angie Motshekga released the Grade 12 National Senior Certificate results. It is encouraging to see our learners from ordinary public schools ascending to the national stage to be recognised amongst the best. We take pride in the work, the coaching and courage we instilled in them and we have no doubt they will continue to shine in their academic endeavours.

Programme Director, we are today gathered here to celebrate the cohort that started school in 2011 and they were the ninth regiment to write the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations based on Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS). Just like the 2021 class, they were not spared from the harsh realities of Covid-19. This is the group that sustained Covid-19 for two years in Grade 10 and 11. They were subjected to a rotational arrangement to avert the spread of the pandemic. If we talk about resilience, this is the cohort that had the worst experience. They were subjected to a trimmed curriculum in Grade 10 and again exposed to a revised programme in Grade 11. Over and above the devastating pandemic, they again had to endure load shedding as they were preparing for the exams, during revisions at the camps and during examination period.

Programme Director, we have been through a lot, we learned a lot, but we remained resilient as the province despite all the challenges we encountered. It is only resilience that was able to lift us from below 70 percent as we marched to the desired heights, the resilience that we were encouraged to master as we navigate through the worst of times.

Honourable Premier, during the State of the Province Address in 2022, you painted a picture of a resilient bird called a Phoenix,

a bird that obtains a new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor. In the context of your delivery, you were speaking about the recovery path of the Province following the devastating Covid-19 pandemic. As the department tasked with a responsibility to breathe life, produce future leaders and academics, we are self-correcting and surely on the upward trajectory.

The State of the Province Address came a month after the release of the 2021 National Senior Certificate results and it is common knowledge that we were on the bottom of the list. You called for a swift intervention through a Provincial Education Lekgotla with all the relevant parties and stakeholders of interest. We knew then that it cannot be business as usual, we needed to devise means to ensure that we rise from the ashes and restore hope. You did not only give directives honourable Premier, but you walked the path with team education being led by Hon. Polly Boshielo to ensure that the journey changes the narrative.

Programme Director Provincial Secretary and our esteemed guests, it is imperative that I take you through the intervention strategies that we employed following contributions by experts and all education stakeholders who were with us at the Lekgotla

The Lekgotla focused on various interventions including amongst others;

- **Holding accountability sessions with district and circuit managers on performance of their respective districts and circuits.**

- **Development of strategies to improve learner performance across the system.**

All the schools in the province had extra classes for Grade 12 on weekends. They were either taught by expert teachers or a continuation of what they were taught during the week. I want to commend parents and guardians for walking with us in this journey, your psychological and financial support cannot go unnoticed.

- **To hold principals accountable for underperformance in accordance with the provisions of the law.**

The principals were accounting for the performance of their respective schools, they had to set realistic targets and I am happy to announce that most of them, have surpassed their targets.

- **To provide support to schools in implementing promotion and progression policies.**

With over 9 thousand progressed learners, we had to ensure that they are afforded special attention

- **And lastly, the implementation of focused intervention strategy to improve learning outcomes across the system, in particular, support to progressed learners and other learners at risk.**

Just to cite a few examples of how the poor performing districts and schools were assisted. Our Grade 12 learners from Sekhukhune East were taken to camps at Tivumbeni College in Mopani for two weeks on a catch-up programme and that has brought a huge difference. Learners who were enrolled in Gateway subjects from various schools in the Capricorn North District had on-site camps. Learners clubbed under one roof had sufficient time with expert teachers. As alluded earlier on, similar interventions were held in all the schools in the Province under the watchful eye of educators and parents and they stayed in the school premises for the duration of the of the exams, this has assisted to yield positive results.

Like the Phoenix bird, we dusted ourselves, forged ahead, implemented the resolutions and we are now on the rise. The future of our Province is in our hands, we are indeed rising from the ashes and our children will benefit from the selfless intervention.

Our focus and responsibility was mainly to target the poor performing districts that contributed to the low percentage obtained by the previous cohort. In our assessment and reflection of the root cause of our poor performance, we collectively agreed that we need to channel resources and expertise to Sekhukhune East and South Districts as well as Mopani East. These are the districts that performed below 60 percent pass rate in 2021.

The intervention demanded that enrichment camps are run in all the 10 Education Districts. I visited some of the camps in July last year and I was impressed with the commitment shown by our educators and the school governing bodies. The camps are usually staged during school recess where educators are supposed to be spending time at home with their families, but our educators put the interest of the learners ahead of anything, your devotion to your work is unparalleled.

Program Director

Last week on the Provincial Back to School Program, which was led by the Premier to monitor schools, most of the report back pointed to one reality, **Honourable Premier**, our communities are growing and there is a need in some areas to expand the school infrastructure and provide mobile classes as a temporary measure, especially where the need is dire. I was heart-wrenched when I visited a **Secondary School** in Praktiseer on Wednesday last week. The enrolment at the school has rocketed high to a point that the school was forced to devise means to accommodate three grade 8 classes in a makeshift structure. One classroom had over 120 learners and the condition is not conducive for both a learner and the teacher. Such schools will never give us the desired result and it is under this call that proper intervention and rapid response, a provision of mobile classes will be expedited as from February for learning and teaching to continue without delays. The plan on drastic intervention across the province to address overcrowding in schools is underway..

Honourable Premier, our intervention since December to move with infrastructure projects that are underway and our discussion with our social partners, our implementing agents, will go a long way on realizing the provision not just only in the classroom but the provision of water and sanitation in our schools. If this is done diligently, it will go a long way in improving our results. As the department working close with the private sector, we are

agreeing on providing services for all classes from Grade R-12. We have over 200 water and sanitation projects on the ground. The shameful state of affairs has always put us at loggerhead with various Human Rights formations and our communities. The massive roll-out will ensure that we bring back dignity to our learners. The challenges of placing learners in hotspots areas such Polokwane, Ellisras and other problematic areas will be attended to in our plans.

Programme Director, honorable Premier, the provincial secretary, the Class of 2022 had the highest number of matric learners in the history of the exams that we have administered as a Province. We had **111 618** learners who registered for the examinations as full-time candidates. Of these candidates, **110 295** sat and wrote all subjects and papers for October/November 2022 National Senior Certificate Examinations. I am delighted honourable Premier and our stakeholders that your intervention and support was not in vain. The long hours, the sweat and the hard work has paid dividends. I announce to you this morning the improved results of **72.1%** from **66.7%** obtained in 2021. I am presenting to you the increase of **5.4** percent from what the previous cohort gave us in 2021.

Our learners have made us proud, they have given us hope and demonstrated that the sky is indeed the limit. Some of my beautiful learners were with me in Johannesburg last night to represent the Province. May our shining stars;

- **Tladi Moeletsi Lehumo,**
- **Makwela Tshepo and**
- **Maduwa Godiso,**

please rise as we give them a round of applause and appreciate them for representing us well. We will continue to honour and reward them for their sterling work and sacrifices. It is also worth announcing that just like last year, our learners produced quality results. The number of Bachelor passes is at **29%** and this means that most of our learners will be eligible to pursue careers of their choice in reputable higher institutions of learning.

A total of **19 733** distinctions were obtained by the class of 2022 as compared to **17 751** in 2021. This represents an increase in distinctions **1 982** distinctions compared to 2021. Regarding the bachelor passes, the Class of 2022 obtained **32 878** bachelor passes compared to **28 075** bachelors we accounted for in 2021. This represents an increase of **4 803** bachelors compared to 2021.

The time to reward the best performing and deserving individuals and institutions has arrived. I will be calling my colleagues in the

Executive Council and other senior leaders to assist me to handover the awards to the best performing learners, schools, circuits and the districts. We have various categories that we will be awarding this morning because we believe that excellence must be rewarded.

Programme Director, we now present the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Awards for the 2022 Academic Year. We want to indicate the performance criteria upfront as we get into categories for the awards, that for a district, circuit or school to be considered to have performed, it must have obtained an overall pass rate of 65% and above and achieved 30% in a combination of bachelor and diploma passes.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all the winners who will ascend to the podium to receive awards, you have worked very hard to be here.

Categories to be awarded

1. Top Three Education Districts

This category recognises the top three (3) performing districts in terms of the overall percentage pass. The district must be performing as I have just outlined earlier on. I must indicate that on this category, we have a tie in position 3.

Position	Wrote	%Pass	District
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3	9 718	76.7	Mopani West
3	14 523	76.7	Capricorn South
2	4 244	77.5	Waterberg
1	5 360	78.3	Mogalakwena

We congratulate Mogalakwena, our new top performing district. A round of applause for District Director Ndo Mangala and his Team!

Performance of the remaining Districts is as follows:

Position	Wrote	%Pass	District
5	9 644	75.8	Capricorn North
6	18 904	72.3	Vhembe East
7	13 016	70.8	Vhembe West
8	12 057	68.4	Mopani East
9	11 653	66.8	Sekhukhune South
10	11 176	64.5	Sekhukhune East

Programme Director, we acknowledge that both Sekhukhune South and Sekhukhune East performed below 60% in 2021. In 2022, they have outdone themselves and have achieved above 60%. However, Sekhukhune South is now performing, while Sekhukhune East is just below the radar of performance.

2. The Most Improved District

This category recognises the district that has continuously improved its performance in three consecutive years from 2020 to 2022. Last year, there was no most improved District. However, in 2022, there is a District that improved from 66.7% in 2020 to 72.0% in 2021, and in 2022, the District obtained a pass rate of 78.3%. The District is none other than Mogalakwena.

3. Three best performing Circuits in the Province

This category recognises the three best performing circuits in terms of the bachelor passes. 500 or more candidates must have written, and the circuit must be performing as explained above. The recipients of the awards are:

Position	Bachelors	District	Circuit
3	560	Vhembe East	Sibasa
2	588	Capricorn South	Mankweng
1	1 359	Capricorn South	Pietersburg

We congratulate these circuits for a job well done. It is our sincere hope that the three circuits will sustain their performance.

4. The Most Improved Circuit

This category recognises the circuit with the most improved results for the past three years, that is, 2020 to 2022. To be awarded the prize, the circuit must have demonstrated continuous improvement in the said period. This circuit must have recorded the highest difference in performance from 2020 to 2022.

Wrote 2022	Performance 2020	Performance 2021	Performance 2022	Difference 2020 to 2022	District	Circuit
755	53.5%	65.4%	84.4%	30.9%	Capricorn North	Maleboho Central

5. The Best Performing Public Special School

This category recognises the best performing public special school in terms of the number of bachelor passes achieved.

Wrote	Pass%	Bachelors	District	Circuit	School
18	100%	11	Vhembe West	Elim	Rivoni School for the Blind

6. Three Best Performing Public Ordinary School

This category recognises the 3 best performing Public Schools in terms of the total number of bachelor passes. In order to receive the prize, 50 or more candidates must have written. The three best performing public ordinary schools are:

Position	Wrote	Bachelors	District	Circuit	School
3	574	220	Vhembe East	Tshinane	Tshivhase Secondary
2	520	227	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary
1	464	246	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary

7. The Best Performing Independent School

This category recognises the best performing independent school in terms of the number of bachelor passes achieved.

Wrote	Bachelors	District	Circuit	School
439	200	Capricorn South	Pietersburg	Northern Academy Secondary

8. Top Three Mathematics Club 100 – Public Schools

A school qualifies to be in this prestigious club if 100 or more candidates pass Mathematics at 50% or more. The three schools are:

Position	Achieved 50% and above	District	Circuit	School Name
3	119	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary
2	134	Capricorn North	Bochum East	Dendron Secondary
1	177	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary

9. Top Three Club 100 Mathematics and Physical Sciences – Public Schools

A school qualifies to be in this prestigious club if 100 or more candidates pass each of the subjects, that is, Mathematics and Physical Sciences at 50% or more. Unlike in 2021 where only two schools qualified for the award, in 2022, a third school has qualified for the award. The three schools are:

Position	50% and above in Mathematics	50% and above in Physical Sciences	Total Candidates	District	Circuit	School Name
3	134	118	252	Capricorn North	Bochum East	Dendron Secondary
2	119	162	281	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary
1	177	211	388	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary

10. Top Three Club 100 Life Sciences – Public Schools

A school qualifies to be in this Club if 100 or more candidates pass Life Sciences at 50% or more. The schools are:

Position	Achieved 50% and above	District	Circuit	Centre Name
3	168	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary
2	176	Capricorn North	Bochum East	Dendron Secondary
1	236	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary

11. Top Performing Teachers

This category recognises teacher(s) who have produced the highest total of levels 6 and 7 candidates in gateway and selected subjects. To receive this award, the teacher must have passed 50 or more candidates at levels 6 and 7. The teacher with the highest number of levels 6 and 7 candidates is awarded. The subject must have achieved 65% or more.

Total of Level 6 & 7	District	Circuit	Subject	School	Teachers
50	Capricorn South	Pietersburg	Mathematical Literacy	Hoërskool Pietersburg	
68	Capricorn North	Bochum East	Accounting	Dendron Secondary	
80	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mathematics	Mbilwi Secondary	
89	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Life Sciences	Mbilwi Secondary	
97	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Physical Sciences	Mbilwi Secondary	
144	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Geography	Mbilwi Secondary	

Subjects that have not been recognised have not met the prescribed criteria.

12. Top performing candidates in gateway and selected subjects

This category recognises candidates who obtained the highest marks at the level of a distinction, that is, 80% and above in gateway and selected subjects. The candidates for each subject are:

Subject	Mark	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Agricultural Sciences	295	Capricorn North	Mogoshi	Harry Oppenheimer	Female	Selomo Kwena Patience
Agricultural Sciences	295	Capricorn South	Mphahlele	Segopotje Secondary	Female	Mapheto Bohlale Brilliant

Subject	Mark	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Geography	294	Vhembe East	Mvudi	Thohoyandou Secondary	Male	Mathebula Zwivhuya Wellcome
Engineering Graphics and Design	278	Sekhukhune East	Bogwasha	Mogale wa Bagale	Female	Sehlabane Semakaleng Hunadi
History	284	Sekhukhune South	Manthole	St. Paul High	Female	Madiba Khomotso
History	284	Mogalakwena	Potgietersrus	Hoërskool Piet Potgieter	Male	Rossouw Aldrich
Computer Applications Technology	288	Mogalakwena	Potgietersrus	Hoërskool Piet Potgieter	Male	Rossouw Aldrich
Information Technology	296	Vhembe West	Soutpansberg East	Louis Trichardt Secondary	Male	Pretorius Rynard
Life Sciences	296	Sekhukhune South	Glen Cowie	Guardian Angel High	Female	Nchabeleng Maishikoe Retshepile
Mathematical Literacy	285	Capricorn South	Moletlane	Mack Semeka	Female	Maapola Dineo Booi

13. 300/300 Performing candidates in **one** selected or gateway subject

This category recognises candidates who obtained 300/300 in one gateway or selected subject. The candidates for each subject are the following:

Subject	Mark	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Accounting	300	Vhembe East	Malamulele Central	EPP Mhinga Secondary	Female	Miyambo Vukona Shalom
Business Studies	300	Sekhukhune South	Groblersdal	St. Gregories College	Female	Ledwaba Lesego Mapula
Business Studies	300	Vhembe East	Mutshindudi	Mukula Integrated	Male	Masikhwa Renda Hector
Business Studies	300	Vhembe East	Mvudi	Thohoyandou Secondary	Male	Tshikhovhokhovho Rinae
Business Studies	300	Vhembe West	Elim	Rivoni School for the Blind	Male	Makwela Tshepo
Business Studies	300	Vhembe West	Soutpansberg East	Litshovhu	Male	Tshilinga Tshanduko Trevor

Subject	Mark	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Business Studies	300	Vhembe West	Nzhelele West	Patrick Ramaano	Female	Sadiki Tshedza Dakalo
Business Studies	300	Capricorn South	Mphahlele	Sedimothole	Male	Chuene Pabalelo Innocent
Business Studies	300	Capricorn South	Lepelle-2	Sebitja Secondary	Male	Lechelele Tebogo Madimetja
Economics	300	Vhembe East	Mvuḍi	Thohoyanḑou Secondary	Female	Mahada Phindulo Mesiah
Economics	300	Capricorn South	Seshego	Khaiso High	Male	Nong Hlulani Katlego
Mathematics	300	Mopani West	Makhutswe	Ramatau Secondary	Female	Magoro Lebogang Mmatsie
Mathematics	300	Mopani West	Nkowankowa	St. George College	Male	Mailula Thato
Mathematics	300	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary	Female	Tshikororo Orifha
Mathematics	300	Vhembe West	Nzhelele Central	Tshamakwatini Secondary	Male	Mufamadi Vhangwele Napthan
Mathematics	300	Capricorn North	Bahlaloga	Kgakoa (Mogakoa) Secondary	Male	Kwebu Thapelo Duncan
Physical Sciences	300	Sekhukhune South	Manthole	St. Paul High	Female	Mohlala Rorisang
Physical Sciences	300	Mopani West	Makhutswe	Ramatau Secondary	Male	Mahlaku Matsiri Immanuel
Physical Sciences	300	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary	Male	Sidebi Livhuwani Mutshidzi
Physical Sciences	300	Vhembe East	Mvudi	Liivha Combined	Male	Maphiri Mpho Phalantoa
Physical Sciences	300	Capricorn North	Bochum East	Dendron Secondary	Female	Maoto Glenda Maselelo
Physical Sciences	300	Capricorn North	Bochum East	Dendron Secondary	Male	Maema Mosusumedi Kgaugelo

14. 300/300 Performing candidates in **two selected and/or gateway subjects**

This category recognises candidates who obtained 300/300 in two gateway or selected subjects. The candidates for each subject are the following:

Subject 1	Subject 2	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Accounting	Business Studies	Vhembe East	Mvudi	Thohoyandou Secondary	Male	Mushumi CliveJNR Phodzo
Business Studies	Economics	Vhembe East	Mvudi	Thohoyandou Secondary	Female	Magidi Mashudu
Mathematics	Physical Sciences	Capricorn South	Mphahlele	Segopotje Secondary	Male	Tladi Moeletsi Lehumo

15. 300/300 Performing candidates in **three selected and/or gateway subjects**

This category recognises candidates who obtained 300/300 in three gateway or selected subjects.

Subjects	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Accounting, Mathematics & Physical Sciences	Mopani East	Sekgosese East 1	Sekgosese Secondary	Male	Maduwa Godiso
Accounting, Mathematics & Physical Sciences	Capricorn South	Pietersburg	Taxila Combined	Male	Phukubje Phenyo Tlou

16. Top Three Candidates in Independent Schools

To qualify for this category, a candidate must have achieved the highest total of the 6 best subjects excluding Life Orientation, and a minimum of 60% in each of the subject.

Position 3:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 646
District : Mopani East
Circuit : Man'ombe

School : Nkwangulatilo Education
Centre
Gender : Male
Candidate : Mabunda Ali Malwandla

Position 2:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 650
District : Vhembe East
Circuit : Tshilamba
School : St. Augustine Residential
Gender : Female
Candidate : Tshilande Salani

Position 1:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 662
District : Capricorn South
Circuit : Pietersburg
School : Northern Academy
Secondary
Gender : Male
Candidate : Mokonoweshuro
Tapiwanashe Herbert Junior

17. Top Three Candidates in Public Special Schools

To be recognised in this category, a candidate must present the highest total of 6 best subjects excluding Life Orientation and a minimum aggregate of 900 marks.

Position 3:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 282
District : Vhembe West
Circuit : Elim
School : Rivoni School For The Blind

Gender : Female
Candidate : Tshishonga Mpho

Position 2:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 363
District : Vhembe West
Circuit : Elim
School : Rivoni School For The Blind
Gender : Male
Candidate : Moripa Ponagatso

Position 1:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 572
District : Vhembe West
Circuit : Elim
School : Rivoni School for the Blind
Gender : Male
Candidate : Makwela Tshepo

18. Top Three Candidates in Public Ordinary Schools

To qualify for this category, a candidate must have achieved the highest total of the 6 best subjects excluding Life Orientation, and a minimum of 60% in each of the subjects.

Ladies and gentlemen, position 3 is a tie

Position 3:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 702
District : Capricorn South
Circuit : Mphahlele
School : Segopotje Secondary
Gender : Male
Candidate : Tladi Moeletsi Lehumo

Position 3:

Total Marks Obtained	:	1 702
District	:	Mopani East
Circuit	:	Sekgosesse East 1
School	:	Sekgosesse Secondary
Gender	:	Male
Candidate	:	Maduwa Godiso

Position 2:

Total Marks Obtained	:	1 705
District	:	Vhembe East
Circuit	:	Tshilamba
School	:	Thengwe Secondary
Gender	:	Female
Candidate	:	Rambevha Lutendo Portia

Position 1:

Total Marks Obtained	:	1 732
District	:	Capricorn South
Circuit	:	Pietersburg
School	:	Taxila Combined
Gender	:	Male
Candidate	:	Phukubje Phenyo Tlou

Let me take this opportunity to thank our honourable Premier for your guidance and motivation. The word of appreciation is extended to parents and guardians of our children, who walked with us and assisted in disciplining the learners. SGB members and formations for holding the fort, working alongside our teachers to ensure that schools run without disruptions. We

would like to thank the traditional leaders for your interventions and decisive leadership.

19. MEC Special Award

As we move towards the end of the awards, I want to take this opportunity to honour one of our own, a leader par excellence. A gentleman who against all odds, stood tall and represented the brand education with distinction. He showed leadership when it mattered most. He came to the party when we most needed him. I am presenting a special award this morning to a deserving educator who devoted his time to better the lives of our children. A man who believes in education and continues to make a difference in the community.

- He was called to establish a high school in Capricorn North in the year 2003.
- The school had a low enrolment at the time, but it produced a 100% pass rate for five consecutive years.
- The impressive results attracted more learners to the school.
- From 12 Grade 12 learners in 2003 to 213 in 2013.
- He produced a 100% pass rate for 9 good years.
- The top learners in 2010 and 2015 were from his school.
- He represented the Province on the national and international stages.

- The lowest percentage he attained in the past 18 years was 97.2%

The school produced top learners who are currently professionals in various streams of our economy, He boast of.

- More than 30 medical doctors currently in practice
- More than 40 qualified engineers
- 2 chartered accountants
- 4 actuarial scientists
- More than 100 accountants
- 1 PhD (Lecturer at the University of Pretoria)

I have decided to honour him as he enters the second decade of his career as a principal this year. 19 years of excellent service cannot go unnoticed.

Ladies and gentlemen, may you all please rise, put your hands together, give a resounding round of applause, as we welcome to the stage, a selfless educator, a Principal, a Manager, a community leader and a shining example to all of us, the Principal of Dendron High School, **Mr. M K Matsapola**.

I thank you

Ndo livhuwa.

Aaa!