

REMARKS BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA DURING THE PROVINCIAL PRAYER SESSION FOR THE GRADE 12

20 OCTOBER 2024

Programme Facilitator,

MEC for Education, Ms. Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya,

MEC for LEDEDT, Mr. Tshitereke Matibe; MEC for Transport and
Community Safety, Ms. Violet Mathye; Provincial Commissioner;
South African Council of Churches' Bishop Naledzani Sikhwari,

District Directors,

Circuit Managers, esteemed church leaders; and most
importantly, our Grade 12 learners.

As we gather here today, I am reminded of the words from
Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who
strengthens me." As you prepare to embark on this important
journey of your final examinations, may these words give you the
strength and courage to face this time with faith and
determination.

We know that this is a crucial time, not only for you as learners
but for your families, educators, and our entire province. We
believe in the power of prayer and the strength that comes from
divine intervention. In these moments, we recognize that
challenges may arise, and we hear stories of learners who face

spiritual battles, even attacks from forces that seem beyond our understanding.

This is why we are here today—to call upon divine intervention, to pray for your protection and well-being, and to ask for an incident-free exam period for all our learners. We pray that God’s hand will be upon you, giving you wisdom and calmness as you enter each examination room.

Our dear learners, this is your moment. It is time to focus more than ever before. See these exams not just as tests but as stepping stones to your brighter future. Remember, as much as we can pray for your success, it is up to you to take responsibility for your preparation. As the Bible says, “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:26). While we will continue to lift you up in our prayers, it is your duty to work hard, to study with diligence, and to aim for the best results that will open doors to universities and other opportunities. Take this time seriously, and do your very best.

Education is a beautiful and transformative force, a key that holds the potential to unlock countless doors to your future. It is not just about acquiring knowledge, but about empowering yourself with the ability to think critically, make informed decisions, and shape the course of your life.

A wise person understands that education is the path to opportunity and the tool that can change one’s circumstances. It equips you with the skills to rise above challenges, to dream

bigger, and to achieve those dreams. Embrace education, for it is the light that can guide you towards a brighter and more promising future.

To our dedicated educators, principals, circuit managers, and district managers, we recognize the critical role you play during this examination period. Your guidance, mentorship, and unwavering support have been instrumental in preparing our learners for this important moment. We call upon you to continue extending your support throughout the exam season, ensuring that our learners have the resources, encouragement, and confidence they need to excel. Be present for them, provide the extra support where it is needed, and help create an environment that is both conducive and encouraging for their success. Your efforts will not go unnoticed, as they will greatly contribute to the positive outcomes we all hope to see.

To the parents and guardians, we ask for your unwavering support during this time. Please ensure that your children are given the time and space they need to study. Let us ease their burdens by reducing their chores and other responsibilities at home during this critical period. Your support will make a tremendous difference in helping them stay focused and motivated.

And to our broader community—churches, liquor outlets, event organizers—please help us create a conducive environment for our learners. Let us avoid loud music and any activities that could distract them, especially during the times they are writing their exams. This is a time for unity and support, as we all have a role

to play in creating the best possible conditions for our learners' success.

Today, we stand united in faith, believing that with God's guidance and the dedication of our learners, we will achieve great things. Let us continue to lift our learners in prayer and support them in every way we can. Together, we can make this a successful and peaceful exam season for all. Oliver Tambo, one of the greatest leaders, once said, " A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth & children does not deserve its future."

May God bless our learners, our schools, and our entire province as we journey through this exam period.

I thank you.