

SPEECH OF 2016 MATRIC AWARDS CEREMONY BY HON. CLLR MJ MAEKO

**Programme Director
Madam Speaker
Honorable Councilors
All Senior Officials
All Education Stakeholders Representatives
Organized Labour
Progressive Investors
Magoshi a rena
Circuit Managers
Principals, Educators, Parents
Our sponsors and social partners
Distinguished guests
Our top achievers
Ladies and Gentlemen
Comrades and Friends**

I am indeed privileged and honored to address you in this important year 2017.

This year our country celebrates a centenary of the struggle icon, Cde Oliver Reginal Tambo, anti-apartheid activist and revolutionary leader who led the African National Congress for more than two decades, a core founder of the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL).
An exemplary student and a teacher

Programme Director

What we have to ask today is whether our teachers, learners, education managers, parent and organized labour's embody the spirit of OR Tambo. The spirit of hard work, honesty, sacrifice, and selflessness

- Do we have a clear idea of the true state of our basic Education today?
- Are our teachers and parents an embodiment of hope and inspiration to their learners?
- We, as political principals, do we have a clear vision for the future of the African child in particular and all children in general?
- Do we really love our children considering that we are the custodian of their dreams?

It is proper that during events like today's Matric awards, we remind ourselves of these great words of wisdom, Nelson Mandela once said "It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become a head of the mine, that a child of a farm worker can become the President" and that Education can make possible what looked impossible"

Our Municipality agrees hundred percent (100) % with former President Nelson Mandela's words as well as the freedom charter that says "The door of learning and culture shall be opened to all".

We certainly have started 2017 on a positive note by visiting schools in numerous circuits.

However, history has taught us that to sustain the positive first-day momentum – school require consistent monitoring. We urge all circuits to pay particular attention on the following matters

- Learner Transport
- Infrastructure maintenance and refurbishment
- Water and dignified sanitation
- Appointment of teachers for all grades and subjects
- The most important priority must be to improve the quality of learning and teaching in the early grades, so as to ensure that learners are equipped with the skills needed to cope with the curriculum requirement of the high grades
- Delivering of text books on time

The National Development Plan (NDP) enjoins us to strengthen accountability and improve management of the school, community and circuit level.

It further states that by 2030 we must achieve a target of 450 000 learners being eligible for a Bachelor programme with Mathematics and Science. Hence we are urging all investors to adopt our schools.

Programme Director

We have assembled here to acknowledge and award excellence. But before we even start with awards, one must state it categorically clear that the achievements recorded by our schools are not what were expected but despite this, it is important to recognize the gains and improvement that schools has made.

We know we can perform for better than the 2016 class, we therefore call upon our educators, learners, parents, and all role players to commit themselves to nothing less than eighty percent (80 %) pass this year 2017.

I stand here as a servant of our people to recommit our Municipality to assist all Education programmes, including winter and spring enrichment camps.

I have instructed my Office to make sure that we host Education Dialogues where all local Education stakeholders will meet to discuss Educational challenges and necessary interventions.

This dialogue will take the shape of Education National Lekgotla.

In Lephalale we are building a city, that is why our vision statements is “To build a vibrant city and become the energy hub of Africa”.

To build a city and become the energy hub of the whole African Continent is not a child’s play; it needs commitment and hard work.

That is why we are investing on our youth. Investing in the youth is investing in the future of our country.

Like Phillip Adam said “The future is not some place we are going but the one we are creating”

We need to create a future of Lephalale from behind the desk not a bar in the shebeen.

We must rebel against those who turn off the light of hope resulting in broken dreams.

I am of a view that quality Education must happen in our lifetime. We owe it to the people of Lephalale and future generation.

We must deliver a better life for the African child in particular and South African Children in general

Working together we can improve our Education Results

I THANK YOU

By: The Mayor

Hon. Cllr MJ Maeko

