

**MAYOR CLR MY MMAKOLA'S KEY NOTE ADDRESS TO THE EPHRAIM
MOGALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY BEST PERFORMED MATRIC LEARNERS
AWARDS CEREMONY**

VENUE: TOWN HALL

DATE: 11 JANUARY 2012

Programme Director: Hon. Speaker Cllr Kekana

Members of the Limpopo Legislature

Sekhukhune District Mayor: Hon. Cllr Mogobo Magabe

Members of the Ephraim Mogale Municipality Executive Committee

Honorable Speaker, Chief whip and Councilors

HOD and Municipal Manager

Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality Representatives

Representatives from various Organised Labour (Unions)

Department of Education:

District Education and Circuit Managers

Principals, Educators, Learners and Parents

Members of School Governing Bodies (SGBs)

Representative of Glassy Funeral Brokers: Mr Makofane

Community Members

Members of the Media

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Dumelang, Lotshani, Gooie more, Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen!

ladies and gentlemen, we are indeed honored today to have this first initiative of its kind, of awarding the top ten (10) best performed learners and the best performed school within the boundaries of the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality for 2011 academic year. These initiative came as "a dream becoming true" of showing our commitment as local government in contributing towards the education and skills development of our people in partnership with the private sector.

While people argued that local government doesn't have mandate on education, the fact of the matter is that schools operate within the local municipalities boundaries and the municipality is obliged to provide services such as the water, sanitation, electricity and roads to the schools which benefit both the learners and the educators. It is with this understanding that today, the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, in fulfilling its "Constitutional developmental role"; holds this ceremony for the awards, to further motivate both our learners and educators to work even harder in their approach to their work.

We are gathering here today smiling because our education in this country is moving in the right direction. During the 2011 matric result we experience a national performance of 70.2% an increase of 2.4% in 2011 from the 2010 result, Limpopo with an increase to 63% from 57% of 2010 and performance of the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality of 57% in 2010. This confirms the observation made by Honour MEC of Education, Mr. Namane Masemola when he concluded that "the commitment shown by the Grade 12 pupils had indicated beyond doubt that Limpopo's matric performance this year would not be the same as the in previous years".

During June 2011, his Honour MEC of Education, Mr. Namane Masemola visited our local municipality, Ephraim Mogale, to engage all stakeholders on the performance of our schools. We have reaped the fruits of his visit, because today we gather here to celebrate an improvement, not only in the pass rate but also on the quality of those examination results. Most of our learners qualify to further their education at the tertiary institutions, which is something we applaud.

Programme Director; our schools performance during 2011 surprises many, I included. Let us specifically applaud our Circuit Offices, namely MOUTSE CIRCUIT for its improvement in performance of matric results from 20% in 2010 to 70% in 2011; TSIMANYANE CIRCUIT from 51% in 2010 to 68% in 2011 and LEPELLE CIRCUIT from 47.3% in 2010 to 49.6% in 2011. We need to note that

only two schools from Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality belong to LEPELLE CIRCUIT. We need to find out what went wrong with RAKGOADI CIRCUIT for down performing from 61.2% in 2010 to 46.8 in 2011, which does not show consistency.

Programme Director, we are gathering here today, after the direction and leadership given by the ruling party, ANC, during its centenary celebration few days ago. The ANC as the ruling party gave us the direction which will take this country forwards. The January 8th statement, a tradition of the movement to celebrate its birthday stated “As we move forward, the ANC will intensify its programme to recruit and train young people who show tremendous potential, skills and talents in all fields of human endeavor. In this regard, the most urgent task facing us is to speed up the building of a national democratic society, wherein all South Africans enjoy an improved quality of life, especially the working class and the poor”. It is from this kind of direction and leadership that the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality commits itself for the development of the young people within its boundaries, as well as in South Africa as a whole. and on the promotion of quality of education and skills development. In so doing, the council will relook at its Skills Development Programme, Education and Bursary policies to accommodate more number of young people to enter the tertiary education. We have realized that most of the young people in the rural areas pass matric with distinctions, but they lack finance to register at tertiary institutions. We are committing ourselves that, together with our fellow Provincial and National Departments, we will mobilize for the redirection of financial resources in the coming financial year, to assist the top-achievers learners to register at the tertiary institutions. This is a motivation on itself that the 2012 learners must work even harder than the 2011, so that they can get this kind of assistance.

During the last few days after the release of the matric results, the Ephraim Mogale local municipality received calls and personal visits from members of the

communities within its boundaries enquiring about the kind of assistance we can offer them, in making sure that their children continue with their education at tertiary institutions. We have learnt from this engagement that schools must do more than what they already did, in informing and advising the learners to apply for both the admission at the tertiary institutions and financial assistance or bursaries. Let us all commit ourselves to effectively communicate and pass the information to our learners as early as June during the youth month, because most of the tertiary institutions' admission of learners and the closing date for bursary applications are around August of each year. We need to build confidence to learners that they are going to pass and they must apply early. I commit the municipality today, that through our Human Resource Skills Development and Training Section, we will assist where possible in organizing the Career and Information Days for the learners. We need to research and direct learners on the career that they can follow, which are indeed needed in the economy. The Sowetan of the yesterday reported that "There are currently nearly 600,000 unemployed university graduates in South Africa, mostly in the arts, humanities and social sciences, whereas the private sector has more than 800,000 vacancies in management, engineering, law, finance, accounting and medicine."

Programme Director, the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality could not achieve and organize this award giving ceremony on its own without the partnership with the private sector. As we all know, our economy of the municipality is so small and most of the private sector companies which contribute to this economy are also small by their nature. It will be selfish if as a municipality we cannot thank and appreciate the contribution made by the private sector that showed commitment to the social up-liftment of the communities within our municipal area. We acknowledge the contribution on both the idea and financial resources of Classy Funeral Broker – Mr Makofane, which despite being small, committed itself to invest in the future by contributing towards the education of our youth. People always associate Funeral Brokers and Insurance to "Should You Die".

Today we got one example of young people with young company who are turning that statement into “should you live without education and skills”, what will happen to you. We also want to extend our acknowledgement to the Onboard Consulting who assisted in providing this breakfast. You know very well that “Efofa ka moswang”. The Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality sincerely thanks the two emerging, small private sector companies for their contribution and partnering us for this wonderful day. Your commitment to the social upliftment of our community is welcomed.

This government is not new to partnership, we have been and will continue encouraging private sector to play a role in the upliftment, development and making a better life for people through Private- Public Partnership. We are calling more private sector companies to come forward and partner our government in making a better life for the people of this country, Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality to be specific. We believe that we can achieve this through collective co-operation between the government, private sector, learners, educators and parents through the collective leadership of School Governing Bodies.

We put a challenge to you all, specifically the learners and the educators of 2012 that a foundation has been laid; you need just to build on it. The huddles are at 68% for the circuit and 85 % for the learners. Let’s go all out and beat the records, building on the foundation laid already. Let us commit ourselves to make it much better this year and keep the standard high.

Programme director, where need be, the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality will continue to intervene through various interventions to assist the needy schools and learners. We do this because the municipality needs skillful workers to deliver services for the betterment of the life of our people.

In conclusion, when we talk about education, we cannot conclude without reminding ourselves about the commitment made by the State President Jacob

Zuma during the State of the Nation Address in 2009 that “it is non-negotiable that teachers must be on time, in class and teaching for seven hours every day and learners learning. We must build a movement for quality education involving learners, teachers and parents”.

Wishing both 2011 and 2012 learners the best endeavor

I thank you.