

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

**VENUE: TOWN HALL**

**DATE: 17 JANUARY 2014**

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

Maapara Nkwe

HOD's and Municipal Managers

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 Sponsor : Glassy Funeral Brokers, Focus Media and ABSA

Community Members

Members of the Media

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

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

During the last two years this municipality has been delighted during this time of the year in celebrating the Ten Top Learners, Schools and District within our jurisdiction, the District, the Province and the country (South Africa) at large. This 2013 Matric Results came after the country has lost the architect and advocate of educated and skilled society, first democratic President, Tata Dr Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela. In his own words, Dr Mandela in advocating and encouraging

people to prioritise education, he said “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.

Program Director; the 2013 Matric results of 78.2%, which outperformed the 2012 is a greater honor to the great man and the class of 2013 took and armed themselves with this weapon as Mandela said, in order to change the South Africa to a better country. As President Jacob Zuma stated that the improved matric pass rate results makes the 2013 matric the best since 1994, and the country is pleased with this consistently upwards trend in matric result, the municipality is delighted that we experience this upwards trend. We want to congratulate all of you for heeding the call made by Father of the Nation, Tata Madiba in taking your education seriously.

Programme Director, it is important to take note how serious the government under the leadership of the African National Congress (ANC) has prioritised education in this country and congratulate them for the progress made in the education and skilling of our children. Few days ago, during the ANC 102 anniversary on the 8<sup>th</sup> January, the ANC further outlined its commitment in education and skilling of the young people in order for them to contribute positively towards the economic growth of the country and this 2013 Matric result are testimony of this commitment. All these are done in honor of the great man, Tata Madiba and we will continue providing community with education as part of his commitment and other ANC leaders before him, of making a better life for all the people in the country.

Program Director, since the introduction of this award in the municipality three years ago, we are reaping the fruits by experiencing a healthy competition between both the school and the educational districts. During the 2012 when we introduced the awards, Moutse West was number last and today, they are heading the municipality districts as the best performing district. We even understand that they are the best performing within the Sekhukhune District

should the quality of result be considered. We congratulate them for moving from number last three years ago to best in the last two years. We saw and experience a healthy competition amongst the schools, not only to become the best in the municipality but also to obtain a qualitative 100% results with bachelors. The schools performance has improved to such an extent that some have moved from 55% last year to 84%, an improvement of 29% others from 50% to 75.5% which are above the target set by the department. Our hope is that this will be sustained and also focus more on quality rather than quantity in future results.

Program Director, the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality will continue committing itself for the development and empowering of the young people within its boundaries, as well as in South Africa as a whole. To show commitment on this matter, the municipality will continue increasing its bursary allocation year after year. This year alone, the municipality has allocated a total R810 000, (that include R600 000. 00 for community members and R210 000 for staff members). We will also continue to award the top learner a special bursary from Mayoral Special Program Budget Allocation. We will speed up the processing of those who apply so that they can register at tertiary institution of their choice. ***If this municipality was not small as it is and not depending on the grants from national and provincial governments, we were going to commit for either their registrations or awarding them with full bursaries. We hope and believe that we will one-day get “Good Samaritan” who will assist our learners with full bursaries in this regard and the municipality will in future through its budget make finance available to assist.***

Talking of Good ***Samaritan***, Program Director allows me to thank Focus Media, for joining Classic Funeral Broker in making this day possible. We want committed business people like Classy Funeral Broker and Focus Media, who partner with government in making a better life for our communities. You are indeed making a good investment when investing in both education and young

people as the future of this country both economically and otherwise lies in their hands. Your contributions in changing the life of the young people within this municipality and the country at large, is appreciated and we thank you for that.

We want to congratulate the MEC of Education in Limpopo, Cde Dikeledi Magadzi, for picking the spear of building on the foundation of 2012 of 63.9% to the new heights of 71.8%. While we understand your disappointment for failing to reach the set target, MEC your department has made it, in your words you said “of achieving the highest pass rate in the province since the advent of democracy in South Africa, which is a tangible evidence that we have turned the tide and that we are well on our way to turn our dreams into reality”.

Program Director, despite lack of resources in some of our rural schools, we should all develop a vision and plan ahead for 2014 results and the challenges thereafter. We should all accept the challenges put to the department by our Honorable Premier Stan Mathabathe when he said “although we have not reached the set target of 75% during 2013 matric pass rate, we can set ourselves a target of 80% in 2014. I have no doubt whatsoever in my mind that **UNITED IN ACTION** we can achieve this target”. One agrees with Honorable Premier, that all these are achievable and we challenge the other circuits within the municipality to topple Moutse West District. Most importantly, circuits and schools should go and learn from them the best practices so that schools and districts within this municipality can outperform others including Vembe District in becoming number one in the province and possibly in the country.

Program Director, as we said it last year and will continue repeating every time we talk about learners and education, that schools leadership should encourage learners to apply for both the municipality bursary scheme and tertiary institutions for admission on time. In most cases institutions offering bursaries and tertiary institutions applications are open between June and October every year. It is our

responsibilities to guide the 2014 learners to act swiftly and apply on time as we did with the 2013 learners.

To those who are not accepted at tertiary institutions and those who did not pass the matric during the 2013 academic year, as President Jacob Zuma said “All is not lost; it is not the end of the world. The youth must know that they can still improve their results and go to achieve the career of their dreams. We urge parents and teachers to support the children during this time”. President Zuma further called on parents to partake in the education of their children when he said “that education is a societal issue and therefore every South African should have an interest in getting involved in education programmes” and former President Mandela when he said “this is a challenge to all of us that we need to assist our young people get educated in order for them to arm themselves with a weapon that will change this world”. As community members, we need to commit to assist the young people at both matric of secondary and tertiary levels as our social contribution to build a better country.

Programme Director, as I conclude, please allow me to conclude with the wise words of former President Mandela when he said “after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb”. Matric was just one of those hills you have encountered; you will find more hills after matric to climb. Those hills are part of life because there is no easy road to victory.

We further wish Bafana Bafana all the best during their endeavor to conquering Africa during African Nations Championship (CHAN) started on the 11 January 2014.

We congratulate the class of 2013 and wish class of 2014 the best endeavor

I thank you.