

MOTIVATIONAL SPEECH ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, MR J.L (JABU) MAHLANGU, MPL, DURING A FAREWELL FUNCTION OF GRADE 12 LEARNERS OF TIKHUNI SECONDARY SCHOOL HELD AT THE MTPA IN MBOMBELA, MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.

Friday, 30 July 2010

The Principal of the school, Mrs C.S Khoza;

Members of the School Governing Body present;

Educators and parents present;

Our distinguished guests, the Grade 12 learners and other learners;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

San'bonani!

We are gathered here this afternoon, to bid farewell to yet another group of our learners, who are looking forward to successfully complete their 12 years of primary and secondary schooling. It all began when you entered your first class 12 years ago. To most of you, except to those ones who had an opportunity to attend pre-school, the first day at school was a day of cries and uncertainty. You were crying for your parents, for you were uncertain about the future. You cried because of insecurity and the fear of the unknown, but you eventually had to come to terms with the reality, and the future that lies ahead of you.

When you entered a classroom for the first time 12 years ago, little did you know that you were entering an institution which will shape and guide you towards a brighter future for you. You were entering an institution which will prepare you for future challenges; an institution which was intended to sharpen and harness your capabilities. I believe that you are all capable to prove any critic wrong – that you can take the world head-on.

As one of our liberation stalwarts, *isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe*, former President, tat'u Nelson Mandela once said, and I quote:

“Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor; that a son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine; that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another”.

Indeed, you've gone through this engine of personal development, which has developed you to take the world head-on. I am more confident that what you have learned over the past 12 years, has capacitated you to face your upcoming final Matric examination head-on. This is the first and the critical step, which will open brighter ways for your future.

My message to you is to never doubt your capability, because your capability is immeasurable. If you believed and persevered for the past 12 years, then the last huddle you are approaching is nothing to worry about. It just provides you an entrance towards a brighter future. If you were able to stop crying for your mother since being left in the care of your teacher in Grade one (1), then you are even more ready to enter the tertiary education cycle, even before you write your final examination. However, I advise you to revise your work very seriously when you prepare for your final examination. Do not take things for granted.

To the educators of the school, my sincere gratitude for having played a significant role in shaping the future of these children. Your contribution is immeasurable, and as public service unions have taken to the streets to demand wage increase percentages which government cannot afford, I implore you to put the future of these children first.

Remember that these learners need you the most, and it cannot therefore be you who will fail them. It cannot therefore be you, who want to be counted as having failed South Africa. These learners are the future of this country, and our province in particular, and solely depend on you. We continue to appreciate your selfless contribution, which according to Mahatma Gandhi, one of our liberation stalwarts, makes you the change you want to see in the world. As unsung heroes and heroines in our classrooms, you've continued to be the change you want to see in South Africa.

As I close, in the words of Brazilian Writer, Paulo Coelho, and I quote:

"It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting..... Before a dream is realized, the Soul of the world tests everything that was learned along the way. It does this not because it is evil, but so that we can, in addition to realizing our dreams, master the lessons we have learned as we have moved toward that dream. [Unfortunately] that's the point at which most people give up.... [At this point], tell your heart that the fear of suffering is worse than the suffering itself.....and that no heart has ever suffered when it goes in search of its dreams!"

Go on in search of your dream – for you have your future in your hands!

On behalf of the Patron of the school, MEC J.L Mahlangu, I wish you well in your upcoming final examinations and also into the future.

Good Luck in advance.

Ngiyabonga!