

Speech to be delivered by the MEC for Education on her Visit to Khaliphani Secondary School on 16 January 2014

Chairman and members of the School Governing Body

Principal of Khaliphani Secondary School, Mr. Bongani Gwambe

Circuit Manager, Mr. VA Myanga

Teachers

Parents

Learners

Sanibonani

First and foremost, I want to welcome all educators, non teaching staff and learners to the 2014 school year and appreciate the **77.6%** Grade 12 pass rate of 2013 as well as the improvement in the outcomes of the 2013 Annual National Assessment results. I also want to thank all the schools that have improved their results in 2013 including Khaliphani.

During my previous visit to Khaliphani in 2010, your school was at the bottom of the performance ladder with regards to the grade 12 examinations results. I made an undertaking and committed to visit your school provided there was an improvement on your performance.

It thrills me to have come to visit you not only to honour my word to congratulate you on your good work but to also inspire the Class of 2014 to do even better than the 2013 Class. The year 2014 has been declared by President Zuma as a year of a united action to take South Africa forward.

We thus remain hopeful that you will take advantage of the conducive learning and teaching environment to enhance your performance as you pursue your dreams to a brighter future.

The Department is always supportive to your efforts of learning and teaching excellence as we all strive for a common goal of educating our nation. I must say that the overall improvement of 7,6% realised in the 2013 Class is encouraging and worth celebrating as the 2013 Class did us proud for such a wonderful achievement which led to a 77.6% overall pass rate for Mpumalanga.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all the teachers, parents, learners, departmental officials and other education stakeholders for the sterling job they have done for us to enjoy these wonderful results.

You have done very well and have kept the flag and pride of Mpumalanga high. Lets put our hands together and work towards better results in 2014. As a department we have set our improvement target at 10% and we know very well that this is dependent on parents, teachers, learners, departmental officials, business, civil society, NGOs and CBOs.

The contribution of your school towards this pass rate has been immense. Khaliphani recorded a 91.3% pass following the 2013 Grade 12 examinations. I must say that the positive and steady improvement in the Grade 12 results that you obtained as a school is very encouraging.

In 2011, you recorded 51.9 pass percentage, in 2012 you improved to 59.1% and in 2013 you obtained 91.3%. This is a huge positive leap and needs to be celebrated.

This is an indication that the intervention plans you have put in place are producing the required results and please keep it up. Can we clap hands for the 2013 Class for its great performance. This is very good. Thank you very much.

Programme Director, the Class of 2014 has been challenged and they need to improve on this performance. As a department, we value quantity and quality and may I remind you that we know that if you apply yourselves very well your results at the end of the year will be both quantitative and qualitative in nature.

So as much as we seek to improve the pass percentage, let us also heed the call to pass with colourful grades and distinctions it is all within reach. **2014** a year of a united action to take South Africa forward.

To our learners there could be no better advise than for you to hold on to your good values that will usher you into your desired goals, arrive at school on time and do your work both in class and at home. The schooling calendar has already started and there is no better time for you to start studying than now.

Practice your Mathematics daily and bring your challenges to class for your teachers to assist. Now is the time go for it and it will pay off.

Be always disciplined and focused on your studies. Refrain from negative tendencies such as drugs, alcohol and other activities that will divert your attention from your studies.

Please take advantage of Departmental programmes designed to assist you such as the Dial a Tutor and radio programmes on SABC radio. These programmes can assist as individuals and in your study groups.

We are in an election year in 2014 and I want to encourage learners who are 18 years and above to make an effort to participate in the affairs of the country by registering to vote in the forthcoming elections.

We also request parents to support schools, attend parents meetings and ensure that their children participate in extracurricular activities. They should at all times speak to their children about school related issues, discourage them from being disobedient and help to instil discipline in their children at all times.

We request parents and the greater school community to embrace the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign and ensure that schools are taken good care by the community.

Mr. Bongani Gwambe, as a principal of the school you are expected to be accountable at all times. You also need to market your school to businesses, community structures and enforce stakeholder participation as much as you need to motivate your staff, learners and parents and ensure they are involved in school matters.

It looks like you and your team, teaching and non teaching staff included have done a good job thus far. There is however some more room for improvement as you should aim for a 100% pass.

I am encouraging you to sell your school to business because this sector has demonstrated a love for education as they have invested a lot in the province and the whole country.

Yesterday, we were in Bethal to hand over a car, a Toyota Etios valued at R140 000 to the overall best learner in the province, Ms Maistry Bhavika Sureshkumar from Hoërskool Hougenhout courtesy of Imperial Toyota Nelspruit.

Please be inspired by this gesture of goodwill from Imperial Toyota Nelspruit who knows next year's recipient could be well from your school as long as you apply yourselves and work hard.

The Department is also committed to enabling the teaching and learning environment for your benefit. As it has come to our attention that some girl learners are missing learning time because challenges associated with menstrual discomforts, we have thus come with sanitary towels for the benefit of some of you just to ease that burden.

These sanitary towels come courtesy of Imbumba Foundation and Mr. Richard Mabaso who embarked on a quest to climb Mount Kilimanjaro to raise these sanitary towels for your benefit.

It is always a sad sight to witness learners attend school without essential school shoes because their parents or guardians are unable to purchase new ones.

The Department therefore also brings a donation of school shoes today as a kind gesture to also lessen the burden for some of you.

We are thankful to all our benefactors and their patriotic gestures.

Please pay attention to your studies and stay focused; we rely on you to improve our performance to a higher level.

Ngiyabonga.