

**Speech to be delivered by the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah
Mhaule at the Occasion of the National Teaching Awards, 17
October 2014.**

Programme Director; Mrs. Lucy Moyane

Members of the Executive Council

Executive Mayor of Msukaligwa Municipality; Cllr JS Bongwe

MMC for Sport, Community and Social Services: Gert Sibande District
Municipality Cllr Nhlakanipho Zuma

Head of Department; Mrs. Mahlasedi Mhlabane

Acting Gert Sibande: District Director: Mr. PP Magagula

Members of Senior Management

Circuit Managers

Representatives from FNB, Mr. Siphon Simelane

Representatives from Liberty Life, Mr. T Maphisa

Representatives from Ingwenyama Lodge, Ms. Yolanda Chirwa

Representatives from Old Mutual, Mr. Lawrence Gabela

Nominees for the National Teaching Awards

Teachers

Parents

Media

CTU-SADTU

CTU – Independent Unions

Association of School Governing Bodies

Principals

Comrades and Friends

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sanibonani!

It is a great pleasure to be a part of this celebratory event. This event comes just after the world celebrated its educators on World Teachers' Day, 05 October 2014. Both these events give us a platform to express our profound gratitude to the educators that give us a 100 % commitment.

Allow me to first congratulate each and every educator who is a nominee here today. That alone, proves that you are an individual that aims to develop and elevate the educational standard of a South African child.

It also entails that you are an individual that foresees an improvement on the land of our forefathers, because for any nation to prosper its needs dedicated educators that are ready to play the role of agents of change, so that they implement any possible means that will amount to the growth and development of our communities.

Your dedication is reflected and exuded on the future leaders of this province. It is through your molding factories that different generations are shaped to be responsible citizens that will have a positive change in our country.

In my recent message to teachers on World Teachers Day, I mentioned that the profession of teaching, or the mother of all professions, is not just any career path that one chooses, but is a calling. I truly believe that today, I am in the presence of those that accepted the calling.

I say this because when one has the calling, it is an easy task for them to just go an extra mile; it is an easy task for them to open their hearts

and in other cases their own purses without expecting anything in return with the hope that it will benefit the community.

I sincerely hope that your devotion and commitment becomes a ripple effect to every educator in your schools. Let us revive the honor and pride of being called an educator. We ought to be role models to our communities again.

Without education hopelessness, poverty and inequality will reign supreme. We therefore have to protect the profession and the future of our country. I have recently been alarmed by the rate of educators resigning in numbers from the system.

As the Department we wish to appeal to our teachers not to exit the system without consulting all the necessary avenues. This may be detrimental to their well-being but also threatens the development of our nation as we are talking teachers in this instance. We cannot afford to lose our good educators in such droves.

It is therefore a worrisome and an alarming discovery when we peruse at the number of experienced educators that have left or are in the process of leaving the system.

This has urged me to instruct the Department's Wellness Unit to be more visible in offering support to teachers and to provide proper guidance on matters of health and wellness to our teachers. Please seek help from them, they are there to assist.

I also want to make a call to our youth and learners to consider taking up teaching as a career and profession so that we could be able to supply the demand for teachers within the province in the light of the huge exodus of teachers generally.

Now coming back to the nominees and all winners today, the province of Mpumalanga congratulates you. You have made us very proud. We are very proud to be associated with you.

My task here includes presenting the awards for the categories:

**Excellence in Technology- Enhanced, Teaching and Learning
Excellence in Mathematics teaching (FET) and Excellence in
Physical Science teaching (FET)**

Could both **Cllr JS Bongwe and Cllr Nhlakanipho Zuma** please join me on stage as we award our educators.

(After all two representatives are on stage)

The nominees for the category **Excellence in Technology – Enhanced, Teaching and Learning** are:

- Msimango Jacob from Ngwarele Primary School in Bohlabela District.
- Jacobs Ingrid from Suikerland Secondary School in Ehlanzeni District.

In position 02 we have Jacobs Ingrid

Congratulations Msimango Jacob you are our winner!

Under the category **Excellence in Mathematics teaching (FET)**, the nominees are:

- Mashele Sibusiso M from Hazyview Comprehensive School in Ehlanzeni District
- Mahlangu Oupa J from Hlomani Secondary School in Nkangala District
- Mpangane Ralph S from Malavutela Secondary School in Bohlabela District

In position 03 we have Mpangane Ralph S

In position 02 we have Mahlangu Oupa J

In position 01 we have Mashele Sibusiso!

Congratulations Mr. Mashele

The nominees for the category **Excellence in Physical Science Teaching (FET)** are;

- Mudau Thokolelwi .C from Stanwest Combined School in Gert Sibande.
- Lebjane Council.C from Panorama Secondary School in Bohlabela District.
- Rajagopalan raji nair from Suikerland Secondary School in Ehlanzeni District

In position 03 we have Mudai Thokolelwi

In position 02 we have Rajagopalan raji nair

Congratulations Lebjane Council.C You are our winner for this category.

I thank you.

(Hon MEC with Cllr JS Bongwe and Cllr Nhlakanipho Zuma exit stage)