

Speech to be delivered by the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule at the Occasion of the Provincial Prayer Meeting on 23 October 2014

Programme Director and Chairperson of the Moral Regeneration Movement, Rev Micah Nthali

Ehlanzeni District Executive Mayor, Cllr Letta Shongwe

MMC for Mbombela Local Municipality, Cllr P Mathe

Representatives from the Moral Regeneration Movement

Head of Department, Mrs Mahlasedi Mhlabane

Pastors

Members of Senior Management

Representatives from the media

Members of the community and congregants who are listening on various community radio stations

Sanibonani,

Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who has honoured the invitation to this important prayer meeting. Your presence is highly appreciated and valued as it gives us the courage and sense of relief that

we have support from one of our highly regarded stakeholder, the office of the religious leader.

It is always said that the last few kilometres of every marathon are the hardest.

Our children have for the past 12 years journeyed through our education system, some under trying circumstances but they soldiered on up to this point where the results of their hard labour have to come to fruition. This is a time when our learners need all the support they can get, to take the last leap.

This time presents a make or break situation to most of them given that they are from families who live below the breadline who share only one view that the success of their children will bring their economic emancipation.

The government of the day strongly understands this situation and has already made means to remedy it by putting education at the centre of community growth and development.

It is for this reason that having done everything that a man can possible do, then we turn to the Maker of the heavens and earth to take control, guide and ensure that whatever we desire is made possible.

Our wish is that the examination process must at all times be incident free, be managed professionally with integrity and yield to credible outcomes. We also planned to improve the results qualitatively by increasing the number of learners who met the university entrance requirements as well

as those who will pass Mathematics and Physical Science. In addition, we planned to improve the results by 10% from 77.6% to 87.6%.

It is said that man proposes but God disposes hence today's session to invite the holy forces to be with all role players for the fulfilment of these desires.

We could not have done it alone in our own little corner but needed to assemble as we do so that His presence can dwell in our midst. Our Lord says when two or more people gather in my name, I am with them.

I am therefore obliged to express our greatest appreciation for the support that we continuously receive from our religious leaders.

The nation building message that is envisaged and preached upon by our religious leaders concerning good moral standing and up-bringing is one that we ought to grasp, so that we may build a progressive nation.

We honour the role played by our bishops, reverends and pastors in the province. These roles cannot be overemphasised as our religious leaders constantly remind us of our spiritual responsibilities and the importance of serving the province in a loyal and patriotic manner.

The Moral Regeneration Movement equally encourages us to persevere in the most challenging situations that we face as we aim to nurture the lives of our young ones.

Throughout the course of the year, we were driven by the prayers we received at the beginning of the year. We were a Department that was

spiritually fulfilled, and hence faced all our challenges head on with no hesitation and fright.

We do however also seek the help of our religious leaders. We request you to also address emotional related issues that have to do with these results. We need your good selves to also advocate and send the message of hope and encouragement to our learners in our different communities.

Acknowledge Teachers

Programme Director, we have witnessed our teachers work hard with the aim to see yet another group of learners achieve their goals.

These are teachers that believe in the notion that without education hopelessness, poverty and inequality will reign supreme. They therefore have to protect the profession and the future of our country.

The province has teachers that offer their undivided time to the growth and prosperity of a learner, these teachers I believed are the ones that have answered to the calling. We are very grateful to these teachers

We have recently celebrated some of them at the Provincial National Teaching Awards, held in the Gert Sibande District, on **Friday, 17 October 2014.**

Their drive has unquestionably pushed each and everyone of us to re-commit and devote more effort on the mission to uphold the standard of our education system.

My request is that as we will be praying tonight, lets request the Grace of God to fall on all our teachers.

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Conclusion

The Bible in 2 Chronicles 7:14 says, "*Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.*"

I plead with the house to heed this call for the promise of God to reign in our communities.

Ngiyabonga.