

**Remarks to be made by the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule at the  
Occasion of the visit to Hoërskool Nelspruit on 14 January 2015**

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**Programme Director, Mrs Lucy Moyane**

**Ehlanzeni District Executive Mayor; Cllr. Lettah Shongwe**

**Mbombela Local Municipality Executive Mayor; Cllr. S Mathonsi**

**Chairman and Members of the School Governing Body**

**Principal of Hoërskool Nelspruit; Dr. Louise Swanepoel**

**Circuit Manager, Mr. Musa Linkwati**

**2014 Provincial Top Learner, Madri Wiid**

**Teachers**

**Non-Teaching Staff**

**Parents**

**Departmental officials and**

**Learners**

**Good Morning**

Let me take this opportunity to welcome all educators, non-teaching staff members and learners to the 2015 school year. I hope that you have come back from your holidays reenergized and ready to tackle the year ahead.

**Appreciation of the improvement of results**

As we celebrate the class of 2014, having registered **79%**, we are also encouraged by the steady improvement of our learners following the results of the 2014 Annual National Assessment.

It is important that we take note that our Annual National Assessments build a foundation for our future Grade 12, through their steady improvement; we are encouraged that the future surely looks bright. The area of concern though is with regards to the performance of mathematics in Grade 9.

Let me take this opportunity and appreciate the class of 2014. They have made the land of the rising sun very proud, as they are the first cohort to exceed the National Average.

The province has taken great strides in improving our educational system. This we have achieved through hard work and dedication. We have come a long way in building a steadily progressive educational environment.

### **Congratulate Hoërskool Nelspruit**

We congratulate Hoërskool Nelspruit for having outshined the rest of the schools in the province. It has become some form of a tradition for Hoërskool Nelspruit to claim the number one position and we are extremely proud of the commitment and dedication you have shown over the years.

The performance of Hoërskool Nelspruit is living proof that the school has a great leadership and a great team that aims to generate learners who will contribute immensely in developing the economy of the province. You are a shining example of excellence to the rest of our schools and we encourage you to continue to do so.

Having enrolled 230 learners and ensuring that each and every one of them passes their Grade 12, is a job well done. More over obtaining most distinctions in the province, makes your school a beacon of excellence in Mpumalanga. Hoërskool Nelspruit has obtained a total of **348** distinctions against the provincial total of **8 222** distinctions, which is a contribution of **4.2%** distinctions to the province. This is a source of pride and encouragement for us. We walk tall because of your achievements.

Dr. Louise Swanepoel, again, your school is the school obtaining the highest number of Bachelors with 176 meeting such a requirement out of the 230 candidates who passed.

It thus came as not a surprise to us that it was perhaps time that the school also produced a provincial top learner. Our visit here is to celebrate the top school as well as the top learner achievements. I must say that this is history making and I am excited to be part of this history courtesy of Hoërskool Nelspruit and Madri Wiid.

Let me take the time to congratulate Ms. Wiid Madri for obtaining six distinctions and becoming the overall best learner in the province. You have proved to your peers that hard work surely pays off. You have made us very proud.

We hope that this will not be the end of your astonishing achievements but will be able to witness even greater results in the future. We will also keep track of your performance at tertiary level.

There are many shining stars at Hoërskool Nelspruit. You have performed well in other spheres as well and it is only accurate that I also congratulate:

- Danielle Van Zyl and Coetzee Andrea for both making it through the provincial top 10.
- Frederik Rudolph for obtaining 297 out of 300 in Geography and
- Visser Jacobus Hendrik for obtaining 293 out of 300 in Mathematics

Please continue with the good work and know that our support and well wishes are with you wherever you will be pursuing your tertiary education. You are the cream of the province and thus our ambassadors; please fly the provincial flag high.

### **Congratulate Top educators in the school**

The hard work of teachers cannot be overemphasised in the learner performance equation.

It is through the hard work of dedicated educators that we have celebrated the achievements of these young minds, allow me again to thank and congratulate our top educators.

- C Coetzee as the best teacher in Mathematics
- J Van Der Walt as the best teacher in Business Studies
- E Mans as the best teacher in English First Additional Language.

The role that you have played is a great one. You have done your national duties by guiding our young minds to the pathways of success. We thank you for your tremendous contributions. This is a job well done and please continue with your good and excellent work.

It is because of teachers of your caliber that we feel confident that the 10% improvement target set for 2015 will be realized. It is also important that schools work together also; perhaps Dr. Louise Swanepoel must share with other school principals on how he continues to excel. This will help other schools to improve on their current marks.

### **Appreciate Imperial Toyota**

We have forged a partnership with the private sector over the years in an effort to inspire learner performance to greater heights. Allow me to single out, Imperial Toyota Nelspruit for the huge sponsorship of a brand new car for three years in succession.

Mr. Desmond Bosch, we really appreciate this sponsorship of great value. It is our understanding that the will to receive a brand new car is the greatest inspiration a learner could have on top of academic excellence. We are quite aware that the involvement of Imperial Toyota has contributed immensely in the improvement of our grade 12 results over the three year period.

Thank you very much Imperial Toyota. It is our intention to maintain this partnership as we forge ahead in our quest to deliver quality education in the province.

## **Conclusion**

Once more we welcome all school role-players and wish them well for 2015.

To the class of 2015, remember the words of the founding father of our democracy and Freedom, the late Dr. Nelson Mandela Said:

***“It always seems impossible until it’s done”***

This is your time and this is your year. the greatest challenge for you is to do better than the Class of 2014. We have come here so that you may draw inspiration from today's events so that you may also excel and do yourselves, your parents and your city proud as you pass your grade 12 with flying colours. If Madri could do it, so can you.

Ngiyabonga

**END**