

**Speech to be delivered by the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule at the Meeting with Examination Staff on 22 September 2016 at Swadini Forever Resort**

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Programme Director, Mrs Lorraine Goba

Director for Public Examinations, Mr. Chukudu Manyabeane

Members of the Public Examinations Directorate

Thank you for coming and for giving me an audience. It gives me pleasure to meet with the Public Examination staff and management. Let me also thank you for your performance in the last five years as we have managed an incident free and credible examination. This has been achieved mainly because of you and we are very grateful for that.

Allow me to welcome the man of God, Pastor Israel Mosehla who has graced this occasion and has bleed us with the Word. We take comfort and fortitude from the word of God for we need the inspiration and guidance it provides to us. We really appreciate your insight Pastor and we request you and your congregation to always put us in your prayers. God Bless You.

### **Culture of Perfection and Professionalism**

We meet here today in preparation of the most important milestone in the education calendar of the province and the country, the 2015 Grade 12 Examinations. The National Senior Certificate examinations are to

commence on 26 October 2015 and the national spotlight will be upon us to deliver upon our mandate in administering these exams.

The virtue of perfection is the ultimate that every person or organisation yearns and wishes for. This is our inherent and innate character which is always calling for expression and outlet. That is our call for action and need I say that you have over the years proven that you are capable of delivering on this mandate. Our spirit always calls on the best of us and as we plan we plan for perfection and exceptional success.

That is the culture that we have created for the province as the Public Examinations Directorate and it is the culture we are going to keep and maintain. I speak with you in confidence as you have managed to champion this course and I am convinced that you are capable of doing even better. I am reminded of the biblical scripture where Jesus Christ spoke to his disciples as he said; ["You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden"](#) (Matthew 5:14)

With this biblical verse I implore you to once more take charge and control over the situation. I call upon you to manifest your professional conduct to serve your country with your body, soul and spirit.

Our prayer to God is that He gives us wisdom to utilise our time wisely and profitably. As we implement and execute our plans let Him give us strength and fortitude. We are also aware of the policies that we need to follow and act upon and this we will do knowing that nothing will take our crown. For if God is with us who can be against us. The delivery of a credible examination process is thus imminent and we are confident in that.

## **A Call for Vigilance**

As I have alluded earlier on that the national spotlight will be upon us, I call upon each and every one of you to represent us well as ambassadors of this province and stewards of the nation. We thus rely upon you and your God given abilities of might; time and intellect to lead in this era of our time as each and every one of you do his or her best to improve on the examination process.

God has made a call upon us to improve the world of our time and we all need to exercise our vigilance in delivering on our mandate of an incident free and credible examinations process. This time calls for unity for all of us. Unity is strength and our glue to keep us together from the beginning to the end. We also cannot attain excellence in a disorganised environment characterised by indiscipline and lack of dedication.

## **A Call for Discipline and Dedication**

The apostle Paul overcame persecution and was well versed and capable of exercising patience from the beginning to the end. In [1 Corinthians 9:24-27](#), he gives insight to the human endowment of discipline and dedication as treasures to success and overcoming.

The scripture reads thus;

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air.”

Discipline and dedication always have the ability to get the best of us. It has been proven the world over, in various disciplines such as music, the arts, sport, business and profession that the best are those who marry talent with discipline and dedication. Please be disciplined and be dedicated to be at your best as you serve your country drawing from within you the treasures that God has deposited in you for the benefit of this province and nation.

## **Conclusion**

The fact is that there is no one to do this job but you. As we seek the face of God let us also exploit our human abilities to reach our goal. It is thus prudent of all of us not to shift responsibilities but to heed the call on [Ephesians 4:23-24](#); " and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth." I thus request you to reflect on and put your focus on the greater picture of progress for the nation and the future of our main beneficiaries, the learners. May we always consider sacrificing our selfish course and prioritise the advancement of the nation and the future of our children.

You are privileged to have the opportunity to work on the development of the country and the nation. Truly, education is our main weapon available to fight unemployment, poverty and inequality and you have been placed in this equation as the equaliser. There may be challenges, trials and tribulations on our way towards our goal of achieving an examination process we all can be proud of but please don't buckle under the pressure but brace your selves for the take off and safe

landing. Let your positive influence come to the fore and manifest for we have a legacy to build.

We have walked this path before and we can still improve on it. Our past performance speaks for us, but let us not be complacent and take matters for granted.

We are empowered to perform to perfect standards and as God commands; **"You are the salt of the earth."** Let your presence matter and be counted in history as a victor and a conqueror who brought light to the province of Mpumalanga and the nation.

**Ngiyabonga.**