

**Remarks by the MEC for Education at the occasion of a meeting with
Circuit Managers on 15 January 2015**

Programme Director and Head of Department **Mrs. MOC Mhlabane**

Members of Senior Management

Members of the District Management Teams

Circuit Managers

Ladies and Gentlemen

Sanibonani

Thank you very much for honoring us with your presence, I know you had to abandon the school re-opening programme to join this meeting.

We felt that this meeting must be sit urgently so that we could share a common understanding on what needs to be done to improve the results for the class of 2016.

I hope you heard me on the media that I conceded that we did not implement any intervention programme in 2015 hence the decline.

We knew in January that we are enforcing the policy on progression but very little was done to assist the progressed learners.

At the same time we should have conceded that the cohort of learners that was going to write the 2015 grade 12 examination is not the same as those that passed. It is different learners who require our support just as those who passed the previous years.

I am of the view that had it be that we did something; the results were going to be far better. Be that as it may I have taken the responsibility and the blame publicly.

I therefore wish that this time around we must as a collective strive to work hard to put the department where it should belong.

We are not intending to play the blame game here but let's jointly identify the gabs and work together to improve the situation for the better.

I wish that we can look back at the intervention programmes we put in 2010 to improve the performance of learners and agree that these have sustained the performance of our learners and schools.

Today, when we look at the margin between ourselves and other provinces that are at the top, it is clear that if we could put our foot hard on the paddle this province can be on top and our learners can compete freely with their counterparts outside our boundaries.

It is possible that the province can achieve the 10% target.

Appreciate the 2015 Performance

Having said all this, I wish to take this time to thank you for the 2015 achievement, I know that it could have been worse had it not been that you rise above the expected norm.

Looking at the performance of all our circuits' one is convinced that the province has a bright future ahead.

Again, I wish to thank the Libangeni Circuit and the most improved Circuit for the steeling work done. We are proud of your achievements.

I am also delighted that the 2016 school year started without any serious huddles. Thank you once more.

There is information at our disposal that seeks to spoil the good work done. I am pleading with you that such must not be allowed to occur in our space: These include:

- Instances where learners have not received report cards, stationery because of alleged non -payments of the so called project funds
- Learners who up-to-date have not been admitted and instances where parents are not consulted on what to do.
- Schools which are refusing learners to repeat the grade for the first time, of late I am told that learners are being expelled by schools on the basis that they are too old. I don't know if schools were informed by us to do so.

I am requesting you that from here let us ensure that not a single school does such.

On admission let us request principal's report to the Circuit Managers on the extent to which they are managing these issues. This must happen on Monday so that by **Thursday, 21 January 2016** all learners must be in schools learning. I also request that this must be managed well so that it does not blow out of proportion.

