

**Speech to be Delivered by the MEC for Education, Mr.
Bonakele Majuba at the Motivational Session to be held at
Carolina Circuit, in the Albert Luthuli Local Municipality on
the 30th May 2023**

Programme Director and Director: Gert Sibande District Mr. PP
Magagula

Ward Councillors

Members of the SGB

Pastor Ali Mokoena

Members of the Senior Management

Members of the District Management Team

Circuit Manager: Mr. King Masondo

Principals of the Participating Schools

Leadership of the Representative Council of Learners

Officials of the Department of Education and

Learners

Sanibonani,

I am grateful to find myself in the magnificent Carolina. The vicinity of the Komati Gorge and a beautiful area with the picturesque and popular Nooitgedacht Nature Reserve, very popular birding area and home to more than 200 species of spectacular birds.

Carolina not only boasts magnificent beauty but fine cultural and historical heritage. Besides the fascinating architecture, this area boasts a few fine examples of San rock art which can be seen and explored.

To add to the historical heritage of the Carolina area, there are also a few interesting Battlefields, the Market Square, Burger Monument as well as other historical memorials.

I am greatly of the view that the quality of education as in teaching, learning and learner performance in this area should also be monumental as the picturesque, splendour and historical value of this area.

The great poet and writer TS Elliot once said, “*Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.*”

Programme Director, our mission to crisscross the province to inspire and motivate grade 12 learners whom we refer to as the **Class of Dreams** is gaining traction.

We have come here to reiterate the words of TS Elliot to prompt our grade 12 learners to dare dream to be great in this life and we dare them to work towards the actualisation of those dreams as dreaming without action is futile.

We are convinced by this great assertion that if only one dreams and work towards actualising those dreams then one can see where such work takes him or her.

I am therefore appealing to your conscience and whole being to please utilize your time, gifts and talents optimally to enrich yourselves, your families and the greater community.

We have come to Carolina Circuit because we see champions in the making in the Class of Dreams and it is our mission to ensure that the seed of triumph is sowed not to be reaped at the end of the year.

As Napoleon Hill states, "Strength and growth come only through continuous effort and struggle," you are therefore reminded to put your body, mind and soul to your aspirations to pass the grade at the end of the year. Simply put, it won't be easy. Please persevere, be determined and let your dreams come to life.

As Mpumalanga province we stand together with you, your parents, teachers and the community as we all need you to pass the grade and get good marks at that.

That is our common interests and we are here today to reaffirm our support and commitment to making this a reality. We are also convinced that the mere fact that you have made it to grade 12 is ample reason to believe that you can pass your grade 12 if you just put more effort and stay focused.

No one can do this for you. So please be advised that you owe it to yourself to get this done. You and you alone can make it happen. Stop hiding behind excuses but work your way out diligently without any fear.

We are truly grateful to be in the company of the Carolina Circuit Class of 2023 – ***the Class of Dreams.***

We have deliberately called you the **Class of Dreams**, to motivate you towards the realisation of your true potential and worth as learners. We are quite convinced as a Department that you are well equipped and capable of making it past Grade 12.

I am sure that most of you have already started preparing for your end year performance as this is an important and life-long assignment or project that begins on day one of the re-opening of schools.

Those of you who have not yet started with studying for your secondary school exit should do so and be reminded that there is now no weekend or holiday for you as every day should be efficiently utilised for school work and studying to guarantee your success at the end of the year.

The province has managed a **76.8%** pass rate in the 2022 National Senior Certificate Examinations. Your district, Gert Sibande registered a **77.7%** pass rate which is an improvement of 5.5% to the **72.2%** pass rate obtained in 2021. This improvement places Gert Sibande on second spot of the performance chart out of the four education districts in the province.

This performance is appreciated as an upward mobility and we remain adamant and hopeful that you will improve on it hence our presence here today.

Congratulations are in order to you, District Director and your team in the district, circuits and schools for working so hard and smart in improving your results.

We are hopeful that this upward trajectory will continue in your so that we may realise our 83% target for the 2023 national Senior Certificate Examinations.

In Gert Sibande District, the best performing circuit is Lekwa East Circuit which registered a **96.6%** pass rate while your circuit, Chief Albert Luthuli obtained number **14** out of **19** circuits with **77,5%** pass performance which is a regression of **0,9%** from the **78,4%** obtained in the 2021 National Senior Certificate examinations.

We are thus here to remind, inspire and pledge our support to you so that an upward trend could be developed and maintained.

As the Class of 2023, our dream and hopefully your dream is a 100% pass rate. We know that dreams do come true, especially if you work towards them. I invite you today to set a target for your selves to pass at the end of the year.

You have an opportunity to outperform the Class of 2022 and make history for yourselves, your circuit and district.

Your performance will reflect on your circuit and please pull up your socks and performance to your highest level possible.

The circuit performance is informed by the performance of the schools within the circuit.

In this instance in the 2023 NSC examinations **Carolina Akademiese SKC** recorded a **97,1%** pass. There were **35** candidates who wrote and **34** passed with **28** Bachelors and **06** Diplomas.

In **Carolina Combined**, **57** candidates who wrote and **52** passed translating to an **91.2%** pass with **17** Bachelors, **30** Diplomas and **05** Higher Certificates.

In **Violet Jiyane secondary school**, **54** candidates wrote and **48** passed translating to an **88,9%** pass with **20** Bachelors, **10** Diplomas and **18** Higher Certificates.

In **Zinikeleni**, **201** candidates wrote and **135** passed translating to an **67,2%** pass with **40** Bachelors, **52** Diplomas and **52** Higher Certificates.

Programme Director, in this province we have a culture of rewarding good performance and excellence, I hope you are aware that the 2022 overall best grade 12 learner from your

district, Highveld Secondary School in Elukwatini obtained distinctions in all her subjects.

As such she was the overall best learner in quintile 1 schools in the country and the best of the best in Mpumalanga – the Place of the Rising Sun.

As a reward for her achievement, she has received, **R10 000.00** courtesy of SASOL, **R 15 000.00** courtesy of Standard Bank, **R 20 000.00** courtesy of ABSA,

R 15 000.00 courtesy of IDC, a tablet from Vodacom, a Power Bank and Bluetooth Headphone from Telkom as well as a Bar Fridge, Steam Iron and Travel Bag.

She also received a full bursary from the Mpumalanga Provincial Government that caters for tuition, accommodation, stationary, meals and a monthly stipend. She also received a brand new sponsored car.

Her name is **Bathobile Nkambule** who is the true personification of hard work at play.

Bathobile Nkambule challenged and changed the odds staked against her and the mind-set prevalent in our communities that it is only learners in former model C schools who are able to excel and be at the top.

You too, can achieve like her and even more than what she achieved. This is possible only if you listen attentively to your teachers and make decisions to do things better with more vigour and commitment this time around.

You need to embrace the fighting spirit of **Bathobile Nkambule**.
It is doable – It is all in your hands.

We wish to take this opportunity to congratulate all the grade 12 learners of 2022 who made the mark and further wish them well in their studies for 2023 and beyond.

We are deliberately presenting these results so that you can be aware of how your schools performed last year and for you to make a conscious decision to improve the results of your school this time around.

It is all in your hands, you can change the way people look at you and your schools for the better.

All that you need to do is to take a position and work smarter and harder than before – respect your teachers, pay attention to what they are telling you and walk an extra mile in your school work.

You must stop blaming your environment and others for your lack of focus and laziness but look at the positive side of things and make things work for you.

It is only you who must rise to the occasion in order to be counted amongst the best of the best.

The story of **Bathobile Nkambule** must inspire you and invoke in you the desire to succeed at all cost.

Conclusion

As I conclude, it is only fair to say that the achievement of Bathobile Nkambule must be a challenge to all learners in the Province.

Unfortunately, there is no top learner that represented your circuit at the level of the province in the 2022 NSC examinations but considering your demographics and background,

I am tempted to tell you about **Nkomo Brotas Isaac** from **DD Mabuza Comprehensive School** in **Nkomazi West Circuit**, who obtained **281** marks out of **300** in Technical Science.

Motha Ntuthuko Clement from **Sidlamafa secondary school** in **Nkomazi Central** who also got **294** out of **300** in **Agricultural Science** while **Singwane Ney Webster** from **MC Zitha secondary school** in **Lebombo Circuit** got **300 out 300** in **Mathematics**.

These learners come from quintile 1 to 3 schools just like you. I am sure that you can take lessons from them and improve your situation towards your success. Please take advantage of this opportunity lest you regret in the future.

For their good performance these learners mentioned above were rewarded with cash prizes, laptops, mobile phones, traveling bags and fridges, iron and kettle.

You can also do the same and even better. It is on those bases that I make a challenge to the Class of 2023 to emulate her performance and strive to do even better than her.

My beloved learners, let us begin today to take up this challenge with renewed energy, focus, hope and determination.

We are told that; **“Everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.”**

Please enjoy your studies and your whole school journey as it comes to a close.

Tell yourselves that if the **Class of 2022** did it, you equally can do it and even much better.

Siyabonga Kakhulu.