

**Congratulatory Remarks delivered by the MEC for  
Education, Mr. Bonakele Majuba at the Occasion of the  
Official Handover of the Car at Highveld Secondary School**

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Programme Director and Head of Education, Mrs. Lucy Moyane

The Executive Mayor of Chief Albert Luthuli, Cllr. Nkosi

Chairperson of the SGB, **Mr. HP Ndlovu**

Members of the SGB

School Principal, **Mr. ZA Magagula**

2022 Top Learner, **Ms. Bathobile Nkambule**

Parents of the Top Learner

Members of the Senior Management

Members of the DMT

Circuit Managers

Highveld Secondary Principal

Principals

Educators

Officials of the Department of Education and

Learners

**Sanibonani**

The Mpumalanga Department of Education really appreciates your presence to this event as we celebrate the excellent achievement of the Overall Top Learner in the province, Ms. Bathobile Nkambule.

Thank you very much for gracing this occasion and you are welcome.

### **Congratulatory Message to Bathobile**

We wish to formally congratulate Bathobile for all her hard work today, she is the true personification of hard work at play.

Many of our learners often hide behind their background and social status, using these as a shield that blocks them from breaking through barriers.

Bathobile today, is changing the status quo, she is changing the mindset of our communities that it is only learners in former model C schools who are able to excel in her manner.

I wish to also extend a great appreciation to her mother and support system, we know that she would not have done so well, if you didn't create a favorable and supportive environment for her. ***Siyabonga Mama, mihle imiphumela yemfundiso yakho yase Khaya.***

Bathobile, you really made us all proud and please keep the Mpumalanga banner flying, even at University. You have obtained position number **one**, out of **67 367** learners who sat for exams in the year **2022**.

The story of Bathobile makes me remember the famous quotation by the late Martin Luther King where he says:

*“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character”.*

Indeed, our children must at all times possess a character full of humility, wisdom, integrity, self-discipline and accountability, and this is the character that our precious girl here today possesses.

Ladies and Gentlemen, for her achievement, Bathobile received tokens of appreciation courtesy of sponsors.

She has received, R 10 000.00 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, Power Bank and Bluetooth Headphone from Telkom, a Fridge, Steam Iron, Travelling Bag and a Mpumalanga Bursary.

Today, we are here to personally deliver her brand new car sponsored by Kwenta Media.

### **Appreciate Highveld Secondary**

We wish to also extend great appreciation to Highveld Secondary, for obtaining 95.1% pass rate which is an improvement of **11.4%** pass rate compared to the **91.0%** pass rate obtained in 2021.

And at this school, one of your learners, **Bhekisizwe Magnificent Thomo** was amongst the Top Ten learners in the Province after he obtained all his subjects with distinctions.

Added to that Bhekisizwe obtained **300 out of 300** in Mathematics.

The Department pledged to award Bhekisizwe with a full bursary that will cater for his registration fee, tuition fees, accommodation fees, prescribed textbooks, fees for meals and the monthly stipend.

Added to this he received R15 000 from Standard Bank, R20 000 from ABSA, Traveling Bag from Old Mutual, a Tablet from Vodacom, A bar Fridge and a Steam Iron from Mpumalanga Education Trust and a range of other goodies.

We also want to congratulate Gert Sibande District as it registered a **77.7%** pass rate which is an improvement to the **72.2%** pass rate obtained in 2021.

This constitute a **5,5%** Improvement and it is the most improved District.

Congratulations District Director, **Mr. PP Magagula** and your team. Keep up the good work.

**Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality** performed at 82.1% pass rate after **4 229** made the grade. Congratulations **Cllr Nkosi** and your team.

**Mashishila Circuit** obtained **79.1%** pass rate which is an improvement of **7.1%** improvement from the results of 2021.

## **Conclusion**

As I conclude, it is also fair to say that the achievement of Bathobile is a challenge to all learners in the Province. 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 if possible.

My beloved learners let us begin today to take up this challenge with a renewed hope and determination; to exercise to the fullest our Constitutional right to education.

Let me invite the star of the day, Bathobile accompanied by her mother to come and say a few words as we present her with her new car.

**I Thank You.**