

**Speech by the MEC for Education, Bonakele Majuba at the  
Occasion of the Grade 12 Motivational Session at  
Elukhanyisweni Secondary School on 29 March 2023 in  
Thembisile Hani Local Municipality**

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Programme Director and Director for Public Examination, **Mr. Chukudu Manyabeane**

Ward Councilor

Chairperson of the SGB, **Mr. Petros Zecheous Mahlangu**  
Members of the SGB

Pastor **Ali Mokoena**

Members of the Senior Management

Members of the District Management Team

Circuit Manager: **Mr Segale Mokone**

School Principals, **Mr Katisi Jan Mokone and Mr S Mahlangu**

Learners

**Sanibonani,**

Thank you very much for honouring us with your presence to day. We are truly grateful to be in the company of the Class of 2023 – ***the Class of Dreams.***

Of great significance is that we are in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality a municipality named after a fearless freedom fighter.

This therefore means that we have gathered here in numbers to pay homage to the late Thembisile Christ Hani who was an outstanding leader of the South African Communist Party, A Chief of staff of Umkhonto Wesizwe and a leader of the ruling party in Government, the African National Congress.

We also gather in this manner as well to gain the necessary strength from his revolutionary spirit to soldier on in the quest to deliver quality education in throughout the Province.

It is the strength which enables you to attend classes besides the fact that schools are in terms of the School Calendar are closed.

I thought it is imperative that you know who the late Christ Hani was, so that you may equally embrace the wish to succeed no matter the circumstances you find yourself in.

How I wish that you must be equally passionate, vigorous and dedicated to your work as Christ Hani was towards the struggle for Freedom and Democracy.

We also wish to use this opportunity to congratulate the Nkangala Education District as it registered a **74.5%** pass rate which is an improvement of **5,5%** to the **72.2%** pass rate obtained in 2021. Congratulations are in order to the District Director, **Mr. Douglas Maja** and your entire team stretching from the classrooms, staff rooms, circuit offices to the District.

**In 2021** a young girl from this Circuit made history by becoming the first African girl learner in the Province to be the overall best learner in the Province following the Announcement of the National Senior Certificate Examination. She received a host of tokens including a brand new car for her outstanding achievements.

She is Kgothatso Mphako from Kwamhlanga Secondary School She is currently furthering her studies in Medicine at the University of Cape Town. In fact, this is her second year of study and she is doing very well.

In the 2022 National Senior Certificate Examination Results, one learner from Phumzile Secondary School which is not far from here made it to the Top Ten in the Province.

Her name is **Banele Mtshweni** and she obtained distinctions in all her subjects i.e. 07 distinctions out of 07 subjects.

As a reward for her achievement, she has received **15 000.00** courtesy of Standard Bank, **R 20 000.00** courtesy of ABSA, **R 15 000** from 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 was offered a full bursary by the Department, however she turned it down because she received a bursary from SANRAL.

She is furthering her studies in Civil Engineering at the University of Cape Town which covers everything towards her studies from Tuition, accommodation, meals, study materials and has a monthly allowance.

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

**Banele Mtshweni and Kgothatso Phako** challenged and changed the odds staked against them and the mindset 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 them and even more than what they have achieved.

This is possible only if you listen attentively to your teachers and make decisions to do things better with more vigor and commitment this time around.

You need to embrace the fighting spirit of Chris Hani and the wisdom and tenacity of Banele Mtshweni and Kgothatso Phako.  
***It is doable – It is all in your hands.***

**Programme Director**, The Department has **71** Circuits and all of them administered the National Senior Certificate Examination. Kwamhlanga North East obtained **63.8%**. This circuit is standing at position **69** out of **71** circuits.

Kwamhlanga South West obtained a **69.8%** pass rate and is standing at position **55** out of the **71** circuits in the Province.

**Programme Director**, now, let us come closer to home and look at how your schools have performed in the **2022** National Senior Certificate Examination Results.

Kwamhlanga North East had ten schools which administered the 2022 National Senior Examination:

**Musa Secondary School** had **220** learners who wrote the Examination and of those, **175** passed as such the school obtained a **79.5%** pass rate.

**Sele Senior Secondary School** had **18** Grade 12 learners, who wrote the exam last year, of those **14** passed as such the school obtained a **77.8%** pass rate

**Ziphakamiseni Secondary School** had **168** Grade 12 learners, who wrote the exam last year, of those **118** passed as such the school obtained a **70.2%** pass rate.

**Elukhanyisweni High School** had **104** Grade 12 learners who wrote the exam last year, of those **68** passed as such the school obtained a **65.4%** pass rate.

**Silamba Secondary School** had **190** Grade 12 learners who wrote the exam last year, of those **122** passed, as such the school obtained a **64.2%** pass rate.

**Hlonipha Secondary School** had **197** Grade 12 learners who wrote the exam last year, of those **125** passed, as such the school obtained a **63.5%** pass rate.

**Lethabong Secondary School** had **255** Grade 12 learners who wrote the exam last year, of those **144** passed, as such the school obtained a **56.5%** pass rate.

**Vezikgono Secondary School** had **86** Grade 12 learners who wrote the exam last year, of those **42** passed, as such the school obtained a **48.8%** pass rate.

**Mkhutshwa Secondary School** had **32** Grade 12 learners who wrote the exam last year, of those **09** passed, and as such the school obtained a **28.1%** pass rate.

**Bophelong Community School** had **16** Grade 12 learners who wrote the exam last year, of those only **03** passed and as such the school obtained a **18.8%** pass rate.

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 school 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 stories of **Banele Mtshweni** and **Kgothatso Phako**, must inspire and invoke in you the desire to succeed at all cost.

When I said you are the **Class of Dreams**, I was thinking of the famous quotation by the late Martin Luther King where he said:

*“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 that is the character of a winning learner.

## **Conclusion**

As I conclude, I make a challenge to the Class of 2023 to emulate the performance of Banele and Kgothatso, and strive to do even to do better than them.

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

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

I wish to take this time to thank everyone for all the support to the Department and to our learners.

Surely your support and prayers are not taken for granted.

**Siyabonga Kakhulu.**