

**SPEECH FOR THE MEC FOR EDUCATION
MRS REGINAH MHAULE TO BE PRESENTED AT
KHUTSALANI SECONDARY SCHOOL ON 02 NOVEMBER 2009**

Head of Department, Mrs Mohlasedi Mhlabane

Regional Director, Mr Mfana Lushaba

Members of Senior Management

Circuit Manager, Mr NI Manana

Representatives from Regions

Members of SADTU

Members of the School Governing Body

Principal and Educators

Learners

Media

Ladies and gentleman

Let me take this opportunity to greet all of you. I have come to your school, Khutsalani to see for myself how the exams are progressing and to personally express words of gratitude and encouragement to educators and especially to you learners as you write your exams.

First and foremost, we must condemn with contempt the leaking of the Exam papers. This is an unfortunate development that should not repeat itself in the history of our nation. We are very determined to rid the Department of this deviant behaviour and every person associated with it. We are not shy to say that the Department will deal ruthlessly with such people and the law will take its course.

We also make a call to all departmental officials and educators to make these exams a success and a source of pride and joy for the Province and the people of South Africa.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education takes pride in your contributions as you forge ahead improving your lives through education. As a Department, we acknowledge the efforts that you make in changing the lives of our beloved learners for the better. Education remains one of the pillars for the betterment of the lives of our people. For many of us, it remains the only way out of the cycle of poverty. This is the reality that education entrusts upon us and thus cannot be taken lightly. We are highly convinced that schooling is therefore an essential service to the people of the Province and Khutsalani in particular forms a nucleus of such service for this community.

It suffices to say that Khutsalani has been and remains a ray of hope for the hopeless and a refuge and solace for many parents and learners who seek an education and a way out of poverty. We note every role that you have played and all your efforts rendered with appreciation. Your ability to combine the roles of educators and parents to these young minds entrusted to your care is a great achievement on its own. The fact that you have humbled yourselves in conduct as you pursue a selfless course to improve the lives of others gives inspiration and a sense of awe to the rest of us.

Let me assure you that The Mpumalanga Department of Education will continue to support Khutsalani Secondary School and promote the efforts of changing the lives of our learners. We acknowledge that forging ahead in this endeavor is very trying and at times difficult. Your objective of putting into check, educating and fighting to get rid of ignorance is a very noble objective and requires not only your physical and mental presence, but also requires your emotional and spiritual presence hence we appreciate all your noble efforts and congratulate you on your achievements.

The partnership that you have forged over the years between educators and learners should be rekindled and cherished at all times. I am touched by the evidence of the triumph of the human spirit. The urge to succeed even in trying times for the good of humanity should not be compromised. Learn from each other and enrich one another' lives. In that process be reminded that South Africa and the world are also learning from you.

A few words of encouragement to the learners: Be hungry and thirsty for knowledge and truth. Your presence here has been set up by destiny for you to change your past and forge a great future for yourselves. Cooperate with your educators in an effort to better yourselves and the circumstances around you. Do your best to pass these examinations. Strive at all times to make the world a better place for yourselves and your countrymen. South Africa is a land of possibilities and opportunities beckon for those who are ready and prepare to take advantage of them. This is your chance take advantage of it, It is for your benefit. Remember that change begins with you, as you cannot change the world nor others but you can change yourself. Try to connect with your inner self. Listen and follow your conscience for it is your moral compass to your destiny.

May this be a beginning and a continuation of a blessed good life for all of you. God bless you and good luck with your Exams!