



**ADDRESS BY THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE  
MAYOR, CLLR. MAHOLE SIMON MOFOKENG ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE 2008 VAAL MATRIC AWARDS**

13 February 2009.

- Councillor Maipato Tsokolibane, Programme Director and Sedibeng District Municipality Member of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Social Development;
- Ms. Naledi Pandor, Member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress and Hounarable Minister of Education;
- Councillor Assistance Mshudulu, Executive Mayor of the Emfuleni Local Municipality;
- Councillor Kedibone Mokgotsi and Councillor Greta Hlongwane, Speakers of the Sedibeng District and Emfuleni Local Municipalities, respectively;

- Fellow Councillors present;
- Members of the Sedibeng Bursary Committee,
- Members of the Bursary Fund present;
- Members of the Ekurhuleni Business Initiative;
- Our officials from the Department of Education in Sedibeng West, East and municipalities;
- Educators, Learners, Parents, Members of our School Governing Bodies, and the general community of Sedibeng;
- Members of the media;
- Distinguished guests, Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen;

It is my privilege to address you at this important and historic event to pay tribute to our *Class of 2008*, the torch-bearers of our Out-come Based Education; including educators, School Governing Body (SGB) members, families our learners, communities, and many other important role-players, and, to acknowledge everyone's contribution in their efforts towards the advancement of our education system.

This is a day when Sedibeng District Municipality and its people say *Thank You!*, to our achievers. It is therefore fitting for us to confer awards to those of our learners, schools and governing bodies that have performed exceptionally well in 2008.

Education is knowledge, which is essential and fast developing acquisition in our lives. Almost every day something new happens in the world we live in, and it is important that the findings are preserved and presented to the general public in order to give human-kind and generations to follow, the possibility to study the latest news on what is happening around us.

Education, an essential building-block through which knowledge is attained, is a fundamental cornerstone of modern society, on whose firm foundation, leaders are produced. I have no doubt that colleagues will remember an old adage that says, *leaders are not born but they are made*. We produce leaders through education, and as thus, its role can never be underestimated in the development of our society.

The 52nd National Conference of the mandating Party acknowledged that our work is far from complete. We are only at the beginning of a long journey to a truly united, democratic and prosperous society, based on the principles contained in the Freedom Charter – a document which calls for a free, non-racial, compulsory and dynamic education. Yet we are confident that our strategies and policies we have adopted will take us further towards the goal as is envisaged in the Charter.

Honourable Minister and colleagues,

The Sedibeng District Municipality, on its part, has developed a Youth Policy Framework which has since found its way and is formally adopted by Council. This Framework seeks to achieve broader youth development in our District.

We have since employed Youth coordinators and established not less than 40 Youth Advisory Centers, whose primary objectives are to assist in disseminating educational information and provide life-skills to young people.

My Office has a youth component, which young people with aspirations can visit. All these institutions are also playing a crucial role to assist to identify those in need of bursaries and life-skills. Just this morning in Heidelberg, Lesedi, we have launched a child safety DVD and opened a J.T.T Centre – yet another indication of our resolve to protect and develop our youth for the future. In so doing, colleagues, we are preparing our youth who are unquestionably the vanguard of our future.

Having said that, comrades, ladies and gentlemen, please allow me to tackle the task on hand by taking this opportunity to introduce to you, Comrade Naledi Pandor, Hounarable Minister of Education of the Republic of South Africa.

Born in Durban and matriculated at Gaborone Secondary School in Botswana. She spend her formative years exiled in Maseru, Lesotho and the United Kingdom (London).

Comrade Pandor received her tertiary education from the University of Botswana and Swaziland where she graduated in English and History and obtained a Certificate in Education. She obtained a Diploma in Education and a

Masters Degree in General Linguistics from the University of Stellenbosch.

During the apartheid years she taught in Botswana and the UK and was later a Senior Lecturer at the University of Cape Town.

She was elected to Parliament in 1994 and became deputy chief whip of the African National Congress.

She served on several committees, including the Portfolio Committee on Education and as a convener of a sub-committee on higher education.

In 2002 she became the first women Chancellor of the Cape Technikon. She is also a member and trustee of various gender and educational organisations.

Prior to her appointment as Minister of Education, Comrade Pandor was Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).

Lastly, comrades and colleagues and before I descent the podium, we must commend the *Class of 2008*, especially those from Transvalia, Vaal, Suiderlig, Roshnee, Over Vaal, Drie Rivier, Dr. Malan, Roshnee Islamic, EC Debernaker,

Emasdal Senior Secondary and High Schools in District 7 and District 8. Many of these schools have made us proud by obtaining a 100% pass rate.

But, we must also work very hard to find ways to assist Moxaka, ED Mashabane, Boikhethelo, Sizwe Sechaba and New Ratanda Schools which are amongst our poorly performing in our Region.

I also want to be the first to invite the Hounarable Minister Pandor, her Office and colleagues from the private sector to visit one of our schools, situated in a rural portion of our District and which is not very far away from this venue, going by the name of Ramolle High.

Despite the many challenges facing this school, where learners come from the unemployed and poverty-stricken families, and the school does not even have running water – which is a basic human right, it has nevertheless continued to make us proud by registering the most impressive matric results.

In our visit to this school in the beginning of the year, both learners have made a promise to produce a future State President and Minister of Education of the Republic of South

Africa. It is my wish to live to see that promise happen, as I am a strong believer that working together we can make it to happen.

In conclusion, colleagues; to those of us who have missed the final voter registration week of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February, you can register to vote on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 as the doors.

To lovers, as we go home after this event to prepare for Valentine's Day, I want to wish you all well, but to also caution you to abstain, not even to think about condomizing.

Comrades, ladies and gentlemen, please receive Comrade Minister Naledi Pandor.

Our light must continue to shine throughout the Country and our work must speak for us. Halala Sedibeng Class of 2008.

I thank you very much for your patience.

Thank you.