



Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Launch of Making Schools Work Campaign and Academic Awards by District 8 held at the Sebokeng College of Education Auditorium on the 22nd January 2010, in Sebokeng in Sedibeng

Programme Directors: Mr Sam Matsaneng & Mr Motseki Maboya;

Gauteng Department of Education District 8 Director: Mr Jerry Bhagaloo;

Chief Education Specialist D8: Mr Victor Thetha;

Gauteng Department of Education District 7 Director: Ms Dorah Moloi;

Deputy Chief Education Specialist, Policy and Planning: Mr Jimmy Sithole;

Chief Education Specialist Institutional Development and Support Officers: Ms Joan Tucker;

Chief Education Specialist Education, Learning and Curriculum Support Programmes: Ms Machabedi Mazibuko;

Chief Education Specialist Human Resources Management and Development: Mr Lovell May;

Deputy Director Finance and Administration; Mr Tuis Phadime;

Human Resource Administration: Mr Seko Mareletse;

Ms Emma Welcome Curriculum Development and Support;

Members of the Mayoral Committee here present;

Principals and Educators here present;

Parents, Guardians and Learners;

Distinguished Guests

State President Jacob Zuma, in his January 08th Statement in Kimberley says this about Education in our country: “We have called for Non-negotiables in education that teachers must be on time, in class and teaching for seven hours every day. Working particularly with the South African Democratic Teachers Union, we will intensify efforts to build a movement for quality education involving learners, teachers and parents alike, working together with our communities, should assist in ensuring that these non-negotiables are adhered to”

It is with great joy and pride that the State President Jacob Zuma’s clarion call finds expression in the Sedibeng *District “Making Schools Work Campaign”*. The amount of efforts put into the matriculation examinations is best expressed by the outcomes of the learners, educators , the school management and the blood, sweat and tears of the Departmental officials here present and those who could not make it.

Programme Director, it is with great happiness in my heart, that I look at the efforts of these winning learners, educators, principals and parents. Credit is due to them for all the hard work. It pleases me to notice that indeed there are great pockets of Excellence in our District. The men and women of integrity from the many schools here present indeed give me great courage and belief in the guaranteed future of our youth in the District.

Programme Director, it is in the face of serious attacks from distraction directed at our youths, that the awards about to be bestowed, assume very high significance. What with the advent of drug and substance abuse that is visited upon our youth. As if that was the only problem, we are faced with very disturbing influence of television, music that carry lyrics that drive our youth crazy, cell phones that are used to convey messages that would sicken even the most depraved amongst us.

That the young minds here present, the educators, principals and parents, were able to steer clear of all these distractions is indeed a Miracle. We can only stand in wonder for the strength and commitment of the efforts put into the successes which we celebrate tonight.

Our commitment as Sedibeng District Municipality is not and will not be once off. The amount of disturbances and disruptions to our young boys and girls in the District, enjoins us to do much more to foster a spirit of excellence in our children.

Programme Director, I commit our Sedibeng District Municipality to working together with the Gauteng District of Education, to ensure that we are all able to do our part in building pockets of excellence in this our beautiful District, until it becomes the norm rather than the exception.

We have noticed with great pleasure, the many distinctions achieved by our learners in the District, we have seen with great joy that some of our schools have gone over fifteen years with just about a 100% average pass rate year after year, it is with pride that we find that some if not most of the schools that were not performing that well, have raised the bar to show marked improvement.

Programme Director, for all that, we have you, the gallant women and men, educators, principals and District Officials. In a cruel and an uncaring world, you have stood out like the Good Sheppard that you are, “To go and seek out the single lost sheep out the one hundred”

The robust debates that I experienced last week at the feedback meeting with the parents by the District 8, should be sustained. We must collectively work towards strengthening our School Governing Bodies in our schools. We must ensure that all matters related to education of our children are raised and addressed immediately without waiting for meetings. All these we will be doing to show and indicate our commitment to ensuring that education our children must not be compromised.

With tonight's event, it must serve as one of many platforms that we use to recommit ourselves to ensuring that education is a society issue and not an individual's issue.

We must together cherish this period in our life time, the period we have all been yearning for, all these years and more especially during the apartheid regime.

We must all be heard saying: "this is the time we have been crying for. We will show the world that we could do it, how best and capable we are to do it for ourselves and for our children

We have seen how it was done previously. We must not paint a picture that says our systems are not working while the challenge may be with us. We must be determined to make it work for our children.

This is one of the only opportunities we have to make it work while still can.

In conclusion, I hope that the awards that will be conferred tonight, will serve to inspire all of us here to do more. We hope that these awards will serve as an inspiration to others to excel.

I thank you