



**Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the National Teachers Awards held on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2010, at the Quest Conference in Vanderbijlpark, Sedibeng.**

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Programme Director;

Director, Mr Jerry Bhagaloo, of Gauteng Department of Education D8;

Mr Victor Thetha, Chief Education Specialist, D8;

Director, Ms Dorah Moloi, of Gauteng Department of Education D7;

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

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

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

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

Mr Tuis Phadime Deputy Director Finance and Administration;

Mr Seko Mareletse Human Resource Administration;

Ms Emma Welcome Curriculum Development and Support;  
Distinguished Guests

I rise to give my greetings and the greetings of the entire Sedibeng District Municipality. Earlier this year, we set out as the Education Stakeholders to look at the cause and effects of the drop in the Matriculation Pass rate in Sebokeng.

At the time, together with the Department of Education and the community at large, we took the challenge to provide the best we can to the African child, black and white here in our District.

We all were spot on in agreeing that we can no longer afford to do the same thing in the same manner, over and over again expecting different results, as that would be a clear sign of insanity.

We committed ourselves to doing things differently. The 2.81 average drop in the District Pass Rate, we agreed, does not reflect our commitment to our work. We said we will do more.

**Programme Director**, Ladies and Gentlemen, today we are gathered here to give accolades to those amongst us who have gone beyond the call of duty. Who have excelled in the work they do.

A calling and not a career that if done correctly with dedication, will have generational impact long after the inputs were made.

I have no doubt that all of you here present and those that could not be here as a result of the size of the hall have thrown their weight behind service excellence in teaching our children. This belief is borne out of the fact that last year this time, the conduct of learners from Sedibeng was hitting the newspaper headlines for all the wrong reasons.

We had video clips of some engaging in acts too ghastly for me to repeat, substance abuse was rampant. I am happy to notice, to the joy of all, that the said conduct was a passing phase. The learners have to this end been model citizens. This goes on to show that all of us can play a role in raising outstanding citizens if we put our minds to it.

**In conclusion**, the Sedibeng District Municipality looks with pride to these awards. We take serious attention thereof. This is made so because one of our former Executive Mayors, Ntate Johnny Thabane, is a former recipient of the award for being the Second Best Mathematics Teacher in the entire country.

We hope that some of the recipients of the awards today will go one better, by becoming the overall winner in whichever category they will be entered.

Our continued support to the Department of Education in the Sedibeng District is guaranteed. We are behind you every step of the way. We are looking forward to the best Matriculation results this year. We know that our trust in you is not misplaced. Once again congratulations to you all, not those who are to be awarded today but all you.

I thank you