



Keynote Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Matriculation Examinations Prayer Day held at the Rivers of Living Waters Auditorium held on the 21 September 2010, in Evaton in Sedibeng

MMC Maipato Tsokolibane;

Councillors present;

Bishop Zondo;

The Leadership from the Districts Department of Education;

Educators and Learners of Sedibeng;

Representatives from our School Governing Bodies present;

All Parents, Grandparents & Guardians present;

Representatives from SADTU;

Our Distinguished Guests;

Ladies & Gentlemen

I take great pleasure in greeting all of you gathered here today. On this beautiful October Day, I wish to speak about heroes. Heroes in the making, heroes of the past, heroes and what makes them come through. I

am talking first and foremost about the Class of 2010, our learners who are about to show their bravery & determination.

Programme Director, “To each his own”. Heroes are defined by the victories in battle. To every Israelite there is their Philistine - to every **David**, there is a **Goliath**. It was when the children of Israel were faced with the taunting and insults from the **Philistine**, a nation of giants and warriors, with no hope and their self esteem gone, faced with the challenge of being enslaved again that they prayed to **God**.

God gave them an unassuming young man, hardly a meter tall. He gave them **David**.

Ka Sesotho re ye re re: *“Ha ho tume dimelala”* loosely translated to **English meaning ‘Size does not matter’**. **David** did not even know he will be a hero. His brother told him to get out of the way. He could not even fit into the armory that was offered, nor could he even raise the sword on offer.

With faith as his guide, **God** with him every step of the way, he picked up the five smooth stones and his sling and went forward. He did not try out his aim, he did not test the sling; **Faith** being his guide of true things to come, he took one shot and Goliath despite his bravado was laid to waste.

David to this day is still defined by the victory over **Goliath**, the **Israeli** over the **Philistines**.

Like **David** to his **Goliath**, our students, the **Class of 2010** is faced with the **Matric Examinations**. It is not the size or the magnitude of the task before you. You are in good hands; **God** is with you every step of the way.

Take your five smooth stones and your sling and swing with all your might. God will guide your efforts to hit your target.

Programme Director, in echoing the message from the MEC for Education in Gauteng, I take this opportunity to urge parents, grandparents and other family members to give their children extra love, care and support ahead of these matric exams.

Let them know that they have your unconditional support as they face this important gateway to adult life. Remember to tell them that even if they do not do as well as you and they would have liked, this is not the end of the world. There are always other opportunities to write again and improve on their matric results.

To each his own, I repeat. To **Nelson Mandela**, a **Long walk to Freedom**. **Rome** was not built in one day. Our first democratic president, **Ntate Nelson Mandela** spent 27 years in prison. With faith belief in things

not yet seen but true to come, he knew that freedom will come. Through the bullet or the Ballot, the Bible or the Gun, Freedom must come and it did.

To the **Class of 2010**, you have spent your twelve years of preparation for this examination. When you first started school twelve years ago, you could hardly spell your name, could not hold the pen, with running noses you cried when your parents and sisters dropped you off at school.

Look at you now, what a lovely picture you paint. You can read and right, figure out difficult mathematical equations, question the correctness of what parents tell you to do. You are as ready as can be.

It has been a long road to freedom indeed. The examinations, after you have dropped them with just one stone, will define you: **Matriculants of Class of 2010**.

Programme Director; allow me to pause to tell a story here. The ferocious dog, the **Bull Terrier**, weighs only forty kilograms. A full grown bull weighs at four hundred kilograms. The Bull Terrier, as its name suggests, brings the full blown bull down every time it is sent to do so. Why? This is because the **Bull Terrier** has a big heart.

To the **Class of 2010**, *“How big is your heart”*. You survived the pressures of Nyaope, substance abuse, you survived alcoholism and abuse and you survived gangsters and crime.

From where I am standing, **“Each of you has a very big heart”**. You are heroes already in my book. I am just like your parents very proud of you. I know in my heart that you are going to bring matric down.

In conclusion, I must tell all of you gathered here, **“It is not the size of the dog in the fight that determines the outcome of the fight, but the fight in the dog”**.

The bull terrier, for its size carries a lot of fight and punch. That is why they make the best fighting dogs. How much fight is in you? I know that there is indeed a lot of fight in all our students here in **Sedibeng**.

To every **Jesus Christ**, there will always be a **Judas Ischariot**. It took the betrayal of Judas to prove to the entire world that indeed **Jesus Christ our Lord** is truly the **Son of God** and our personal **Saviour**. We have been saved through his blood and made righteous by his sacrifice.

As you will begin with your National Senior Certificate examinations on the 25 October 2010 and with your last paper being written on the 3

December 2010, we have decided to come together here today to say to you, don't despair, we are with you all the way.

We urge you to conduct yourselves with honesty during the exams. I am told that cheating and other exam irregularities may definitely result in a criminal record. During the September holidays, you attended classes for revision and exam preparations.

Since schools reopened for the fourth quarter, the grade 12s have been taken to walk-in matric camp sites throughout the province to further help them with revision and exam preparation techniques. We trust that this approach has helped you a great deal. This was to support and prepare you as you will be sitting for the final exams next week.

Please continue to revise with the same focus and dedication over the next remaining period of your exams. Make sure that you keep calm and read the exam questions carefully.

Good luck