

**Speech by the MEC for Education, Mr. Bonakele Majuba at  
the Occasion of the visit to Hlalanikahle Secondary School  
on 03 October 2023**

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Programme Director and Deputy Director General; Mr  
Senzangakhona Mkhwanazi

Executive Mayor of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality; Cllr Nomsa  
Mtsweni

Nkangala District Director; Mr. Douglas Maja

Chairperson of the School Governing Body; Ms MF Mabaso

Members of Senior Management

Members of the District Management Team

Circuit Manager; Mr. DL Bogoshi

Principals of the Participating Schools

Centre Manager; Ms. JM Phatlane

Teachers and none teaching staff

Learners,

**Sanibonani, Dumelani, Good Morning**

We bring with us warm and fraternal greetings as we extend our  
profound appreciation to you for attending these Spring Classes.

We are here today to welcome and thank you for attending the  
Spring Classes as well as to pledge our full support throughout this

wonderful journey as you make final preparations towards your final examinations.

We thank you because you are displaying an understanding of the significance of attending these classes and we are encouraging you to continue to take full advantage of this opportunity.

We appreciate your commitment and dedication to your studies and we can assure you that what you are doing will truly yield positive outcomes at the end of the year and beyond.

We commend you for setting aside all other issues in order to focus and attend these Spring Classes.

These classes afford you an opportunity to get extra assistance from some of the best teachers in the Province. Your teachers are here to help you succeed.

They are passionate about their subjects, and they want to see you succeed. Please respect and listen to them.

Your teachers are learned, experienced and successful hence we advise you to please take their advice to heart.

We are aware that the remaining **28 days** will be challenging to you

and to your teachers as they try to consolidate the work to be done and to ensure that you are fully prepared for the final examinations.

At this time and stage, you have reached what is called a crunch time where you need to more discipline and be able to make sound decisions about your future prospects.

You need to be more focused this time around and avoid any distractions coming your way.

This means avoiding drugs, alcohol, sex, and any other activity which has a potential take your mind and attention away from your studies.

This is the time where you must choose the right supportive friends and manage your time wisely more than before.

Equally, you must respect your parents and heed their guidance and advice at all time. When they say pray, do so without any hesitation.

In all this, you must still find time to exercise and do few house chores at the same time eat properly.

You need to attend classes and engage with your teachers until you write the last paper.

The more you participate in class and ask the right questions, the better you will be prepared for the final examinations.

Remember that you had to struggle in the past 11 school years to be where you are today. You managed to pass your grades in the past and that in itself must encourage and motivate you to look forward to this final examination.

**2023** is your year to prove to yourselves that you are made of a sterner stuff and that you are the best that you could be.

Use the tablets at your disposal to maximize your preparations and your studies

We also wish to remind you to use your half-yearly examination results to apply for NSFAS and admissions to institutions of higher learning. The application deadlines are approaching quickly, so please don't delay.

It will not be wise for you to pass with flying colors only to find that there is no university that has admitted you.

Get more information from your teachers in this regard. You are almost there, do not lose sight of the road you have travelled and the road ahead because you are at the tail end of the finishing line.

There are few basic things you must do to be better prepared for your examination namely;

- Set aside time every day to practice mindfulness techniques which will help you to calm down
- Eat, sleep and exercise well
- Set realistic goals to help you put everything in proper perspective
- Do not go alone, form study groups and engage more with your teachers
- Belief in yourself by avoiding negative thoughts
- If you feel like you are struggling talk to someone – A problem shared is half solved – ***Asking for help is never shameful.***

You must emulate your brothers and sisters who were in your schools in the previous years.

I think you are aware that this school, Hlalahle Secondary School was the first school in the Province to produce the first black overall best learner, **Thabiso Moabi.**

Thabiso managed to outshine all the grade 12 learners in the Province in 2011 and if he did it at that time, you can equally do it this time around.

The 2022 National Senior Certificate Examination Results of Hlalakahle Secondary School **were not impressive**. The school obtained a **50.2%** pass rate.

You need to take a decision to change the status quo, improve the results reclaim the former glory of the school.

**Babutheni Secondary School** obtained a **69.2%** pass rate last year.

**Malebo Secondary School** obtained a **69.8%** pass rate last year.

**Bingweni Secondary School** obtained an impressive **82.7%** pass rate last year.

**Kwamanala Secondary School** obtained an outstanding **85.7%** pass rate last year.

**Mbulawa Secondary School** obtained an outstanding **92.6%** pass rate last year.

**Digwale Secondary School** obtained an outstanding **94.5%** pass rate last year.

In our province we define underperformance as below 70% pass rate and those schools that obtained above 70% did well. You should understand that the performance of the other schools are

recorded by learners who are similar to you and coming from the same background as yourselves.

We are informing you about these performances so that you can see that it is doable. You can change the situation in your schools for the better.

We know and we are fully confident that you can make it.

We believe in you, go out there and shine the light of your true success.

Let me conclude by quoting the legendary Chinese philosopher and great leader, Confucius who said, “Education breeds confidence, confidence breeds hope and hope breeds peace.”

It is now your turn to find this out. We wish you all the best in your education journey which is a journey of discovery.

Once more, congratulations for reaching this far and we wish you the best in your final examinations.

**Thank you.**