

Speech delivered by the MEC for Education, Mr. Bonakele Majuba for the Occasion of the visit at Masizakhe Secondary School on 21 February 2023.

Programme Director and District Director, Mr. PP Magagula

Executive Mayor of Msukaligwa Local Municipality; Cllr Mapulane Precious Nkosi

Chairperson of the School Governing Body; Mr. Peter Sibanyoni

Members of the School Governing Body

Circuit Manager, Mr. AS Netswara

School Principal, Mr. MA Zitha

Members of the School Management Team

Educators

Support Staff

Representatives of the RCL

Learners

Media Representatives present

Sanibonani,

It gives me great pleasure to come and have a brief talk with learners who are well groomed, well disciplined, well behaved and display respect and hard work towards a better future for themselves, the country and our beloved nation. I am also happy that your school is amongst the best performing schools in the province.

Programme Director, it is my firm view that even though the school performed very well, there is still room to improve and do better.

I also want to thank you for the wonderful reception that we have received. I have been talking to your principal and he has informed me about what is happening in your school and I am convinced that you are in the right course and space to push your performance from 94,8% to a 100% pass rate.

My visit this morning is a courtesy call to encourage and inspire you so that you can put into your work more effort, improve on your results for a better future and a better South Africa.

I know that you all have wishes and ambitions of a brighter future and for the majority of you, my learners, the only vehicle that can see you through this is education.

As much as the Constitution of South Africa guarantees you access to education, it is incumbent on you to do your school work and fulfill your study obligations. No one can do it for you, there is no substitute for studying as you owe it to yourself.

One Nigerian scholar, Chinua Achebe once said, “[When suffering comes and knocks at your door and you say there is no seat for him, he says he has brought his own stool.](#)” I love these wise words as they advise and morally bring to us the reality that talking and thinking is not enough as we need to act and fight poverty in a systemic and coordinated fashion.

For you to achieve this requires that you use the time you have and stop postponing. The right time to start studying is now. In the Nguni language we say, “Ligotshwa lisase manzi” so start now so that even as you grow up, you grow up with progressive tendencies that will guarantee your success.

I am encouraged by the achievement of the Grade 12 Class of 2022 and I wish them all the best where ever they are. I also want to congratulate them and challenge the Class of 2023 to do even better. I am well convinced that a 100 percent pass rate is possible here. I want some confirmation and commitment from the Grade 12 Class for the 100% pass.

I also know that learners rely on the shoulders and minds of educators to perform at their maximum level. It is thus for this reason that I also want to acknowledge and appreciate all the teachers at Masizakhe for the good work which resulted in the 94.8 pass percentage in the 2022 Grade 12 Examinations.

School Performance and Commitment from Learners

It is an open secret that co-operation and the spirit of working together for the common good of any institution is key to success. I therefore want to appeal to all of you to work together just like a tripod as parents, teachers and learners to bring some stability and upward mobility in as far as learner performance is concerned.

I also know that you are well versed in this and thus it's just a reminder. Please note that your results for the Class of 2022 are a source of pride for us and we would appreciate you working towards a 100% pass.

I have noted with great appreciation that there was a 21.1% improvement in your overall pass rate from 78.8 % in 2021 to 94.8% in 2022.

You also did amazingly well in 2019 as you achieved 91.0% and then declined in 2020 to 73,3% with a slight improvement of 0.5 to 73.8% in 2021. Even though in your decline, you are relatively performing above average, I am understandably convinced that this decline may be attributed to the lock-down precipitated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

With all said and done, I am here to tell you that a 100% is possible for you and I am here to nudge and encourage you to achieve 100%.

Promise me here and now, that you will work around the clock to improve the 2023 Grade 12 results to **100%**.

I also wish to get an assurance that all grades are going to improve their results qualitatively this time around.

As I have indicated the right time to start is now. I thus want to inform all the Grade 12 learners to apply for bursaries and places to study with universities in the country at an early stage. In this regard, I want to request the Principal and teachers to always provide advice

as Universities will be opening admissions in the third quarter of the school calendar year. Let none of you miss out on this, apply while there is time.

My dear learners make up your minds on this, and seek the best advice possible with the institutions of learning so that come next year you are not found wanting.

Please remain committed to your course for a brighter future and don't allow other things to take your attention from your studies. Do not be discouraged at any point any state of difficulty will come and pass.

Remain focused to your goals, sacrifice some of things that compete for your attention and study time. Appreciate the good work that your teachers are doing by responding positively with enthusiasm to their tasks and assignments.

Respect them at all times because you know that without their guidance and mentoring your future may be doomed.

The future of this country depends on the level of skills, values and attitudes that learners acquire through education. This is your opportunity now and please take advantage of it.

Let me once more express my gratitude to all the educators. The performance profile of the school shows your love and commitment to your work and the learners. Please continue to love and take care

of your learners as loco parentis. Nurture them as your own children and all will be well.

Appreciate the School Governing Bodies

We also wish to thank parents and the school governing body for their support to teachers and learners. It is clear that your role in providing leadership in the area of school governance is adhered to.

Mr. Sibanyoni, please extend our appreciation to all the parents and request them to continue to support their children's education and teachers.

As parents and School Governing Body you have demonstrated that we have a bright future ahead of us and that is evident that we are really moving forward as nation.

Let us put all our hands together and work towards the development of this country and the nation.

Let me conclude by saying, we love you so much and that is the main reason we have come to visit. Please work towards the 100% pass rate.

Ngiyabonga.