

**Speech by the MEC for Education, Bonakele Majuba at the  
Occasion of the Grade 12 Motivational Session at Nkomazi  
East Circuit Schools on 11 May 2023 in Nkomazi Local  
Municipality**

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Programme Director and Acting Director: Ehlanzeni District **Dr.**

**Jabulani Ndlovu**

Representatives of the House of Traditional Leadership

Ward Councillors

Chairpersons of the SGB

Members of the SGB

Pastor Ali Mokoena

Leadership from Vodacom:

Members of the Senior Management

Members of the District Management Team

Nkomazi East Circuit Manager: **Ms. Nelly Happy Mangane**

Principals of the Participating Schools

Leadership of the Representative Council of Learners

Officials of the Department of Education and

Learners

**Sanibonani,**

Thank you very much for honouring us with your presence.

I must say that this meeting is of great value to me and is representative of the wishes and views of the provincial community, especially parents who want to see their children succeeding at the end of the year.

We are truly grateful to be in the company of the Class of 2023 – ***the Class of Dreams***

You have been assigned with the task to dream big and we are convinced that you will realise your dreams.

We are certain that most of you have already started preparing for your end year examination.

Those of you who have not yet started with studying for your secondary school exit should do so with immediate effect.

You need to be aware that there is now no weekend or holiday for you as every day should be efficiently utilised for school work.

You are on the verge of the half year examinations as such you are encouraged to work hard as you need to register good results in the mid -year examination.

Those results will be used by you to apply for your tertiary admission and bursaries.

You need to apply now for both bursaries and admission in institutions of higher education now.

Our advice to you is that you must apply at different institutions and not just one.

**The Province** has managed a **76.8%** pass rate in the 2022 National Senior Certificate Examinations.

**Ehlanzeni Education District** registered a **76.2%** pass rate which is an improvement of 0,6% to the **75.6%** pass rate obtained in 2021.

This improvement placed Ehlanzeni on third spot of the performance chart out of the four education districts in the province behind Gert Sibande and Bohlabela.

Programme Director, the performance of Nkomazi Local Municipality has regressed by **2%** in the 2022 NSC examinations at **73,5%** compared to **75.5%** in 2021.

This performance placed your municipality at number 12 in the 17 municipalities in our province.

Being a gateway to **Mozambique and The Kingdom of Eswatini**, places this municipality as our interface with these two neighbouring countries and as such the need and urge to do well should be self-evident.

To compensate for the lack of industries, factories and mines in this rural place, the need for human resource development is great.

Such a development starts at the level of the school hence everyone needs to do their part to ensure that the human resource development strategy of this municipality is successful.

That could be a cycle of development snowballing towards a better life for all as unemployment and commercial opportunities endear themselves.

We don't need to lose sight then that education is the seed that can lead to the germination and growth of such development opportunities.

Nkomazi is renowned for Ubuntu, selflessness and the spirit of unity.

The other municipalities have been looking at Nkomazi Local Municipality that took schooling and learner performance to heart.

We remember the time when afternoon classes were conducted in Nkomazi and learner performance was at its highest levels.

The best performing circuit following the 2022 NSC examinations in the province is **Lekwa East** in **Gert Sibande** at **96,6%**.

**At Ehlanzeni District**, the best performing circuit is Mbombela Circuit which registered a **91.6%** pass rate.

**Nkomazi East Circuit** lies at bottom of the ladder as **number 15 out of the 15** circuits in the district with a **60.2%** pass performance.

This circuit performance is a reflection of the performance of the schools within the circuit.

In this instance, **Mehlobovu Secondary School** had **214** candidates who wrote and **200** passed thus the school obtained an impressive **93,5%** pass rate.

Added to its performance is **113** Bachelor, **62** Diploma and **25** Higher Certificate passes.

**Mbombo Combined School** had **76** candidates who wrote and **50** passed thus the school obtained **65,8%** pass rate.

It also obtained **15** Bachelor, **17** Diploma, **15** Higher certificate and **03** NSC passes.

**Sincobile Secondary School** had **233** candidates who wrote and **150** passed thus the school obtained **64.4%** pass rate with **40** Bachelor, **59** Diploma and **51** Higher Certificate passes.

**Mgubho Combined School** had **233** candidates who wrote and **140** passed thus the school obtained **60.1%** pass rate with **48** Bachelor, **49** Diploma and **43** Higher Certificate passes.

**Mambane Secondary School** had **309** candidates who wrote and **177** passed thus the school obtained **57.3%** pass rate in the 2022 NSC examination, with **61** Bachelor, **60** Diploma and **56** Higher Certificate passes.

**Khula Secondary School** had **283** candidates who wrote and **156** of them passed which translates to a **55.1%** pass.

Of these candidates, **40** got Bachelor, **67** Diploma and **49** Higher Certificate passes.

**Lambalati Secondary School** had **218** candidates who wrote and **111** who passed which is a **50,9%** pass rate with **28** Bachelor, **43** Diploma and **40** Higher Certificate passes.

**Mjokwane Secondary School** had **316** candidates who wrote and **158** who passed which is a **50,0%** pass rate with **71** Bachelor, **44** Diploma and **43** Higher Certificate passes.

**Professor SS Repinga Combined School** had **68** candidates who wrote and **21** who passed which is a **30,9%** pass rate with **5** Bachelor, **6** Diploma and **40** Higher Certificate passes.

We wish to draw to your attention that every school that has performed below **70%** in the province is deemed to have underperformed.

Judging from these results, the picture for your schools and circuit suggest that something drastically needs to be done this time around.

The only school that performed above **70%** in this circuit is **Mehlobovu Secondary School**.

Please allow me to commend the principal of Mehlobovu, **Ms. Lizzy Chuma**, the teaching and support staff, parents and SGB for this performance. ***keep up the good work*** .

We are informing you about the performance statistics of your schools to invoke in you the desire to improve this time around.

When you improve your results, the results of the circuit, district, province and country will improve too.

**Circuit Manager, Ms. Happy Nelly Mangane**, principals, teachers, parents, support staff and especially you the class of 2023 , **our hope is on your shoulders.**

We are here to offer our support to all.

Let us hold hands and work together to make it happen.

Programme Director, as a Province and Department we have a culture of rewarding good performance and excellence.

The 2022 overall best learner in the National Senior Certificate examinations hails from Highveld Secondary School in Elukwatini.

Her name is **Bathobile Nkambule** and she was raised by a single mother in a rural municipality where against all odds she worked her socks out and obtained distinctions in all her subjects.

She was the overall best learner in quintile 1 schools in the country and the best of the best in Mpumalanga and thus for her achievements she was a rewarded with:

- **R10 000.00** courtesy of SASOL
- **R 15 000.00** courtesy of Standard Bank,
- **R 20 000.00** courtesy of ABSA,
- **R 15 000.00** courtesy of IDC,
- a tablet from Vodacom,
- a Power Bank and Bluetooth Headphone from Telkom
- as well as Bar Fridge, Steam Iron and Travel Bag.

She also received a full bursary from the Mpumalanga Provincial Government that caters for tuition, accommodation, stationary, meals and a monthly stipend. She also received a brand new sponsored car.

You too, can perform like her and even get more than what she achieved.

This is possible only if you listen attentively to your teachers and make decisions to do things better with more vigour and commitment.

I am quite sure that the whole community of Nkomazi East is not happy with obtaining the last position on offer at the circuit level, hence our call to action to all of you.

**All that you need to do** is to take a position and work smarter and harder than before – respect your teachers, pay attention to what they are telling you and walk an extra mile in your school work.

**You must stop blaming your environment** and others for your lack of focus and laziness but look at the positive side of things and make things work for you.

It is only you who must rise to the occasion in order to be counted amongst the best of the best.

The stories of **Bathobile Nkambule** must inspire you and invoke in you the desire to succeed at all cost.

With humility, wisdom, integrity, self-discipline and accountability, the character of a winning learner, your dream of passing grade 12 can come true.

Every dream does come true but one needs to work towards it. It shouldn't be just a walk in the park.

This is your chance, take advantage and make it count.

## **Conclusion**

Programme Director, as I conclude, it is only fair to say that the achievement of Bathobile Nkambule must be a challenge to all learners in the Province.

You can also do the same and even better.

It is on those bases that I make a challenge to the Class of 2023 to emulate her performance and strive to do even better than her.

Let us begin today to take up this challenge with renewed energy, focus, hope and determination.

Tell yourselves that you can do it, albeit in a qualitative.

I hope that some of you will be part of the group of top learners that we will honour when we announce the 2023 National Senior Certificate Results in January 2024 at the University of Mpumalanga.

Seize the moment, aim for the sky.

It is possible, **only you can make it happen.**

**Siyabonga Kakhulu.**