

**Speech by the MEC for Education, Mr. Bonakele Majuba at the occasion of the Memorial Service of the late three teachers who passed away on Wednesday, 28 February 2024**

---

Programme Director and Head: Education, **Mrs. Lucy Moyane**

Ehlanzeni District Executive Mayor, **Cllr J Sidel**

The City of Mbombela Executive Mayor, **Cllr Sibongile-Makhushe –Mazibuko**

Members of the Bereaved Families, **Baka Nkosi, Sibisi, Toga**

Members of the School Governing Bodies of **Tikhontele and Masitakhe Secondary Schools**

Provincial Chairperson of the Moral Regeneration Movement, **Rev MM Nthali**

Provincial Chairperson of the South African Democratic Teachers Union, **Mr Oupa Bodibe**

Representative of Different Labor Formations

Pastors who have graced this occasion

Principals of Tikhontele Secondary School, **Mr. Nkosi** and Masitakhe Secondary School, **Mr. Hadebe**

Principals of the surrounding Schools

Teachers

Learners

Parents

Members of the Community who are following this occasion in different media platforms

## Sanibonani

Indeed, it is with profound sadness and a heavy heart that we mourn the passing of three dedicated teachers who passed away tragically in a car accident on Wednesday afternoon.

These beloved teachers were participants in a training program at the OR Tambo Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy which ended on Wednesday and our wish was that they will return to impart their skills to continue to empower our learners to reach their full potential.

We were all shocked to receive the sad news that they succumbed to the accident on the way back home.

This loss is a significant blow to the Province considering that we are mobilizing all energies and resources to improve the intake and pass rate of Mathematics, Physical Science and Technology which the late teachers were so passionate about.

The Province is currently one of the few Provinces which have registered a number of learners in these subjects and are passing them in a more encouraging manner.

At the occasion of the Announcement of the 2023 National Senior Certificate Examination Results there were eight learners who obtained 100% pass rate in Mathematics (*300 out of 300*), there were five learners who obtained 100% (*300 out of 300*) in Physical Science

Learners in Tikhontele Secondary School registered a **91%** pass rate in Physical Science and **95%** in Mathematics.

Learners in Masitakhe Secondary School recorded an **78 %** pass rate in Physical Science.

This happened through the efforts of our late teachers who we are paying homage to today

Nkululeko Circuit improve its grade 12 results from the **82.1%** obtained in 2023 to **84.2%** in 2023 and this too confirms the contribution of these teachers.

Their contributions to the success of Mpumalanga's educational initiatives, including the impressive pass rates does not go unnoticed.

They have helped us to demystify the perception that Mathematics and Physical Science are difficult subjects.

It is for this reason that we request parents and our children to consider these subjects because of the immense potential that these subjects have in unlocking future prospects.

These teachers have embodied the spirit of continuous improvement and embraced technology to empower future generations.

Their passion and dedication resonated with the words of **Marie Curie, a pioneer in scientific research, who declared,**

"One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done."

These fallen educators were not simply teachers, they were mentors, role models, and catalysts for positive change.

They ignited a passion for learning in countless learners, leaving an indelible mark on their lives.

Their legacy will continue to inspire future generations to pursue excellence in STEM fields.

As Albert Einstein, the renowned physicist, once stated,

*"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing."*

These educators embodied this spirit of curiosity and instilled it in their learners, fostering a love for exploration and discovery.

We offer our deepest condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of the deceased.

May their memory be a lasting blessing, and may their dedication to education continue to inspire us all.

We pray for their souls to find eternal peace.

Rest in peace our dear teachers.

Your light may have dimmed, but the flame of knowledge you ignited will continue to burn brightly.

We wish to use this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone, the Nkululeko Circuit Condolence Committee, the Two Schools Management teams and School Governing Bodies, the entire community of Mastulu, Members of the SAPS, Our Sister Departments, Abafundisi and Officials of the Department.

I received a number of phone calls from in and around the country paying their tributes to the fallen teachers.

We are truly grateful for all the support to the families and to the two schools.

May the Souls of the Departed Rest in Peace!

**Ngiyabonga.**