

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR EDUCATION, MS LINDI MASINA, DURING THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF SILULU SECONDARY SCHOOL, NKOMAZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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

Honourable Members of the Executive Council-**MEC Thulasizwe Thomo**

Acting Executive Mayor of Nkomazi Local Municipality, **Cllr TN Dlamini - Makamo**

Ward Councilor

Representatives of the House Traditional and Khoisan Leaders

Senior Managers of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport

School Governing Body

Members of Senior Management

Leadership of Education Sector Unions

Ehlanzeni District Director, **Dr Jabulani Ndlovu**

Circuit Manager, **Mr. TM Mabuza**

Principal of Silulu Secondary School, **Mr. DS Sindane**

Teachers

President of the Representative Council of Learners

Representatives of the Council of Learners

Our beloved learners

Our Parents

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Sanibonani

This occasion marks a moment of great significance for the entire Province of Mpumalanga.

We gather here to celebrate the fulfilment of a promise, the triumph of hope, and a decisive step towards building a better future for generations to come.

For many years, the name *Silulu* has been associated with a well of water—a source of life, sustenance, and renewal.

Today, that meaning takes on a deeper and more profound significance.

From this day forward, Silulu becomes a well of knowledge, a place where young minds will be nurtured, where dreams will take shape and where future leaders of our nation will be prepared.

This state-of-the-art school stands as clear evidence that a government of the people, by the people, and for the people continues to invest in its most valuable asset -its citizens.

Every classroom we build is an investment in tomorrow.

Every learner we empower strengthens the foundation of our province.

As indicated by my colleague, **MEC Thulasizwe Thomo**, this facility has been designed to provide an enabling environment where teaching and learning can flourish.

It is an investment in dignity, in opportunity and in the boundless potential of every child who will walk through these gates.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport for their dedication, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment in delivering this remarkable project.

Your work continues to transform communities across Mpumalanga and demonstrates that quality public infrastructure remains one of the most powerful tools for social and economic development.

On behalf of the people of Mpumalanga, we say: **Siyabonga Kakhulu.**

As the Department of Education, we accept this beautiful facility with humility and a profound sense of responsibility.

We commit ourselves to ensuring that this school is maintained, protected, and utilised as a centre of excellence and community development for many decades to come.

This school belongs to all of us parents, educators, learners, and the broader community. It is a shared asset, and its future depends on our collective responsibility.

I therefore call upon the community of Silulu to embrace the ***Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign***—Love Your School.

Let us stand united against vandalism and neglect. Let us protect every classroom, every desk, every book, every computer, and every window.

Let us embrace this school as a proud symbol of our shared heritage, unity, and collective aspirations.

It stands as a beacon of hope for generations to come.

We are confident that this milestone will inspire even greater academic excellence among all learners across this municipality.

Nkomazi Local Municipality has, over time, distinguished itself as one of the top-performing municipalities in the National Senior Certificate examinations.

The steady progression in results tells a story of resilience and commitment:

From a **75.6%** pass rate in 2023, to an impressive **89.4%** in 2024, and sustaining a strong **87.1%** in 2025.

This consistent performance is a confirmation of the dedication of our educators, learners, parents, and all stakeholders.

Equally commendable is the performance across all three circuits, each achieving results above **86%** in 2025:

- Nkomazi East attained an encouraging **86.1%** pass rate

- Nkomazi Central delivered a strong **89.2%** pass rate
- Nkomazi West excelled with an outstanding **94.3%** pass rate

These achievements affirm that excellence is not an exception, but a growing standard within this municipality.

As a Department, having made significant investments in improving school infrastructure, it is both reasonable and inspiring to set our sights even higher.

We must now work collectively towards the realization of a **100%** pass rate.

We say this with confidence because Silulu Secondary School is part of a broader programme of transformation in this municipality.

Many of you have witnessed the construction of new and modern learning facilities, including:

- Ilanga Secondary School,
- Mgobodzi Primary School,
- Mpumelelo Primary School,
- Ndindindi Primary School, and
- Zithulele Primary School

These developments signal a new era of opportunity and excellence.

Together, let us harness this momentum to ensure that every learner in Nkomazi reaches their full potential, and that this municipality continues to lead as a shining example of educational success in our province.

Because when we protect our schools, we protect the future of our children.

Ladies and gentlemen, Silulu Secondary School now stands as a reservoir of knowledge and a firm foundation upon which thousands of dreams will be built.

It is here that futures will be shaped, talents discovered, and ambitions realized.

Thank you to everyone who made this day a success, lets the sun rise from here.

I thank you.