



**MAYOR'S WELCOMING NOTES ON THE OCCASION OF THE CLASS OF 2017
MATRIC AWARDS CEREMONY HELD IN MALUTI CIVIC CENTRE ON 01 FEBRUARY
2018.**

Programme Director,

District Director

**Matatiele Local Municipality political leadership and Management present
here,**

Maluti District Department of Education Management and staff

Circuit Managers, Principals and educators,

District Education Forum,

Organised labour

Traditional leaders present here,

Matatiele Stakeholders,

Our special guests (awardees in their different categories),

Abamameli be-Alfred Nzo Community Radio,

Members of the Media (electronic and print)

Programme Director,

Mandithabathe elithuba kuqala ndibulele ukuba kunye nani kulomsitho. Sisaqala unyaka nje mandininqwenelele nonke unyaka omtsha ozele amathamsanqa, ngokholo lokuba u2018 uzokusiphathela izinto ezintle nangakumbi.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

The January 8th statement as delivered by the ruling in East London last month declared 2018 as the year of Nelson Mandela. Ilizwe kulonyaka lizakube liqaphela iminyaka elikhulu yokuzalwa ukuba ebesaphila uMadib'omde. And

in occasions like these we can't not remember him. His passion and commitment in the education of an African child cannot be doubted. As the Municipality we align fully with his words as well as the Freedom Charter that says "The doors of learning and culture shall be opened to all". The mere fact that we are here today says it all.

What we have to ask ourselves today is whether our teachers, learners, education managers, parents and organized labour embodies the spirit of Nelson Mandela. The spirit of hard work, honesty, sacrifice, and selflessness.

- Do we have a clear idea of the true state of our basic Education today?
- Are our teachers and parents an embodiment of hope and inspiration to the learners?

Even for us as political principals, we have started a process to scrutinize our contribution towards the future of our children, and the African child in particular. Programme Director, we are asking ourselves difficult questions nowadays – one of those is 'Do we really love our children considering that we are the custodian of their dreams?'

It is proper that during events like these, we remind ourselves of the great words of wisdom from our all-time icons. Utata Mandela once said **and I quote** "It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, a son of a mineworker can become a head of the mine, and a child of a farm worker can become the President" – **end quote**. Ladies and gentlemen – these are sentiments we wish to bring to reality during our time, because indeed Education can make possible what looked impossible.

To the stakeholders present here today,

I want to urge you to pay particular attention to the following matters that are critical to the success of our education system:

- Learner Transport
- Infrastructure maintenance and refurbishment
- Water and dignified sanitation
- Appointment of teachers for all grades and subjects
- The most important priority must be to improve the quality of learning and teaching in the early grades, so as to ensure that learners are equipped with the skills needed to cope with the curriculum requirement of the higher grades
- Delivery of text books on time

The National Development Plan (NDP) instructs us to strengthen accountability and improve management of schools.

It further states that by 2030 we must achieve a target of 450 000 learners being eligible for a Bachelor's programme with Mathematics and Science.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Let me join hands and congratulate all 2017 NSC matriculants and wish them well in their future endeavours. Our Province is showing a very good improvement and positive trajectory; we need to thank the Class of 2017 for working hard in ensuring that we move towards the right direction. We know that our District has spread its jurisdiction but in spite of that, we have managed to receive more than 67% and we managed to become number Five in the Province from number 12 in 2016.

HONOURABLE COUNCILLORS

Today as the Municipality we are emphasising the importance of working together with stakeholders and the Community to move our education system forward in our sub-district. The theme for these awards is well articulated and says "Towards quality education system in Maluti Sub-District together". It calls on all of us to work together to ensure that we go back to basics by ensuring that every stakeholder participates in the development of our education system.

Once more, as part of youth development, the Municipality is continuing with the programme targeting deserving learners from disadvantaged families, who have been of cause admitted in institutions of higher learning.

We will even this year continue with our bursary programme and assist deserving learners with registration fees to higher institutions of their choice. We are also mindful of the pronouncement by President Jacob Zuma on free education, and its critical role in ensuring that thousands of our children access education.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am convinced that the class of 2018 can perform better than the 2017 class, we therefore call upon our educators, learners, parents, and all role players to commit themselves to nothing less than Eighty percent (80 %) pass this year.

I stand here as a servant of our people to recommit our Municipality in boosting education levels in Matatiele. I have instructed my office to make sure that we host Education Summit before the end of this quarter where all local education

stakeholders will meet to discuss educational challenges and necessary interventions.

BAPHULA PHULI

As I conclude, we are not forgetting those who did not make it in 2017. I urge them to venture into other opportunities that government is offering.

We would like to extend a word of gratitude to all educators who sacrificed their time and energy to shape our District to be where it is today. The learners, who some of them did not sleep when they were preparing for the exams - we say now the sky is the limit. We also thank the parents and the society at large for supporting the education system. Let me also congratulate Mothibisi SSS which has registered an improvement of more than 50% from less than 10% in 2016. We say to you all Bravo. **“Together we move Matatiele forward”**.

Ladies and gentlemen you are all welcome to the Matric Awards ceremony for the class of 2017.

I thank you.