

**REMARKS BY HIS WORSHIP THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR. MORRIS
MATABOGE DURING THE 2018 DISTRICT MATRIC
AWARDS CEREMONY**

12 JANUARY 2018

FOREVER RESORT, BELA-BELA

10H00

Programme Directors,

The Mayor of Bela Bela Local Municipality, Cllr. Ngobeni,

Mayors of local municipalities present,

*Speakers led by the District Speaker Cllr Sara Lamola who`s also
the Programme Director,*

Chief Whips led by the District Chief Whip Cllr. Tsebe,

Members of the Mayoral Committee,

Traditional Leaders present,

Councillors,

Sponsors,

The District Managers, Pastor Madela and Mr. Mangala,

The District Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Gladwin Tloubatla,

Management of the Resort

Parents, Principals, teachers and learners,

Representatives of Labour Formations,

Representatives of Student Formations,

Officials from both municipalities and sector departments,

Media Houses present,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

A VERY GOOD MORNING,

Let me pass my fraternal greetings and compliments of the New Year on behalf of the Council and the people of Waterberg.

It is always an honour and privilege for me to stand before a group of determined young people like the ones we hosting today.

The fact that we hosting you today is a true reflection of much you all want to succeed and better the lives of the community from the area you coming from.

You have indeed proved to your peers, community, parents and educators that nothing is insurmountable if you put your focus to it. If you consistently keep this attitude, I am certain that you will all go very far.

It makes me very proud indeed because you ensured that giving up is never an option and against all odds, continued to chase your goals.

Programme Director, we have always maintained to continue with this rituals annually regardless of the outcome of the results to ensure that we motivate our learners to take their studies and education seriously in building a prosperous district and nation.

Lord Almighty has heard our prayers. We again improved our Grade 12 provincial performance from position 4 in 2015 to position 2 in 2017.

This only happened through hard work by all stakeholders involved in education (being it education authorities, schools, teachers, principals, communities, Faith-based organisations, business, unions and the broader society).

The work you do for our children should not be taken lightly. You help us build a better country wherein young people are empowered with skills and opportunities to grow and develop into responsible, successful and prosperous citizens.

Matric opens the doors to a possibility of a better life for all, in a better country and a better world.

The matric exam is a measure of achievements of twelve years of schooling. Matric results rank among important performance indicators of the schooling system. That's why we're so grateful to see our children succeeding and moving beyond this stage.

Through hard work, improved strategies as well as the involvement of more people and communities in education, we managed to witness an impressive improvement over the past four years in the country.

This should be an indication that we're on the right path as a nation. Working together we will still continue to correct the educational challenges inherited when we took over government in 1994.

I thank all our learners, some of whom are here, for an exceptional work in preparing today for a better tomorrow.

“Let us please give a round of applause to the Class of 2017”.

Programme Director, we are aware that education is not a local government function, but our district has always gone beyond its mandate and together with the Department of Education and other partners, engaged in the transformation and development of education in schools within our district – assisting where we can, facilitating and creating a conducive environment for education and learning.

The National Development Plan (NDP) states that if we are to overcome the legacy of apartheid, it is essential that everyone has access to education at a high standard, regardless of who they are and where they live. The NDP's vision for education and training is to ensure that all children have the benefit of high-quality education, especially with regard to languages, maths and science with the ultimate aim of ensuring that 90% of learners pass these subjects with at least 50% by 2030.

In addition, the post-school sector has to meet the education and training needs of individuals over 18. Together with the higher-education sector, the reform of the Basic Education system will play a critical role in producing the skills and knowledge required to drive South Africa's economic and social development.

The NDP further recognises education as the cornerstone upon which a nation that provides opportunities for social mobility, equity, social justice and democracy will depend.

Ladies and gentlemen, our 2017 Matric Results has done us proud as the Waterberg District, we are encouraged by the quality of the outcome, the improvement and the opportunity they present to our children, especially those from our poorest communities.

Our performance analysis from 2012 was fluctuating but happened to be consistent in the last two years as per the following analysis:

- In 2012 we obtained 60.1%- an improvement of 4.3% from 55.8% in 2011 and placed us in position 5 provincially;

- In 2013 we obtained 70.6%- an improvement of 10.5% and placed us provincial in position 2;
- In 2014 we obtained 70.5% - a decline of 0.1% and place us in position 4 at provincial level;
- In 2015 we obtained 58.7%- a decline of 11.8%, the worst we ever got and placed us in position 4 at provincial level;
- In 2016 we obtained 64.2% - an improvement of 5.5% and placed us in position 3 at provincial level.

Programme Director, this analysis of our performance indicates that we are still below 70%, which we only achieved in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Although we are above the national norm of 60%, more is still to be done to occupy our rightful place, the number 1 position in the province.

Waterberg District matriculants were very fortunate and privileged to have been nurtured in a district that harbours success, invests in a holistic approach, embraces diversity and sharpens creativity.

Ladies and gentlemen, the 2017 Grade 12 results for the Waterberg District are as follows:

NO. WROTE	NO. PASSED	PASS per percentage %	NO. FAILED	FAIL per percentage %
6 068	4 214	69.5%	1 854	30.5%

As already alluded to, Waterberg District managed to obtain position two (2) at the provincial level. We further obtained 1 349 bachelors, 1 672 diplomas and 1 193 higher certificate.

These results demonstrates the improved quality in the district.

We have the District Ambassadors, these are schools and circuits that represented Waterberg at the Provincial Awards.

In the district we have a Circuit with over 500 learners and the school with 50 or more candidates which obtained 100% pass.

Programme Director, let me take this opportunity to applaud schools which put Waterberg on the map by obtaining a 100% pass rate during the 2017 matric results **(names of those will be announced at a later stage)**

Ladies and gentlemen, the other equally important category that deserve a special applause is the most improved school in the district which details will also be divulged later.

We once more congratulate their principals, teachers, SGB`s and learners themselves for the total commitment they displayed. Although we can boldly pride ourselves of the notable gains, in transforming education, much still need to be done to improve its quality across the entire system.

It is essential that necessary measures be taken to ensure that our people develop trust and confidence across all our schools irrespective of their geographic location and status.

Let me once more take this opportunity to salute all our learners who passed the 2017 matric in particular with flying colours. The former and late President of the African National Congress and the Republic of South Africa, Tata Nelson Mandela once said: **(I quote)” A winner is a dreamer who never gives up” (Unquote).** You never gave up and that is why you are winners.

We also encourage those who have not made it not to be disheartened. Even by writing the matric exams you got so much that many failed to get. Don`t be embarrassed by your failure, start again.

Special thanks must be directed to the two District Directors (Pastor Julia Madela and Mr. Ndo Mangala) for working tirelessly in pulling out the district out of the ICU by transforming the education system in the two districts.

Through the partnerships that we are enjoying with public/private sectors, we will make sure that no deserving young person, from whatever background, is denied the opportunity to develop his or her potential.

We thank all sponsors for making this ceremony a success – please continue supporting and motivating our learners, teachers and all those involved in our education sector.

We are pleased that through the support we are beginning to see, previously disadvantaged learners gradually make inroads in the ranks of high performers.

Finally, Programme Director, congratulations to all recipients of the awards. Please use these awards to better the future of yourselves, the district, the province and the entire country.

Franz Fanon- an African Revolutionary once said ***“each generation must find its mission, either betray it or fulfil it”***. At the end of the day it is all about choice.

Education remains the key to address the country’s triple challenges which are poverty, unemployment and inequality.

KE A LEBOGA, I THANK YOU ALL !!!