

**ADDRESS BY HIS WORSHIP CLLR S.M. MATABOGE THE  
EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF WATERBERG DISTRICT  
MUNICIPALITY DURING THE 2016 MATRIC AWARDS  
CEREMONY**

**13 JANUARY 2017**

**FOREVER RESORTS**

**10H00.**

*Programme Directors,*

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

*Mayors of local municipalities present,*

*Representatives of the Local House of Traditional Leaders led by  
Kgoshigadi Taueatsoala,*

*Speakers led by the District Speaker Cllr Sara Lamola,*

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

*Members of the Mayoral Committee,*

*Councillors,*

*Pastor Ndlovu,*

*Sponsors and in particular Quanti-Build,*

*The District Director of Waterberg District Department of  
Education, Mrs Julia Madela,*

*The District Director of Mogalakwena District Department of  
Education, Mr. Ndo Mangala,*

*The District Municipal Manager, Mr Sam Mabotja,*

*Management of the Resort led by Mr. Tom Biewenga,*

*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.*

**GOOD MORNING,**

Ladies and gentlemen, let me pass my fraternal greetings and compliments of 2017 on behalf of the people of the Waterberg and in particular to the Class of 2016.

We are assembled here today to celebrate achievements of the 2016 National Senior Certificate learners. We shall continue with this annual ritual regardless of the outcome of the results in an endeavour to encourage and motivate our learners to take their studies and education seriously to build a prosperous nation.

We do this with fresh memories of the district's 'unsatisfactory' performance in 2015 which left all of us shocked, disappointed, embarrassed **but** still determined to overcome the situation and turn things around. We are on a mission to go back where we belong ***“to the top of the table”***.

Programme Director, the learners we celebrate today have finished their minimum twelve years of schooling and their hard work is rewarded with certificates that will open doors to their bright future.

It is the culmination of a lengthy process of teaching and learning that was supported by thousands of our teachers, parents and all other stakeholders throughout the corners of our district and beyond.

We wish to recognize all the efforts of our teachers, especially those that teach in the lower grades and never get the opportunity to attend this special occasion.

There are a number of interventions that we embarked upon over the years aimed at improving not only the pass rate, but also the quality of results. These interventions include amongst others, **the Back-to School and the Adopt a School Library campaigns.**

In partnership with UNISA more than fifteen thousand books have been distributed amongst the schools. One of the schools that benefited from this campaign is Seoketseng High School in Lephhalale Local Municipality.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are grateful that since then Seoketseng Secondary School is one of the best performing schools in the district. Such interventions have a positive bearing on the quality of the results. Aristotle once said **(I quote) "Quality is not an act, it is a habit" (Close quote).** Working together we can make quality of learning and teaching a habit to improve performance.

There are of course education challenges that the sector is faced with. These include amongst others the following:

- Infrastructure challenges including dilapidated classrooms,
- Classroom furniture,
- Uncoordinated Modularisation in schools,
- Scholar transport,
- Provision of basic services including water and sanitation and
- Learning equipment such as libraries.

There are also strategic interventions that government has put in place going forward which include the building, renovation and provision of sanitation in schools and plans for free education in the near future.

Programme Director, we want to take this opportunity to thank top performing schools and learners for the job well done. We are still adamant that we will surpass this pass rate if more efforts are invested. To the under-performing schools we do not make failing a convention. Work harder and make a difference. To regressed schools, we say you can do better and make the district proud if you double your efforts.

Education open doors and can change lives. Teachers are the backbone of education. All stakeholders including parents have a role to play in education because it is a societal issue.

Ladies and gentlemen, before I announce the District performance for 2016, I just want to give an analysis of our performance provincially from 2012 to 2015.

- In 2012, we achieved 60.1% which was an improvement of 4.3% from 55.8% obtained in 2011. This placed the district on position 5 provincially.
- In 2013, we managed to obtain 70.6% which was an improvement of 10%. This improvement placed us on position 2.
- In 2014 we managed to obtain 70.5% which was a decline of 0.1%. This placed the district at position 4.
- In 2015 we obtained 58,1% a terrible decline of 12.4%. This placed the district at position 4

All of us were really shocked by these results. Let me state that this decline in 2015 has resulted in our district performing below the national norm of 60%.

Programme Director, for the 2016 academic year we managed to obtain 65.1% which is an improvement of 7% from the 2015 results. This placed the district at position 3 at the Provincial level.

We are proud of our circuits, schools and learners who performed outstandingly by putting us on the Provincial map.

We say so because only three positions are recognised and we managed to get out of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

We have the District Ambassadors; these are schools and circuits that represented the Waterberg District at the Provincial Awards. In the district we have Potgietersrus Circuit with over 500 learners. The schools which were recognised as ambassadors at the Provincial Awards with more than 50 learners are:

1. Waterberg High School and Frikkie Meyer Hoerskool.
2. Ebenezer High was recognised as the school that has shown continuous improvement from 2014 to 2016. In 2014 the school obtained 62%, in 2015, 69% and in 2016 it obtained 83.2%, which is an improvement of 21.2%.

Programme Director, let me take this opportunity to applaud schools which put Waterberg on the map by obtaining a 100% pass rate during the 2016 matric results and those are:

1. Mapanolla High School in Mokopane Circuit
2. Kgaubotlhale High School in Bakenberg South Circuit
3. Gobela High School in Mahwelereng Circuit
4. Thekganang High School in Waalboom Circuit
5. Dimpe High School in Phalala South Circuit
6. Seoketseng High School in Phalala South Circuit
7. Waterberg High School in Potgietersrus Circuit
8. Hoerskool Frikkie Meyer in Thabzimbi Circuit

Ladies and gentlemen, some of these schools are located in deep rural areas of the district.

We once more congratulate their principals, teachers, SGB`s and learners themselves for the total commitment they displayed.

To the Class of 2016, it is always an honour and a privilege for me to stand before a group of determined young people like yourselves. The fact that you are all seated here today is a true reflection of how much you all want to succeed and better your own lives and those of communities that you come from.

That makes us very proud. I say this because, you ensured that giving up was never an option and against all odds continued to chase your goals. You have proven to your peers, community, parents and educators that nothing is impossible if you put your mind to it. If you keep that attitude, I am certain that you will all go very far.

While there are many young people who work hard, there are also many others who choose not to, so for being chosen as the top learners, you can most certainly be proud of your achievements.

Programme Director, in 1994 we embarked on an uncertain journey to build a new non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa. Twenty two years later, we have a lot to be proud of and the remaining challenges must not dim what we have achieved.

Let me take this opportunity to thank our potential sponsor, QuantiBuild for generously providing bursaries for three learners who performed well coming from extremely needy families within the district. We are very grateful of their contribution to the transformation of our education system.

We are looking forward to taking this partnership to the next level and cementing a deal for the ensuing academic years. ***Mr. Corrie Pretorius, your generosity is much appreciated, please keep up the good work.***

May I then take this opportunity to thank all the social partners in particular the Management of Forever Resort, Bela Bela who are consistently standing by our side whenever we make a call for support.

Working together we can move the District results to the summit,  
because we believe that it is where we belong.

**I THANK YOU!!!!**