

**ADDRESS BY HIS WORSHIP THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DURING THE 2021
DISTRICT MATRIC AWARDS CEREMONY**

27 JANUARY 2022

THE PARK HOTEL

MOKOPANE

*Programme Directors, MMC Taueatsoala and Mr. Mosito,
Pastor,*

*The Mayor of Mogalakwena Local Municipality, Cde.
Ngoako Taueatsoala,*

*Chairperson of the Local House of Traditional Leaders
Inkosi Mahlangu,*

*Speakers led by the District Speaker Cde. Reggy
Molokomme,*

*Chief Whips led by the District Chief Whip Cde. Monare,
Councillors,*

Representatives of Labour formations,

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

*The District Municipal Manager, Mr. Preciusstone
Raputsoa,*

*The Acting Municipal Manager of Mogalakwena Local
Municipality Mr. Hendrick Ngoepe,*

***Senior Managers and officials from both municipalities
and the Department of Education.***

Management of The Park Hotel,

All our partners in the Education Sector,

Media Houses present,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

GOOD MORNING, GOIE MORE, THOBELA!

Programme Director,

Let me also join others in passing my fraternal greetings and compliments of the New Year on behalf of the people of Waterberg.

It is with great pleasure to stand before this august house to present to you the Waterberg District 2021 Matric Awards which has become an annual event since 2012 and started with Waterberg as the first of its kind in Limpopo.

This is an opportunity for the Waterberg District Municipality to not only give out awards but to reinforce cooperative governance at grass root level.

Our democratic government led by the African National Congress has put systems in place that contributed to an improvement in the performance of the matric results and that has necessitated our gathering here today.

The slight improvement of the Grade 12 results nationally constitute a major milestone of the current administration in our democratic dispensation.

There has been greater stability in the Education sector in curriculum implementation at least for the past years.

This has afforded teachers, learners and officials more time to familiarise themselves with the objectives of the curriculum.

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, we are 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.

As the Waterberg District Municipality, we resolved in 2012 to intensify the Back- to -School Campaign which is a programme of visiting schools when they re-open in January and motivating learners, teachers and School Governing Bodies.

This initiative has worked for us as local government in strengthening our relationship with the Department of Education, Higher Learning Institutions, Organised Labour and Student formations.

Ladies and gentlemen, our cohort of 2021 have been very unfortunate to attend and write their grade 12 during the momentous year in the history of our beloved motherland.

It was our second year after the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic which started affecting their syllabuses from Grade 11.

Our Waterberg District matriculants were however, fortunate and privileged to have been nurtured in a district that harbours success, invests in a holistic approach, embraces diversity and hones or sharpen creativity.

They have been fortunate to be mentored by a crème of officials that cares about the future of our children.

This was proofed by the risks taken to continuously keep our children studying and learning even during very difficult circumstances.

Programme Director, we gathered here today, to celebrate with our 2021 Matriculants, a momentous period during their schooling career.

Not only do they bid farewell to 12 long difficult years of study, they also bid farewell to their respective schools which, most probably has been more than a place of learning.

Today, you collectively bid farewell to your teachers and mentors who taught you more than the national syllabus.

You learnt about values which are critical armaments in aiding human endeavour and these include amongst others:

- ❖ *Life,*
- ❖ *Love,*
- ❖ *Respect and*
- ❖ *Camaraderie (friendship)*

These values will carry you through your later life as an adult, as a mother or father and as a patriotic citizen of our great district, province and country.

Ladies and gentlemen, our 2021 Matric Results has done us proud as the Waterberg District, we are encouraged by the quality of the outcome and the opportunity they present to our children, especially those from our poorest communities.

As we know education act as a catalyst to remove them from the shackles of poverty and under-development.

Today we are here to applaud the top performed students, circuits, schools and teachers for the 2021 academic year.

It is with great pleasure to acknowledge that Waterberg has permanently moved out of the ICU it used to be with regards to matric awards results. We used to be at the bottom of the table, however, there has been tremendous improvement over the years.

The analysis of the improvement for Mogalakwena District is as follows:

We received 68.5% in 2019,

66.8% in 2020 which is a decrease of 1.8%, and

72.0% for 2021 which reflects an increase of 5.2% and pushed us to position No.2 Provincially.

This is indeed an immense improvement that need to be applauded.

This is an improvement we proud of despite various challenges we experienced as a result of being predominantly rural and Covid19.

We are particularly proud of our schools from the disadvantaged areas that have consistently shown the greatest improvements as well as our students from these schools, whom despite the odds against them were able to achieve.

No-where can the rages of apartheid be seen clearly than on the education spectrum, which is why we are proud of the steady improvements displayed by schools from the disadvantaged areas.

Although we can boldly proud 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.

The challenge is also for the private sector to make more meaningful contribution to our under-resourced schools as part of their social responsibilities.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are confident that with the quality of teaching imparted to our matriculants through their schooling years, all of them are more likely to become leaders in society.

They will have the opportunity to offer positive influence to many people for the greater good of society and our country at large.

With the talent demonstrably evident in this hall, we are sure that some of you will create significant companies, while others will teach generations of new citizens.

I am hopeful that within your group, there are future leaders who will become world famous academics, economists, engineers and scientists.

Honoured matriculants, please regard yourselves as a rare kind for you represent the intellectual elite of the Waterberg District at large.

Today is your important day in your journey as you mark the end of this stage in your life to the next, full of hope and expectations knowing that the education system has provided you with the requisite skills and mind-sets needed to embrace an unknown future.

Ladies and gentlemen, today we are not only celebrating the achievements of the candidates and schools, but also paying tribute to the principals, teachers, parents, Organised labour and School Governing Bodies for their contribution towards growing Waterberg as a ***“Theatre of Learning”***.

While we proud ourselves of the achievements, we can and must jointly do better to improve the quality of Education.

This can only happen when we always embark on forward planning, hard work, dedication and commitment

While we celebrate the these massive achievement, we should stand by the words of the former President of the Republic, the late Nelson Mandela when he once said ***“it is after one has climbed the first mountain that one realises there are many more mountains to climb”***

Let me once more take this opportunity to salute all our learners who passed the 2021 matric especially those with flying colours. You made all of us proud, your parents, teachers and the community you represent.

We also encourage those who have not make it not to be disheartened. Even by writing the matric exams you got so much that many failed to get.

“ You are not the one who failed but the method you employ failed you”.

So go back to the drawing board and get assistance in changing your methods of studying.

Remember failure is not fatal, failure is not permanent, it is just a temporary setback.

Special thanks must be directed to the District Director Mr. Ndo Mangala for working tirelessly in pulling out the district out of the ICU and pushing to the top.

Through the partnerships that we are in the process of forging with public and 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 are pleased that through the support we are beginning to see, previously disadvantaged learners gradually make inroads in the ranks of high performers.

In conclusion Programme Director, matriculants who succeeded, we are hoping that you take advantage of the available financial resources in the form of bursaries provided by government and the private sectors.

Please visit the offices of Mayors in your local municipalities for assistance.

Waterberg is alive with possibilities, make sure you use any kind of assistance at your disposal.

May i wish everyone present, your families, relatives and all our partners in the broader education sector, a healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2022.

Those who did not vaccinate for CVID19, please continue to do likewise, those who vaccinated please avail yourselves for the booster vaccination.

KE A LEBOGA, THANK YOU !!