

**Grade 12 motivating notes for Hon Sasekani Manzini (MPL),
MEC of Public Works, Roads and Transport.**

Circuit Manager, Ms Mthethwa

School Principal, educators

And our important guests the Class of 2017

Circuit Manager, thank you for affording me an opportunity to speak to the future of South Africa and the African continent. As someone who deeply values education and an agent of youth development, speaking in today's gathering wherein we motivate the class of 2017 in Mkhuhlu Circuit, gives me double pleasure. It is double pleasure, because I have chance to elevate the importance of education in any society and mould the future of South Africa in the same place and time.

It is now my established tradition, that whenever I go to speak in an area, I do a scan of the environment to better understand the people I will be talking to. When I tried to establish the status of Mkhuhlu Circuit, I picked up that it has 10 High schools, which collectively achieved a pass rate of 64.5% in the previous National Senior Certificate exams, with Geziqodo Secondary School topping the schools with a pass rate of 88.88%. Regrettable, the average of the circuit in 2016 represents a 13% decline from the 77.5% achieved by the class of 2015.

This is really not a good story to tell, but I am encouraged that the circuit Manager and her team, are not taking this regress lightly, hence we are gathered here today to motive these soldiers before they go deep into the battle of passing their National Senior Certificate exams. The Circuit Manager is

committed to telling a different and good story at the beginning of next year when the 2017 results come out. I wish you all the best Circuit Manager and I have no doubt you will do it!

Matric is a time for change. It is a time of preparation for the future. It is a time filled with late nights of worrying and studying and for many; wishing, hoping and praying. Matric marks the end of the first phase of life and the beginning of the second phase of life, adulthood. In fact today's event is one of several events that mark the end of your time as a learner, in high school.

The best we, who have passed through grade 12 can do is to motivate and prepare you for the battle that lies ahead of you this year. I come here as someone who grew up in the dusty streets of Madrass not far from where we are, to say to you it is possible. It can be done! I did it! The most important thing is to plan and have the correct mental attitude.

I must also say that, it much easier now than in our times. You are fortunate to have a caring ANC government, which provides you with education for free, a meal in school and others it provides with scholar transport and bicycles. We have an ANC government that continues to build state of the art schools in the most rural of areas. So you have no reason, not to do it. At the end of the year, all of you must be singing the song "Mama I made it!"

To assist you prepare your mental attitude for the year ahead, I bring you three lessons, which I use the book of life, the bible to explain:

Firstly, you must have dreams and a vision. We learn this in the book of life, Proverbs 29:18, when it says: ***“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”***

Secondly, you must have thirst to learn and acquire knowledge, most importantly in school and beyond that. This is also found in the book of life, where Hosea says ***“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge”***

Thirdly, the youth must rise and defeat laziness. Laziness is a symbol of a foolish man and lacking purpose in life. Remember, what the book of Proverb 6:6 says ***“Go to the ant you lazy man. Observe its ways and become wise”***

I strongly believe that if you take down these lessons and make them your guiding toll from today onwards, you will surely pass matric and succeeded in life beyond high school.

These lessons are not only for the learners, but all our stakeholders gathered here today. I present them to also motivate Principals and teachers. This war of passing grade 12 will not be won if our teachers and principals are not motivated, because they serve as the army generals. Teachers, these learners rely on you to for appropriate exam techniques, for classes starting on time and lessons well prepared. I urge to be committed army generals and always deliver on these expectations. You must never forget that teaching is the mother of all professions!

Another important stakeholder which must remain highly motivated in this war, are our parents and the community at

large. Our parents must always have a positive attitude in this war, because we rely on them for the social well-being of our soldiers the learners. Despite the harsh socio-economic conditions facing them, they must make sure that these kids only focus on studying and preparing for their final exam. At our homes we must create a conducive environment for learning and communities must not protest for other services by disrupting teaching and learning in schools.

Program Director, allow me to make particular mention of a few social ills, which if we do not attend to they will undermine today's beautiful event and the sound lessons, I have just imparted to the class of 2017.

As a person I remain extremely worried by the prevalence of late coming amongst today's school going youth. Late coming is a disgusting element of ill-discipline. Because discipline is doing the right thing at the right time. So if you are a late comer to school you are ill-disciplined. The truth is success is an anti-thesis of ill-discipline.

Grade 12's as the ANC led government we are extremely worried by the high levels of teenage pregnancy amongst your peers. We worry because we are acutely aware of the fact that the task of mothering a child is not compatible with that of been a learner. The truth is that is almost near impossible getting distinctions if you are busy with tasks inherently for elders like mothering.

This generation of young people in particular our young women are preoccupied with sexual relationships affectionately known

as Umjolo and what is of great concern to us is that statistics tell us that inter-generational sex is on the rise.

These young women are impregnated and infected with diseases like HIV/AIDS by sugar daddies. It is for this reason that Minister Aaron Motswaledi has declared war on these sugar daddies that want to rob South Africa its future.

Girls these are old men who have went through grade 12 and passed through university and today they want to rob you the same chance of driving your own car like they are doing. The truth is success can never be transferred through a romantic relationship. So we must choose our books over sugar daddies.

I am also extremely worried by the high levels of alcohol and drugs abuse amongst this generation. I worry because I know that alcohol and drug abuse breed many other social ills in society like crime, HIV/AIDS, gender based violence and many other evils that destroys our social fabric. The truth is there is no drunkard or drug addict that has ever produced great results or passed with flying colours.

You must avoid all the social ills, I mention above such that you pass matric and are able to seize the following opportunities which the ANC government offers to young people:

1. National Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) for tertiary education
2. Free Education in TVET colleges
3. Bursaries from government departments

4. Internships to get experience and learnerships for skills development

With these few words, I wish you all the best for the year. I know you will make us proud. Goodluck!

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