

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY LIMPOPO MEC FOR EDUCATION
MAVHUNGU LERULE-RAMAKHANYA DURING THE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2023 NATIONAL SENIOR
CERTIFICATE RESULTS, AT THE RANCH HOTEL,
POLOKWANE, LIMPOPO, 19 JANUARY 2024.**

Programme Director, Mr. Shonisani Muleya (Ashifashaba)

**The honourable Premier, Stanely Chupu Mathabatha,
Mahlatji a Hlabirwa**

**Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature Hon.
Rosemary Molapo.**

**Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Hon
Tshitereke Matibe**

My colleagues in the EXCO, Honourable MECs

**The Chairperson of the Education Portfolio Committee, Hon.
Violet Mathye**

Honourable Members of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature

Director General, Mr. Nape Nchabeleng

Executive Mayors and Mayors.

Leaders of various political organizations.

**The Provincial Secretary of the ANC Vho Musanda Reuben
Madadzhe**

**Our esteemed Royal Leadership led by the Provincial
Chairperson of the House, Hosi Penny Ngove.**

Religious Leaders

The right Rev Bishop Lekganyane ZCC

Bishop Joseph Lekganyane – ZCC St Engenas

Roman Catholic – Bishop Jeremiah Masela

United African Apostolic Church – Bishop Mureri

SACC – Bishop Naledzani Sikhwari

Traditional Healers – Represented by Dr. Hlathi

Sector Unions

SGB and Civic Associations

South African Council of Educators (SACE)

Head of the Department of Education, Ms. Onica Dederen

Heads of Limpopo Provincial Departments

Parents and guardians

Our Sponsors and Education Partners

Members of the Media

The most important guests our beautiful learners

Comrades and Compatriots

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thobela

Avuxeni

Ndi Matsheloni

Programme Director, Psalm 118 verse 24 says **“This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.”** I am indeed delighted to be standing before you this morning to give an account of the hard work that our frontliners, our

educators across the province, have done in the 2023 academic year in an endeavour to produce good results across all grades. This is the hard work by our districts, circuits, schools and learners themselves. What should resonate with each one of us as we announce these results is that there is no substitute for hard work and that a reward is always within reach where hard work is involved.

The **HoD** in her technical remarks has detailed the profile of the 2023 cohort and a deduction can be made that this cohort went through a lot in their academic journey. That background gives us reasons to put more springs in our steps as we are gathered here today to celebrate the cohort whose academic journey started in 2012 during the 5th year of the National Senior Certificate (NSC). Clearly it was no walk in the park.

Honourable Premier, we will forever be indebted to you as the department for the sterling support that you have given to ensure that we strive for excellence across the education system. The reality is that we cannot expect best results at the highest level while there is continuous neglect of phases that should give us the very best results at Grade 12. There must be deliberate investment and concerted effort to pay attention to all grades from Foundation Phase to the FET Phase. Your continued unwavering support and passion for education has served as a

reminder that there should be no room for complacency and comfort zones at a workplace, especially one that is charged with the massive responsibility of nurturing a young mind into a responsible citizen.

We recall fondly the hope you instilled in some of these candidates during last year's back to school campaign in Sekhukhune. You gave them confidence that they can shine like diamonds in the sky. The pep talk has produced magic, we are today bragging of stars that have passed with flying colours and still destined for greater heights.

I declared 2023 a year of accelerated school infrastructure to restore the dignity of a black child. We can report honourable members that a learner attending in a decent school and improved sanitation facility is a happy learner. We have noted in our analysis that we have new schools, especially from the rural areas that have done well this year. Our effort in pushing for better learning facilities was not in vain. The work of creating a teaching and learning environment that is conducive is one which must continue without us apologising. In that way, we shall be able to demand top performance across the system knowing that we have done our part as a Department.

Programme Director, we are a province on a rise. The upward trajectory is a testimony that we have dedicated men and women

who are passionate about their work. Our children spend six days per week at school and endure long hours in camps during school holidays. The extra effort by teachers, the support from parents, SGB members, sponsors and various formations is highly commendable. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your selfless contribution to the future of our children.

It is against this background that it will be amiss of us not to pay tribute to all those partners who saw it necessary and proper to work with us and devote their time in ensuring that we carry out the business of providing quality and innovative education for learners across all grades. Learner performance should be a concern for all of us and indeed our deep gratitude goes to all our partners in the twelve year journey.

Honourable premier and esteemed guests, we are on a journey to change the narrative about our beautiful province as we declare **2024 a year of academic excellence**. We are turning the tide and steering the ship to the right direction. Tracking back from 2021, we recorded 67 percent pass rate and a boost of **5 percent** in 2022 that took us to **72,1 percent**. It is my singular honour to announce to the Province that the 2023 cohort has recorded a huge improvement of **7,3 percent** from the previous

class of 2022. I am presenting to you an improved pass rate of **79.5 percent** and thanks to the Class of 2023. We are not only celebrating the increase in percentage but I am glad to announce that we have moved from our last spot, we have jumped two steps from position 9 to 7. They deserve a round of APPLAUSE.

This performance represents a whopping increase in the quality by 7,9% from 66,7% in 2021 to 72.1% in 2022. The class of 2023 has really made the province proud. The province has indeed outperformed itself qualitatively and quantitatively.

By all means, we have to keep moving. We have to keep improving. We have to keep performing. We have to keep excelling. We accordingly issue a stern warning to anyone who would want to stop or derail the fast-moving train, **tshaba re Phude**. We are not looking back, we are motivated by the cohort of 2023 and we have no doubt that the class of 2024 will even do much better.

Our on-going efforts and commitment to improving the matric pass and importantly the long term strategy to improve the quality of education is something that cannot be relegated to the background by any means.

Programme Director, We shall continue to call for active participation, involving broader community to ensure that young people are encouraged at all levels to make education and excellent performance fashionable. This should be a commitment that occupies all of us to ensure that quality education is delivered in schools. It is all of us that must be involved in the creation of an environment that is conducive to teaching and learning and the results thereof will be desirable.

I want to thank in particular the Education Desk coordinators in various traditional committees. The increasing number of education foundations that in the main support learners from disadvantaged background. My colleagues from the legislature who have adopted schools and bringing the necessary positive change. I know Coghsta MEC Basikopo Makumu is leading from the front in schools around Giyani in Mopani. Many of our children are able to further their studies because of bursaries from our Municipalities. The continued support by our pastors in various denominations is highly appreciated and we are still looking forward to your intervention in the current academic year.

Last night, I accompanied our shining stars to the National Senior Certificate awards hosted by honourable Minister of Basic Education, Mme Angie Motshekga. It was heartwarming to see

our learners in the national stage representing the province in various categories. Some of them are here this morning as we continue to appreciate the hard work and sacrifices made.

I want to call upon the HoD Education, Khathutshelo Onicca Dederen and the DG of the Province, Nape Nchabeleng to ascend the stage to congratulate the candidates in the following category:

1. Top 3 Districts

Position	Wrote	%Pass	District
3	14 583	82,5	Vhembe East
2	5 096	82,6	Mogalakwena
1	8 078	83,8	Mopani West

Congratulations to District Director P.P. Modika and the team from Mopani West for clinching Top District in the Province. ***Ka nnete ba tshabile, le pudhile!***

The performance of the remaining Districts, in the order of their 2023 performance is: Position 4 is Capricorn South at 81.9%; Position 5 is Capricorn North at 80,9%, Position 6 is Vhembe West at 79,1%, Position 7 is Waterberg at 78,4%, Position 8 is Mopani east at 77,3%, Position 9 is

Sekhukhune east at 74,7% and Position 10 is Sekhukhune South at 73.4%. It is remarkable that 5 of our Districts performed at or above 80% while the remaining 5 performed above 70%. I am delighted to see the improvement across all our 10 Districts.

2. Most Improved District

Let me invite on the stage the Chairperson of SCOPA, Mr. Donald Selamolela and the Chairperson of the Education Portfolio Committee, Ms. Violet Mathye, to present the Most Improved District.

The district that we are awarding improved its performance by 16.7%. In 2021 they achieved 67.1% to 83.8% in 2023.

The District is none other than Mopani West

Once again, ***Tshaba Re Pudhe!***

3. Top 3 Circuits

Position	Bachelors	District	Circuit
3	576	Vhembe East	Malamulele Central Circuit
2	649	Capricorn South	Mankweng Circuit
1	1 442	Capricorn South	Pietersburg Circuit

In this category, Capricorn South and Vhembe East have stamped their authority over this award once again.

4. Most Improved Circuit

Let me call to the stage, MEC for Provincial Treasury, Charlie Sekwati, and MEC for Sports Arts and Culture, Nakedi Kekana...

This Circuit improved its performance by 28.3%. The Circuit attained 54.9% in 2021 and now they obtained 83.2%. From Mopani East District, Ladies and Gentlemen, put your hands together for Lulekani Circuit.

5. Best Performing Independent School

Ladies and gentlemen, in this school, 427 candidates wrote, 220 achieved bachelor passes. From Capricorn South District, in Pietersburg Circuit, the school is Northern Academy Secondary.

6. Best Performing Public Special School

Honourable Premeir, all the 8 candidates who wrote at this school passed, and 6 of them achieved bachelor passes. The school is in Capricorn South District in Maraba Circuit, and it is none other than Setotolwane Secondary.

Please Ladies and Gentlemen allow me to welcome MEC for Agriculture, Thabo Mokone and MEC for Public Works, Nkakareng Rakgoale on the stage for the next category.

7. Top 3 Public Ordinary Schools

Honourable MECs, the three best performing public ordinary schools are:

Position	Wrote	Bachelors	District	Circuit	School
3	291	197	Capricorn South	Pietersburg	Taxilla Combined
2	551	258	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary
1	508	268	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary

I now call on the stage the Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality, Councillor John Mpe and the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District, Councillor Minah Bahula to assist me in the next two awards.

8. Top Three Mathematics Club 100 – Public Schools

Ladies and gentlemen, the schools that have performed according to the set criteria are:

Position	Achieved 50% and above	District	Circuit	School Name
2	143	Capricorn North	Bochum East	Dendron Secondary
1	232	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary

This year there is no position three because the other schools could not meet the criteria set for this award.

9. Top Three Club 100 Mathematics and Physical Sciences – Public Schools

The schools are:

Position	50% and above in Mathematics	50% and above in Physical Sciences	Total Candidates	District	Circuit	School Name
2	143	106	249	Capricorn North	Bochum East	Dendron Secondary
1	232	230	462	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary

As was the case with the previous category, there are only two schools that met the criteria for this award.

MEC for LEDET, Rodgers Monama and MEC for DSD Nandi Ndalane. The first category that we are awarding is the Top 3 best performing Education Districts

10. Top Three Life Sciences Club 100 – Public Schools

In this category the top three Club 100 Schools in Life Sciences are:

Position	Achieved 50% and above	District	Circuit	Centre Name
3	147	Mopani West	Rakwadu 2	Kgapane High
2	187	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary
1	243	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary

For the next category, I call on the stage Executive Mayor of Vhembe District, Councillor Fridah Nkondo and Executive Mayor of Waterberg District, Councillor Morris Mataboge

11. Top Performing Teachers in Gateway and/or Selected Subjects

The teachers to be awarded in this category for the outstanding performance are:

Total candidates achieving at least 70%	Subject	District	Circuit	School	Names of Teachers
237	English First Additional Language	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary	1. Morovhi Nkhangwaleni Calvin. 2. Magidi Azwimpheleli. 3. Nemakhavhani Munyadziwa Sylvia.
159	Geography	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary	1. Tshivhalavhala Pfarelo. 2. Rachilomela Reineth.
96	Life Sciences	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary	1. Mulovhedzi Edzisani Kenneth. 2. Nedawaila Tshimangadzo Joyce.

					3. Ledzhade Nyambeni Cedric
60	Accounting	Capricorn North	Bochum East	Dendron Secondary	1. Molepo Mokgatla Job. 2. Seshibe Mapula Grace. 3. Madibana Matlou Eliphus
122	Mathematics	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary	1. Sekhitha Nndondeni Ronald. 2. Ndou Nndivhaleni Victor.
118	Physical Sciences	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary	1. Sankaran Banu. 2. Mudau Phathutshedzo Mercy. 3. Rumphungwe Livingstone Kufarakunesu.

Subjects that have not been recognised have not met the prescribed criteria.

I am calling now to the stage, Bishop Naledzani Sikhwari and Hosi Penny Ngove chairperson of the House of Traditional leaders.

12. Top performing candidates in gateway and selected subjects

Subject	Mark	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Agricultural Sciences	299	Capricorn South	Pietersburg	Taxilla Combined	Female	Morapedi Tshegofatso Nonjabulo
Agricultural Sciences	299	Capricorn North	Bahlaloga	Nare Senior Secondary	Male	Mkhabela Lebogang Pollen
Economics	298	Mopani East	Modjadji	Motloboni Combined	Male	Mohaleamalla Adolf Rethabile
Life Sciences	297	Capricorn South	Pietersburg	Bokamoso Senior Secondary	Female	Lefophana Nthabiseng
Mathematical Literacy	289	Sekhukhune South	Lobethal	Rantobeng Secondary	Male	Mahlase Allan Sogo
Mathematical Literacy	289	Mogalakwena	Baltimore	Kgolodi High	Male	Mokobodi Kgothatso

I now call on the stage the Executive Mayor of Mopani District, Councillor Pule Shayi and the Executive Mayor of Capricorn District, Councillor Mamedupi Teffo to assist me in the next two awards.

13. 300/300 Performing candidates in one Selected or Gateway Subject

Subject	Mark	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Accounting	300	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	St. Augustine Residential	Female	Siphuma Livhuwani
Accounting	300	Capricorn South	Lebowakgomo	SJ van der Merwe	Male	Chuene Tshegofatso Phillip
Accounting	300	Sekhukhune South	Manthole	St. Paul's High	Female	Ramolotja Thabile Meagabo
Accounting	300	Mopani West	Rakwadu 2	Kgapane High	Male	Mokwalakwala Karabo Quinton
Business Studies	300	Capricorn South	Mankweng	Makgoka High	Female	Komape Petunia Palesa
Business Studies	300	Capricorn North	Mogoshi	BK Matlala Commercial	Female	Nkgweng Desree Molatelo
Business Studies	300	Mopani West	Motupa	Modipe High	Female	Mashatola Rina

Subject	Mark	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Business Studies	300	Capricorn North	Sekgosesa Central	Sefoloko Secondary	Male	Mashapa Thabiso
Business Studies	300	Vhembe West	Soutpansberg West	Sinthumule Secondary	Male	Liswoga Nkhumeleni Junior
Business Studies	300	Vhembe East	Mvudi	Thohoyandou Secondary	Female	Magoro Wavhuthu Patience
Business Studies	300	Capricorn South	Mankweng	Frans Mohlala Secondary	Female	Thamagana Francinah Mabore
Business Studies	300	Capricorn South	Mogodumo	St. Francis Catholic Academy	Female	Maswikeng Zwivhuya Kgaugelo
Business Studies	300	Capricorn North	Bochum East	Shakoleng Secondary	Male	Mabudu Maropeng Trinity
Business Studies	300	Vhembe East	Mvudi	Liivha Combined	Male	Ramokati Wandeme
Business Studies	300	Vhembe West	Nzhelele West	Patrick Ramaano Secondary	Male	Mulaudzi Dunisani Engely
Business Studies	300	Vhembe West	Soutpansberg North	Musina Secondary	Female	Chauke Amukelani
Business Studies	300	Capricorn North	Bochum West	Mathew Phosa Secondary	Female	Malema Maserebana Ouma
Business Studies	300	Capricorn South	Dimamo	Baphutheng Secondary	Female	Sewedi Dimakatso Sara
Geography	300	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary	Female	Mulovhedzi Malindi Andisa
Geography	300	Waterberg	Palala North	Raserite Secondary	Female	Mabotja Mpipi Cynthia
Engineering Graphics and Design	300	Mopani East	Klein Letaba	Nyukani Education Centre	Male	Mabunda Nkateko Theo
History	300	Capricorn South	Sepitsi	Lehлага Secondary	Female	Mphahlele Precious Moshobjadi
Mathematics	300	Mogalakwena	Mahwelereng	Gobela High	Male	Sebopa Madimetja Katlego
Mathematics	300	Sekhukhune South	Lepelle-6	Mphegolle Secondary	Male	Kgatuke Desmond Kgampi
Mathematics	300	Vhembe East	Sibasa	Mbilwi Secondary	Male	Mavhungu Tshifaro Mulondi
Mathematics	300	Vhembe East	Mvudi	Thohoyandou Secondary	Male	Mulega Muano
Mathematics	300	Vhembe East	Vhuronga 1	Mugoidwa Secondary	Male	Mavhila Mashudu Winers
Mathematics	300	Capricorn South	Sepitsi	Dinao Secondary	Male	Mokgonyana Pholoso Mosala

Subject	Mark	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Mathematics	300	Vhembe West	Hlanganani Central	Khomamani High	Male	Ngobeni Ntwalo Sheldon
Mathematics	300	Vhembe East	Mvudi	Thohoyandou Technical	Male	Matombo Aluwani Elvis
Mathematics	300	Mopani West	Nkowankowa	St. George College	Male	Seerane Thabiso Trinity
Physical Sciences	300	Mopani East	Man'ombe	Nkwangulatio Education Centre	Female	Mutshabi Faithful Masingita

To assist with the following category, let me call the following Bishops to the stage.

Bishop of the United African Apostolic Church, Bishop Mureri and Roman Catholic Bishop Jeremiah Masela:

14. 300/300 Performing candidates in two selected and/or gateway subjects

Subject 1	Subject 2	District	Circuit	School Name	Gender	Surname and Names
Mathematics	Geography	Mogalakwena	Mapela	Seritarita secondary	Male	Moshabi Jonas Kgakishi
Mathematics	Physical Sciences	Vhembe East	Tshilamba	Thengwe Secondary	Male	Khakhu Rialivhuwa
Mathematics	Physical Sciences	Capricorn South	Pietersburg	Bokamoso Senior Secondary	Female	Lefophana Nthabiseng

May I request MEC for Health Dr. Phophi Ramathuba and MEC for COGHSTA, Basikopo Makamu to join me on the stage as we congratulate top candidates from our Independent schools.

15. Top Three Candidates in Independent Schools

Position 3:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 688
District : Mopani East
Circuit : Man'ombe
School : Nkwangulatilo Education Centre
Gender : Male
Candidate : Zitha Rhulani Peace

Position 2:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 701
District : Vhembe East
Circuit : Tshilamba
School : St. Augustine Residential
Gender : Female
Candidate : Siphuma Livhuwani

Position 1:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 710
District : Mopani East
Circuit : Man'ombe
School : Nkwangulatilo Education Centre
Gender : Male
Candidate : Kubayi Nhlayiseko Masana

Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Rosemary Molapo and Deputy Speaker, Tshitereke Matibe, may you please join me on the stage for the next category.

16. Top Three Candidates in Public Special Schools

Position 3:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 225

District : Vhembe West
Circuit : Elim
School : Rivoni School For The Blind
Gender : Male
Candidate : Mogale Fhulufhelo Remember

Position 2:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 291
District : Capricorn South
Circuit : Maraba
School : Setotlwane Secondary
Gender : Male
Candidate : Maotjane Thabiso Nare

Position 1:

Total Marks Obtained : 1 447
District : Capricorn South
Circuit : Maraba
School : Setotlwane Secondary
Gender : Male
Candidate : Modika Karabo Prince

I now have the honour to invite the Premier of the Province, Hon. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, Bishop Dr. Barnabas Lekganyane and Bishop Joseph Lekganyane to ascend the stage to congratulate the top three candidates in the Province.

17. Top Three Candidates in Public Ordinary Schools

Position 3:

Total Marks Obtained	:	1 702
District	:	Mogalakwena
Circuit	:	Mapela
School	:	Seritarita Secondary
Gender	:	Male
Candidate	:	Moshabi Jonas Kgakishi

Position 2:

Total Marks Obtained	:	1 712
District	:	Vhembe West
Circuit	:	Nzhelele West
School	:	Patrick Ramaano Secondary
Gender	:	Female
Candidate	:	Mbedzi Mavhungu Remonia

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now have the honour to present to you the top luminary of the Province, as we observe the guard of honour. I humbly request all of us in the hall to rise and give a huge round of applause to the crème de la crème. This is a young imbokodo, with a very bright future ahead of her.

Position 1:

Total Marks Obtained	:	1 743
District	:	Capricorn South
Circuit	:	Pietersburg
School	:	Bokamoso Secondary
Gender	:	Female
Candidate	:	Lefophana Nthabiseng

MEC SPECIAL AWARD.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the last and final award that I am presenting to you this morning, is the MEC's award. The award is dedicated to an outstanding individual whose contribution to the education sector is making a huge impact. Last year, I dedicated the award to a hardworking Principal with a very impressive record of matric results and led one of the most disciplined schools in the province. This year, I am honouring a teacher who excels in both academic responsibilities and extra mural activities. I present to you a teacher who started his career in 1989 at Nthuba Secondary School where he worked for about 20 years. In his two decades of remarkable service at the school, he successfully led the choir and left behind a success of 47 trophies, scooped at both locally and national stages. He moved to Kgakoa Secondary in 2008 where he continued with his academic and extra mural commitments. He is an English teacher who previously scooped an award for the best English teacher in the Province. He continues to dominate the Circuit in the category of the best English teacher. Ladies and Gentlemen, may you once again rise, take a bow as I call to the stage our choral guru from Bahlaloga circuit, Kgakoa Secondary School, Mr. Kgaogelo Standford Mokgawa.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to thank the team that was with me in Randburg yesterday. The three District Directors and the learners who scooped awards in various categories. To all the teachers who worked tirelessly to prepare learners for the exams, I sincerely thank and appreciate you. Once again, thanks to Premier Stanely Mathabatha for your visionary leadership. We promise to do better next year.

I thank you!!