

ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLR T D NGWENYA OF THE EMAKHAZENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AT THE OCCASSION OF GRADE 12 MOTIVATION HELD ON THE 13TH OCTOBER 2017, KHAYALAMI SECONDARY SCHOOL, EMAKHAZENI

Honourable Speaker of Municipal Council, Cllr NA Mashele

MMC'S

Councillors

Municipal officials

Circuit Manager, Mrs Motlounge

School Principals

Educators, SGB's and Grade 12 Learners

Distinguished guests

Pastors

Social Partners in particular, Exxaro and Glencore

Ladies and Gentlemen

The year 2017 has been declared as the year of celebrating the life and times of the late Oliver Reginald Tambo. It is the year of advancing unity in action. As we are gathered here today, inspired by his revolutionary spirit, core values and principles which moulded him, together with the learners, we must learn from his good legacy. He is the longest serving president of the African National Congress, who would be turning 100 years on the 27th October 2017. To be exact he served for thirty years as the ANC president consistently and uninterruptedly leading a united ANC and the people of RSA in general until the liberation epoch in 1994.

Cde OR Tambo born in a rural town Mbizana in Eastern Cape, born from a poor family. His father like many black men was regarded as a garden boy and his mother like many black females was regarded as kitchen girl. He was born under very difficult conditions of life and under apartheid oppressive laws. His social conditions built his consciousness and thus saw a need of actively participating in the national liberation struggle to liberate us.

Assisted by a white woman from Europe, he began his formal education at an age of seven years. He studied at the University of College of Fort Hare where he obtained Bachelor of Science Degree in 1941. He studied under difficult conditions of apartheid laws but he made it. Why would you fail, under conducive environment such as support provided by the State?

He became a science educator and later quit to set up a legal firm together with cde Nelson Mandela. The objective of which was to champion the interest of the poor, victims of apartheid laws with little or no money to pay their legal fees. He executed the task without failure.

Cde OR Tambo played a pivotal role and demonstrated the power of education when he influenced the provisions of the Freedom Charter as adopted in 1955 in Kliptown, when it provided that, 'The Doors of Learning and Culture Shall be Opened' The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life. All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands. The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace. Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children. Higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowance and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit.....' This found expression in the NDP policy framework of government.

OR Tambo is today highly renowned throughout the world as a man of much fortitude, unquestionable morals, incredible perseverance, visionary, revolutionary, committed soldier and hard working. Be like OR and pass your 2017 grade 12 examination with flying colours and obtain Bachelors to easily access Institutions of Higher learning. Do it for OR Tambo and your country. If he was able to change the living conditions of his family, why cant you? You would only achieve that when following the words of our late icon, Dr Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela when he had this to say regarding education, *'Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.'* Today through education you would contribute towards changing the triple challenges such as poverty, unemployment and inequality but most importantly changing your own and your family living conditions for the better.

Sun Tzu wrote extraordinary book in China two and half thousand years ago and he had this to say, *'The art of war is of vital importance to the state. It is a matter of life and death. A road to either safety or to ruin. Hence it is a subject of enquiry which can on no account be neglected. It ends'* Hence it is only the enlightened ruler and the wise general who will use the highest intelligence of the army for purposes of spying, and thereby achieve great results. Spies are a most important element in war because upon them depends an army's ability to move.' *The Supreme act of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.*

As the grade 12 class of 2017, you have an opportunity to destroy your life by not studying and fail or by working very hard and pass with a Bachelor and access Institutions of Higher learning. Take 100% responsibility of your life. You cannot change the circumstances, seasons or the wind but you can change yourself and your family life.

The government led by the ANC has created conducive environment for student to prosper. Legislative environment has created possibilities of access to institutions of higher learning such as NSFAS, government department's bursaries, municipal financial assistance, bursaries by private sector and business community. It is up to you to grab the opportunities. Everything you experience tomorrow, will be the result of choices you have made in the past. You have to give up all your excuses. Do it for OR Tambo. Do it..... It is possible.

As we together with our long walk journey of building a united, non racial, non sexist, democratic and a prosperous RSA, we require the sculpting of young leaders to take over the baton of leadership from the elders. Education remains the corner stone of building a better future for all. Our country, in the contemporary requires leaders of OR Tambo calibre who taught us humility, discipline, human solidarity, democracy and democratic centralism, love of education to mention but a few. Education is every body's enterprise.

Critical economic sectors to be considered by student are critical skills in the engineering, water resource management, Commerce and Environment, law, mining and technology etc. The country requires new innovations from scientist to avert climate change and the destruction of nature. Technology innovations remains a critical area of work worth exploring by student.

“No political democracy can survive and flourish if the mass of our people remain in poverty, without land, without tangible prospects for a better life. Attacking poverty and deprivation must therefore be the first priority of a democratic government.” (RDP 1994).

Amilcar Cabral warned us all when he said, ‘Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in any ones head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children.’

We wish you a great success in your examination for 2017.

I thank you