

**ADDRESS BY LESEDI EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLLR  
LERATO MALOKA AT THE HANDOVER OF  
BURSARIES 26 JANUARY 2017**

Thank you Programme Director

Our special guests, learners and parents

Honourable Councillors

Business community members

Municipal officials

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great pleasure to stand before you today at this grand occasion to extend a helping hand to our young people.

The longest serving president of our glorious African National Congress, Cde Oliver Reginald Tambo once said, "The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future".

As an ANC-led municipality, we draw our inspiration from these words that were uttered by our stalwart Cde OR Tambo when we play our part in making a contribution to the lives of our young people in Lesedi.

We have made it a point that every year we assist our young people who pass matric with bursaries for registration fees in order for them to further their studies in various institutions of higher learning. The year 2017 is therefore not different and it is for that reason that we are once more gathered here.

The high costs of tertiary education and the socio-economic status of a lot of our people often lead to a lot of our young people with no resources to further their studies. This unfortunate situation can never be allowed to shatter the dreams of our future leaders.

I am a firm believer that your background should never determine your destiny, ke Sesotho rere mohale o tswa maroleng.

Programme Director, allow me to take this opportunity and congratulate these young people gathered here today for successfully completing their high school education. Equally, we congratulate you the parents on your achievement of raising such determined children.

Working with the business community we are doing our best to ensure that at least our young people in Lesedi are afforded an opportunity to realise their dreams.

The funds for these bursaries are mainly raised from our annual Mayoral Charity Golf Day which has become a success over the years from generous contributions of our businesses locally and even outside of Lesedi.

I wish to extend a special word of appreciation to all businesses that continue to support the Mayoral Charity Golf Day. Your commitment to this initiative is a clear demonstration that we can indeed achieve more working together.

A woman who was a gift to mankind, Mother Teresa once said "It is not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

As government we will continue to seek more partnerships with the private sector to ensure that we grow our interventions in making a difference in our people's lives.

Our learners please go out there, work hard and represent not only your parents but the entire Lesedi community. Due to limited resources and in an effort to reach out to a number of our young people, our bursaries are only limited to registration fees but if you work really hard, there are many resources that you will be able access.

You will be away from your parents as you go to various institutions but you should never use that freedom to deviate from your parents' teachings. As you will be making new friends, please choose them carefully and avoid those who mislead you.

Always remember that you are there to build your future and not to be celebrities, drink alcohol and use drugs.

Together with your parents we are awaiting to witness the results of your hard work and look forward to your contribution to a better future for all.

In conclusion, I wish to congratulate all the learners of the class of 2016 who passed their matric. To those who did not make it, don't let that setback pull you down. Go back to the drawing board and identify where you need to improve.

Always remember that you can never solve a problem with the same mind that created it. Your attitude surely determines your altitude!

As leaders elected by you in this municipality we fully remain committed to ensuring that we work with all of you to build a better future for generations to come in this community.

Because we are looking ahead to a brighter tomorrow, we shall ensure that at all times we take care of our young people.

Farewell to you our future leaders, make us proud!

I thank you!