



## **SPEAKING NOTES**

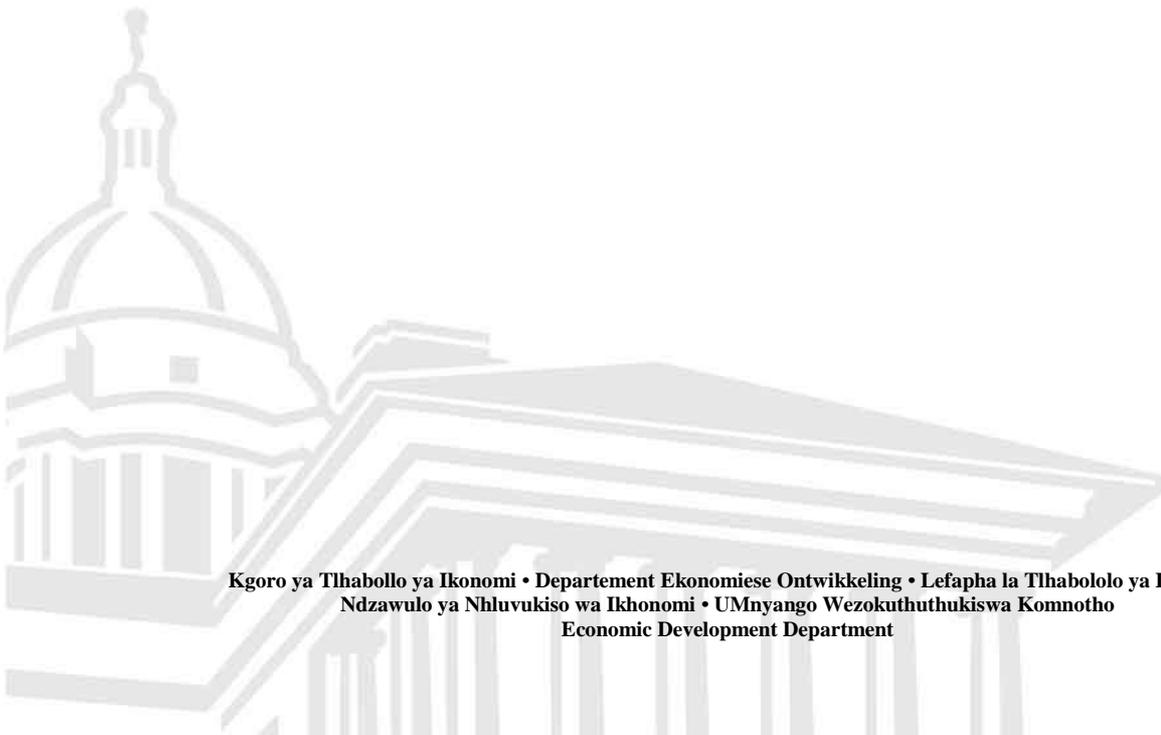
### **CLASS OF 2016 MAYORAL MATRIC AWARDS**

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF TSHWANE**

**COUNCILLOR SOLLY MSIMANGA**

**VENUE: CENTURION COUNCIL CHAMBER**

**17 JANUARY 2017**



## **Greeting and acknowledgements**

Madame Speaker of Council

Gauteng Department of Education

Chief Whip of Council

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Fellow Councillors

Acting City Manager

Top Management of the City of Tshwane

Top Learners and Special Guests

School Headmasters

Parents

Members of the Media

Distinguished Guests

Fellow Citizens of Tshwane

## **Introduction**

Welcome to the capital city once again. First and foremost I would like to congratulate these young men and women in the uniforms of their respective schools for their exceptional performance in their 2016 matric exams.

The Class of 2016 is the third Grade 12 cohort to write the National Senior Certificate aligned to Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS). The National Senior Certificate is the culmination of

12 years of schooling and is the barometer against which the performance of the education system is measured.

We take this opportunity to also congratulate all other Grade 12 learners who wrote and passed the National Senior Certificate examinations in Gauteng and the rest of the country.

The learners achieved a national pass rate of **72,5%**, which represents **442 672** candidates who passed with the following notable achievements:

- **162 374** learners qualifying for admission to bachelor studies at higher education institutions;
- **179 619** learners qualifying for admission to diploma studies at higher education institutions; and
- **100 486** learners qualifying for admission to higher certificate studies.

The total number of candidates who registered for the November 2016 NSC examinations was **828 020**, comprising **674 652** full-time candidates and **153 368** part-time candidates. Of these candidates, **610 178** full-time candidates and **107 793** part-time candidates wrote the 2016 NSC examinations.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Gauteng achieved a pass rate of **87%**, an improvement from **85,9%** in 2015, thus putting Gauteng in the top three best performing provinces.

Let us give a round of applause to the Class of 2016!

## **Performance of Tshwane learners**

The Gauteng National Senior Certificate Technical Report indicates that 41 240 learners (both full-time and part-time) were registered in Tshwane.

However, the 2016 regional pass rate for Tshwane dropped 1,16% compared to the 2015 pass rate. Out of the four districts in Tshwane, only Tshwane North achieved an increase in pass rate: from 81,29% to 84,27%. We congratulate Tshwane North District. May other districts emulate Tshwane North District in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me the opportunity to salute Ms Marle Garbe of Hoërskool Zwartkop for scooping the Top Overall Achiever Award in Gauteng. I share with you this inspirational quote by Brigham Young: **“You educate a woman, you educate a nation.”**

## **Tshwane and higher learning**

As the city with the highest concentration of students in the country, we welcome the learners, many of whom have already descended on Tshwane from last week to seek enrolment in our prestigious institutions of higher learning, and become residents of the city for the remainder of their learning lives.

The young people of our country at large, and those residing within the boundaries of Tshwane in particular, continue to be confronted with socio-economic challenges in their transition to adulthood.

As the City of Tshwane, we are committed to contributing to the realisation of the right to further education (meaning higher education,

and technical and vocational education and training) as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

This means ensuring that conditions are conducive for further education, that opportunities are available and accessible to all, and that municipal health and transport services, social amenities and student safety help towards making university life in Tshwane memorable.

We are proud that many of the City of Tshwane's initiatives are in line with Tshwane's very youthful profile. Our infrastructure investment reflects this consciousness and empowers us to nurture our youth and make Tshwane liveable for them.

## **Conclusion**

The City's motto is "Igniting excellence", which finds expression, amongst others, in encouraging excellence in education. Your good performance has earned all of you the title of Education Ambassadors, and in this way you join us in bringing hope to the future of our country.

I want to take this opportunity to urge those who have not passed matric to rewrite their examinations or to access all the sources of relevant information that the Department of Education has created specifically for you and to make use of the options available to you in the post-school education and training system.

My dear Matriculants, the tough journey continues as you now step into institutions of higher learning. Let me conclude with this quote by the great Malcolm X: **"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."**

Thank you!

