



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

Letter 9

Date: 22 January 2024

SALUTING THE MATRIC CLASS OF 2023 AND WISHING ALL LEARNERS A GOOD 2024

Dear Residents,

Nelson Mandela, a global icon, once profoundly stated, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." He elaborated, emphasizing that education is the key to transforming the lives of individuals from all backgrounds, enabling them to rise beyond their circumstances.

This past week, we were thrilled to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2023 as the Matric Results were announced nationwide. The Basic Education Minister, Angie Motshekga, revealed that the National Senior Certificate (NSC) pass rate for 2023 soared to 82.9%, showing a significant improvement over the past years – 2.8% higher than 2022 and 6.5% higher than 2021.

In the JTG District, our students particularly shined, achieving a remarkable pass rate of 73.7%, which is not only a 5.7% increase from last year but also marks the highest improvement in the 2023 NSC among all districts in our Province. Our district, predominantly rural, faces numerous challenges, especially in our more remote schools and those in the Joe Morolong Municipality. However, the determination and resilience of our learners and educators have triumphed.

We must recognize that this success is a collective effort. The steady progress over the last four years in our district results is a testament to the hard work of our government, learners, teachers, parents, and various social partners. While our goal is to reach or surpass the national average, it is crucial to celebrate our current successes and the valiant efforts of the Class of 2023. We must also use these achievements to chart our course forward.

Special congratulations are due to Sediba Academy for being the Best Performing School in our district and to the exceptional students - Tinotenda Murere from Kalahari High School, Osego Majeng from Lesedi High School, Kelebogile Mosegedi, and Tshireletso Tshirang from Batlharo-Tlhaping High School, all of whom achieved seven Level 7's. Their achievements are an inspiration to us all and a benchmark for the Class of 2024.

To those who did not meet the NSC requirements in 2023, remember that this is not the end of the road. Our government is committed to supporting you through initiatives like the Second Chance Matric Programme. I encourage you to engage with this opportunity, visit our District Office of the Department of Education, and take a step towards shaping your future.

As the new school year commences, I call upon our entire society to collaborate with the government in creating an environment conducive to learning. We need communities to take pride and ownership of their schools, parents to be actively involved in their children's education, and collectively, we must strive to break the cycle of poverty through education, as envisioned by Mandela.

I extend my best wishes to all learners across our District for a rewarding and successful schooling year. Let's work together to make our district and nation proud.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Queen Mogatle - Thoane', with a long horizontal line extending from the top right of the signature.

Councillor Queen Mogatle - Thoane

Executive Mayor - John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality