



**On Matric Awards  
14 February 2017 –07h00  
Pinetown District**

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- Programme Director –
- Representatives from Department of Education
- Governing Bodies,
- Representatives from organized Trade Unions,
- Learners representatives,
- Members of the media,
- Teachers and parents,
- Class of 2016,
- Ladies and Gentlemen:

**Sanibonani nonke !**

Goodmorning, let me start by wishing all of you a happy valentine's day. We must use such days to show love and care for the needy and downtrodden. We must give love to this world so that it becomes a better place. Yesterday, the Mayor launched a sanitary pads campaign for the girls in Chesterville which is part of caring city campaign. We have been blessed to have a Mayor who is also a mother, she is indeed a caring mayor.

Program Director,

We are gathered here to celebrate with our top achievers and those who have made us proud. Taking a cue from the speech delivered by His Excellency President Zuma, this year is a year of OR Tambo.

This is year to celebrate 100 years since the birth of President OR Tambo. If he was alive , he would have turned 100 years. The most interesting thing about President OR Tambo is that he was one of bright African minds. He made history by being one the first two Africans to pass JC examination with a first class in 1936.

When he matriculated in 1938 he also passed with first class as one of the top learners in South Africa. The ANC has always encouraged Africans to study and is this government we will always do the same. I encourage learners to be like President OR Tambo.

President Tambo was also a Maths and Science teacher. He graduated with a B.Sc. degree in Mathematics and Physics from Fort Hare University. He later enrolled for a diploma in higher education although he could not complete it after he was expelled for his political activism. He taught Physics and Mathematics for five years.

Later on, he completed his post-graduate degree in Law and went to open the first black-owned legal practice in Johannesburg with his friend and fellow comrade, President Nelson Mandela, the first President of a free and democratic South Africa. He also worked with Antony Lembede from uMbumbulu, South of Durban.

There is a lot that we could learn from the life and times of President OR Tambo as students and teachers.

Programme Director,

President Jacob Zuma described **Education as “ the ladder out of poverty and economic stagnation.”**

The ANC declared education an apex priority in 2009. We are very serious about education. It is our primary weapon in the struggle for

economic transformation, and in the quest for a better life for our people, especially the poor. It is for this reason that education gets the biggest slice of the national budget.

We would like to thank President Zuma for his passion for education. Also we would like to thank our young MEC for education, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwana for his excellent work.

This province was ranked seventh nationally, with a pass rate of 66,4% for 2016, an increase from 2015's 60,7%. We were worried about 2015 results which we dropped as a province compared to previous years.

In the past three years, KZN received a 77,4% pass rate in 2013; a 69,7% pass rate in 2014; and a 60,7% pass rate in 2015. This drop was a worrying factor for many of us, in fact to be honest with you, we were embarrassed and angry at the 2015 results.

We believe that we can still do even better here in our Umlazi and Pinetown district. We should reclaim our number one position in the province and nationally.

Programme Director,

Education is not a mandate of local government but we believe that education is important hence we have such special projects. We also benefit from education by getting skilled workers such as engineers, plumbers including our administrators.

We value education as this ANC led Municipality.

Programme Director,

We have set aside monies towards assisting poor students through the office of the Mayor. We have a Mayoral Relief Fund aimed at poor students who are at tertiary institutions. We have set aside

about R4,7million and we want to increase this amount to accommodate more students. This is little but it means a lot if you have nothing. We do this because as ANC led Council we care about our people. We are a caring municipality. When the world turns against us, you must be our voice and say we have seen ANC giving us bursaries. Tell the world that ANC paid towards your studies.

It is important that you go and study in universities and TVET colleges. We want to encourage you to study the skills that are required for this economy. Don't chose professions that will make you sit at home after graduating. Choose wisely.

We encourage you to study subjects that will open doors for you in the future. Don't take any available course in the university because after three of studies you will sitting at home doing nothing.

We do have programs that assist with learnerships, internships and skills training. We will be training about 10 000 artisans. This is our skills revolutionary project, we want to see more youth being skilled. Our economy is desperately in need for artisans. Our infrastructure projects as governemtn need trained artisans.

This is the reason we are investing our money in training youth of eThekwini to be Artisans

Programme director,

I would like to congratulate all the schools, learners and teachers for doing a great job. You are like our President OR Tambo.

We will always award good work and excellent. Halala,  
Congratulations!!!

Siyabonga.

