



**Welcome Address by Chairperson of the Economic
Development and Planning Committee, Cllr Siph
Kaunda on the Occasion of the Pledge Signing
Ceremony by Matric Learners and 10 Days Countdown
Blitz to National Senior Certificate Examination**

**13 October 2016 – 10h00
Ohlange High School - Inanda**

- Programme Director, Dr EV Nzama,
- Honourable Premier of KwaZulu-Natal – Mr Willies Mchunu,
- MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwane,
- Durban University of Technology Student Representative Council President, Ms Zama Mncube,
- Teacher unions and learner organisations,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Grade 12 learners,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Officials from the different spheres of government,
- Members of the media,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Esteemed guests and dignitaries, most importantly our Grade 12 learners, it is with great pleasure to welcome you to the City of Durban.

We are gathered here to mark the 10-day countdown to the National Senior Certificate Examination starting on 24 October.

Ladies and gentlemen, today our Grade 12 learners will sign a pledge to demonstrate their commitment to the Examination Code of Conduct which applies during the examination.

To Grade 12 learners, all eyes will be on you for the next few weeks as you undergo the most significant examination in your schooling years.

You must work hard in order to achieve excellent results in this examination because they will determine your next chapter in life.

I am sure most of you have already decided which career paths you wish to follow. We wish you all the best.

Some of you will be taking a gap year to figure out your next move. In making your decision, consider the pros and cons in order to make the right move.

I advise you to put your education, your future and the future of your country above everything else. Education is the only key to a better life.

Grade 12 learners, I hope you have been working hard since day 1 of the academic school year. From now until you sit down to write your examination, you must thoroughly prepare yourself for each and every paper.

If you are well prepared, have an understanding of your subjects and have dedicated your time to revising, you should not face any hurdles during the examinations.

This year, we look forward to an impressive 2016 KZN matric pass rate. The provincial Matric Class of 2015 achieved a 60.7 percent pass rate, a decline from 69.7 percent from 2014. In 2013, our province achieved 77.4 percent, up from 73.1 percent in 2012.

The 2012 and 2013 pass rates prove that we can achieve higher results. EThekweni commits to working hard towards an increasing the pass rate from 60.7 percent achieved by our province last year.

Going forward, our Municipality understands that the main hurdle preventing access to higher education is the issue of finance.

Last year, we introduced the Mayoral Student Financial Relief Fund which offers bursaries to learners who come from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure access to education.

This fund provides deserving learners with registration fees so that they can access education, which constitutes lifetime empowerment of a young person.

This year, we have provided assistance to the tune of R5.4 million to over 500 learners. As a City, we will continue to invest in youth development and we commit to assisting more learners next year to realise their dreams.

In welcoming you once again, on behalf of eThekweni Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Zandile Gumede, we wish all Grade 12 learners all the best for the final examinations.

Give it your all!

Thank you!