

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY ACTING EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR RADAMBA NC
DURING NDAEDZO SCHOOL EXCELLENCE AWARDS HELD
AT CALVARY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON THE 01ST
FEBRUARY 2019 AT 09H00**

The Acting Mayor of Thulamela Municipality

All Councillors

Thovhele Vho-Nelwamondo AC na Misanda yothe

Representatives of Lwamondo Community Development Trust

Education District Directors Dr Rambiyana and Mr Ravhuanzwo

Apostle Dr Masakona

Circuit Managers

Teachers Unions

Principals, Educators, SGB and Learners

Representatives of Government Departments

Representatives of Faith based organisations

Leadership of Business community

SANCO leadership

All invited guests

Comrades and Compatriot

Education continues to be our number one priority. The ANC government has made great strides in ensuring that education and training is available to all and in addressing the injustices of

the past. Focusing on reversing the systematic impact of apartheid, Government has put in place a comprehensive and integrated education system.

Compatriot, it is sad standing before you as our district is characterized by the barbaric action of shooting and killings which is happening in our watch. Last week Thursday night one of workers representative was shoot at his house from Vhembe District Municipality. Again a day before yesterday Cde Ronie Mani who was a provincial Deputy Secretary of SAMWU was gun down to death at Tshisaulu area, and thus on its own is a symbolic sign of demon running around our district which is unusual.

We call upon the law enforcement agency to crack down and brought all the perpetrators to the book of law. We also want to congratulate the Police for the job well done on the arrest of four suspects in case of brutal murderer of the late Cde Marks Rambau from Vuwani who was buried last weekend. As a district municipality we are touched by such barbaric acts of faceless people. May their souls rest in peace.

Program Director, our country spends about 5% of its budget on basic education and 2 % on higher education. National Development Plan has also identified education as a most important priority and urges government to direct and invest

more resources on education and training. South Africa is currently facing serious technical and accounting skills deficiencies.

Programme director, once more again the people of Lwamondo have gathered here today to celebrate their achievements. For many years, we as a district continued to lead the Province, make significant and noticeable contributions at a national level. Our district is a home of many well-known academics and expects in various aspects of life. The secret of our district is that we take education seriously and prioritise it.

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of 1.5 million people of Vhembe to thank the District Directors Dr Rambiyana and Mr Ravhuanzwo for their tireless efforts in ensuring that Vhembe is always producing better results in our Province. Together with their Circuit Managers, Principals, Educators, Teachers Unions, Learners, SGBs, Parents and other stakeholders they have made us proud.

Since from 2011 Vhembe remain the pride of our Province, It is important to note that for the past eight years the district is performing above both the provincial and national pass percentages. All these achievements are as a result of hard work and commitment. Our district is amongst the top ten

districts in the country. Therefore it is evident that schools coming from poor communities are demonstrating good performances which will be harnessed in the coming years. The notion that the schools from the more elite communities are propping up the pass rate it is therefore invalid.

Program Director, despite several challenges, we pledge ourselves to escalating the battle against poverty and other discriminations and to illustrate progress made in improving the lives of our people in our communities through education.

It is a commitment we make to ensure that our people, young people in particular enjoy greater freedoms and human rights our forebears fought for over a century under the leadership of the African National Congress.

Programme director, Vhembe is one of the poorest districts in our country but continued to produce better results than many developed districts of our country. Vhembe has demonstrated that success is not determined by the geographical location and the background of your area but it is all about hard work and commitment. With all the challenges and the obstacles mostly created by the historical imbalances of the past, our district has

emerged and managed to produce a best learners, schools and circuits in our Province.

Let me take this opportunity to highlight some of the district achievements; three schools out of ten best schools in the province are from our district which is Mbilwi, Tshivhase and Thengwe. In the category of top twenty schools in our province 7 are from Vhembe. What is also encouraging in our district is that good and quality results are produced by historically disadvantaged and rural based public schools and this is against the national trend. Other districts are been boosted by Former Model C schools and private schools.

Our task as leadership is to ensure that we mobilise community to have confidence and support the leadership of our various schools. A top learner who represented the Province at National Level came from our district, at Thengwe Secondary School and her name is Khaarendwe Mudzielwana who makes us proud.

It is also pleasing to note that our learners are taking mathematics and physical science seriously. We have notice tremendous improvements in both mathematics and physical science. Many of our Learners have obtained distinction in mathematics and have also obtained distinction in physical science.

Programme director, since 1994 our government has invested more resources in ensuring that education is accessible to all South Africans irrespective of race and gender. The commitment of our government is guided by the belief of our former President Nelson Mandela “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.

The intention of our government is to ensure that higher education should be accessible to all irrespective of financial status or background. To realise this commitment National Government has increased the budgets of National Student Financial Aid Scheme to more than R9 billion to meet the rising demand. All Provincial government departments have also set aside funds for bursary relevant to their mandate.

In supporting the efforts of both Provincial and National Government, Vhembe District Municipality has set aside R 3 million annually to support the needy learners from the disadvantaged families. From its inception in 2008 to 2018, the bursary has assisted more than 700 learners. Just a week ago before this event we have awarded bursary to 60 first year students and 39 students for second and third year’s students. Additional 51 students awarded through Mayoral intervention which total to 150 students at this financial year.

We have noticed the emergence of a new culture in our communities that need to be dealt with it by all of us. This tendency of disturbing lessons whenever there is an issue in the community must come to an end. Learners must be given an opportunity to learn without any disturbances. We have witnessed such occurrences in some of the villages. Why when there is a municipal service delivery issues and matters related to ritual murders people always prevent learners to learn. We are urging the leadership of SANCO and parents to make pledge that there will be no lessons disruptions under their watch.

Let me conclude by congratulating all the winners. Let me assure you that next year awards will be more prestigious in terms of prices as I was told by the organisers. And finally I want to invite you all to partake in the next coming general election by exercise your democratic voting right. One of our own from this region is waiting for your vote, I mean President Matamela Ramaphosa.

I thank you