

**ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR OF GTM COUNCILOR MARIPE MANGENA  
ON EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR THE CLASS OF 2016.**

TO THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR CLLR MACHIMANA

EXECUTIVE MAYOR

SPEAKER OF COUNCIL

CHIEF WHIP OF THE RULING PARTY THE ANC

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ALL COUNCILORS

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES

DISTRICT SENIOR MANAGERS

MM AND ALL OFFICIALS

TVET PRINCIPAL

OLD MUTUAL

HOTEL@TZANEEN

DYONDZO I XITHLANGU EDUCATION TRUST

SGB CHAIRPERSONS

CIRCUIT MANAGERS

DEPUTY MANAGERS FOR GOVERNANCE

LEADERSHIP OF SADTU

LEADERSHIP OF PEU

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

EDUCATORS

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF LEARNERS AND

THE CLASS OF 2016

Good afternoon, Riperile and Thobela

It is indeed a great honor for us as a GTM to finally get an opportunity to appreciate our colleagues in the education department and the class of 2016. The year of 2017 is special for us as South Africans as we commemorate the centenary of Oliver Tambo and get back to Education basics.

In this year of OR Tambo, we wish to emulate his character of serving our people and live the legacy that will live beyond our lifetime. This 2017 the GTM has assisted 110 students to register in institutions of higher learning through Mayor's student financial assistance (MSFAS).

Former President Mandela believed that 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.' Madam Speaker, this afternoon we are committing ourselves to the realization of the former President's belief by recognizing and awarding excellence that will go a long way in motivating.

We have a responsibility to break the cycle of poverty in our Municipality and the entire district of Mopani. We can only do this if teachers, parents, learners, government and business prioritize improvement of the entire public schooling and matric results in particular. On that note let me take this opportunity to appreciate Old Mutual and Hotel@Tzaneen for partnering with us in breaking this cycle of poverty.

This afternoon as we celebrate and recognize excellent performance we wish to call upon all of us to establish a strong partnership that will contribute in the betterment of our education system. OR Tambo a physical science and mathematics educator himself warned us that “a country that does not take care of its youth does not deserve its future”.

Madam Speaker, today in this excellence awards we intentionally invited the representative council of learners as an important component that has a role in the improvement and betterment of our education system. We are challenging them to go back to their institutions and be difference makers.

OR Tambo was given a position of a Deputy Head Prefect during his secondary schooling years. At about that time he renounced alcohol, vowing never to consume anymore, something he did for the rest of his life. To the leadership of learners, what are you choosing to renounce this afternoon and which qualities are you going to display next week in our schools?

Programme director Cllr Machimana, allow me to say congratulations to our best performing learners from the 10 circuits in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. We wish them all the best with the future that lies ahead of them. To our colleagues who hold the future of our future leaders thank you so much for working so tirelessly and producing the best. We wish you all the best in the remaining quarters of 2017.

**THANK YOU.**