



## EXECUTIVE MAYOR SPEECH

### **SPEAKING NOTES BY EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLLR THEMBI NKADIMENG DURING THE EVENT TO ANNOUNCE BURSARIES FOR 2017**

Date: 01 February 2018

Venue: New Council Chamber

Cllrs Present  
Members of the Bursary Committee  
Distinguished guests  
Students  
Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to all of you this morning as we are taking a positive step towards empowerment of our children and to plant in them a seed to yearn for a more positive and brighter future.

As a city we recognize the challenge that our communities face when the demand for skills can't be met and unemployment persists because individuals don't have the skills employers need. We have made a commitment to contribute towards closing this gap and help build a growing economy through required skills within our municipality. We have a mandate to ensure that this city continues to be the backbone of Limpopo.

We also acknowledge that education has the power to transform lives and build the foundation for a brighter future. But poverty can make it difficult to access quality education. The Executive Mayor's Bursary fund initiative gives access to learning opportunities to those members of our communities who are finding it difficult to do so – those who have fallen on hard times to access tertiary education.

Besides this not being core business of the municipality and also grappling with budgetary constraints, we continue to solicit partnership with the community and business to contribute



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to the Executive Mayor's Bursary Fund. We also continuously use sporting activities like the Mayoral Golf Cup Challenge, the Blue Bulls Rugby warm up games and other sporting activities to raise money for needy students. Standard bank also contributes as a major sponsor to the bursary fund. We annually raise around R1,5 million which has proven a great assistance in advancing our goals of creating a better South Africa for all. However, this is not enough given the number of applications we receive.

In terms of the External Bursary Policy, the Executive Mayor has constituted an External Bursary Committee that determines the recruitment process and finally recommends the awarding of bursaries to successful applicants. The committee is made up of representatives from the municipality and our external partners; Standard Bank and the University of Limpopo.

The bursary scheme has been able to intake 179 students from previous years. Among the 73 learners which were awarded from previous years, 44 of them achieved 80% to 100%.

11 bursary holder have completed and 5 received other sponsorships from private institutions.

We are proud to announce that for the 2017/18 financial year 52 learners from the 422 who applied have been selected for financial assistance.

Allow me to thank all the stakeholders and partners who have contributed to the fund for their contribution is a selfless contribution towards humanity. Special thanks to Standard Bank for their partnership. Approximately R2.2 million will be used for the year 2017/18.

I also take this opportunity to thank members of the Bursary Committee for the hard work that they continue to do for this initiative.



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Programme Director,

Please allow me to divert attention to our guests of honour – the successful applicants who are with us this morning. We say congratulations to the rest of you for you have proven that hard work and dedication are the pavers of a great future ahead. You have to be grateful to the community of Polokwane for ensuring that they invest in your future and the best that you can do is to ensure that you never let them down by focussing on other things other than your studies.

In conclusion, please allow me to reiterate that with education we can never go wrong. We all still have the opportunity to learn. An inspirational quote that I have come across from an unnamed source says that: “The roots of education are bitter, but the fruits are the sweetest”.

I thank You.....

End.

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