

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF POLOKWANE – CLLR
THEMBI NKADIMENG AT GRADE 12 -NSC- ANNOUCEMENTS OF RESULTS ON
WEDNESDAY, 06 JANUARY 2016**

Programme Director,
Honourable Premier,
MEC for Education,
Other MECs present,
Members of the Provincial Legislature,
Executive Mayors, Mayors and Councillors,
Acting Director General of the Province and HODs present,
Leadership of organised labour, school governing formations, youth and student
formations,
Senior government officials,
Principals, Educators, parents and learners,
Distinguished Guests,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!!

It ~~is~~ gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here today on the occasion of
announcement of the 2015 National Senior Certificate - Examination Results.

Many of us gathered here have just returned from festive holidays. I am thankful that
you have managed to see the New Year and are energized and geared towards making
2016 a year of great achievements.

As we begin a new year, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. I ask all of you to **spare a moment for those who passed on in 2015**. Let us honour them by building on a proud legacy that they have left behind.

The world is changing every day. There are better and faster ways of doing things. As a city we have chosen to embrace change in a manner that will not harm the environment, but a manner that will ensure the survival of future generations. We have chosen to pursue development in a smart way.

Earlier in 2014, the City Council adopted what we call the **2030 Smart City Vision**. This vision outlines how Polokwane is working towards being a Smart Economy, Smart Environment, Smart Governance, Smart Living, Smart people and Smart mobility. The 2030 Smart City Vision, a tool that will guide Polokwane towards being a city that embraces conveniences of modern technology while at the same time pursuing development in a sustainable manner. The need for sufficiently skilled and intellectually capacitated residents becomes immediate if we are to realise this vision.

My presence here today is a clear demonstration and commitment that **Polokwane is working towards having smart people; people who are sufficiently skilled and informed, to make meaningful contribution towards development**.

There still exists a **chronic shortage of sufficient financial aid for tertiary education** and training for the majority of learners who have passed Grade 12. We have become unconventional and creative in terms of how we raise funds for bursaries and charities in the city.

Programme Director,

I announced last year in this same gathering that I have learnt to play golf to continue to play golf with companies and generous business people to raise funds. The **Executive Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament** that was held in November 2015 was able to bring

in no less than R1.2 million with most of the money earmarked towards the Executive Mayor's Bursary Fund.

We are currently processing over 1000 bursary applications for the 2016 academic year. The intention is to cater for more students in the specialized science fields that will breathe life into our 2030 Smart City Vision. I am proud to announce that over **R1.5 million was awarded in bursaries** to deserving students from the municipality's bursary scheme for the **2015 academic year**.

My office as the Executive Mayor continues to champion **career awareness drives** every year; to expose our learners to career opportunities and funding institutions. We are planning to expand the reach of these to cater for more learners. We also have an **internship programme** where young graduates are recruited and exposed to various working streams in the municipality.

Our **libraries provide necessary facilities** that promote reading for leisure and academic projects. Our libraries run a number of outreach programmes which include:

1. Polokwane Libraries Grade 7 Outreach to Primary Schools;
2. Father's Day at the Library;
3. Executive Mayor's Trophy Debate Tournament ;
4. Holiday Library Programme and
5. **P**articipation National Library Week

Work is ongoing in maintaining and towards **improvement of sports and recreational facilities**. These facilities enhance holistic development of young people residing, studying or just visiting Polokwane.

I have mentioned all these programmes that we are engaged in to demonstrate to all present here that you have a municipality that remains committed to the course of educating the nation.

There still remains a need for us as government to **accelerate synergizing student financial aid and skills development interventions** in a manner that will ~~be~~ provide holistic support to our youth. Polokwane remains committed and available to take discussions on this matter forwards towards integrated youth development.

Honourable Premier,

Today marks a triumph against odds for many learners who have achieved despite living and learning in difficult circumstances. **Congratulations to all learners** whose achievementss we are here to celebrate today. Let your achievements continue to inspire your peers and those coming after you. Let it continue to burn the fire of hope in educators and communities that have raised and supported you. Let today mark the beginning of a journey that will help us realise the goals of the National Development Plan.

Lastly,

I need you all to take note of the reality that **Polokwane is a water scarce area** with water shortages made worse by the current drought situation and alarmingly high temperatures.

We have set up a multi stakeholder **rapid response team on water supply** management that has proved effective over the festive season in responding to leaks, pipe bursts and providing relief through water tankers to areas experiencing short term shortages. As a municipality we have started employing various relive measures which include reducing flow of water to some areas to increase supply to those always hit by shortages.

Our **law enforcement teams continue to issue fines** to those not heeding to our call to limit water consumption to immediate households needs and avoid wasteful methods of irrigating gardens and washing cars.

This team has already done an assessment and continues to monitor ~~of~~ water supply to hospitals, clinics, police stations and correctional facilities. The team will start with assessment of schools in the next few days to not only get a picture of the situation but also work with various provincial government departments in ensuring that minimum supply is maintained at schools during this drought season.

Allow me on behalf of the City Council to pass my **sincere gratitude to our local media** who have been assisting our efforts to communicate on unforeseen shortages and relive measures. You have proved to be an indispensable partner in our water shortage **crisis communication efforts**. Thank you.

Water conservation is a collective responsibility. Help us save it!

Welcome to Polokwane, the City of Stars. I wish you well in all activities planned for today.

Thank you.