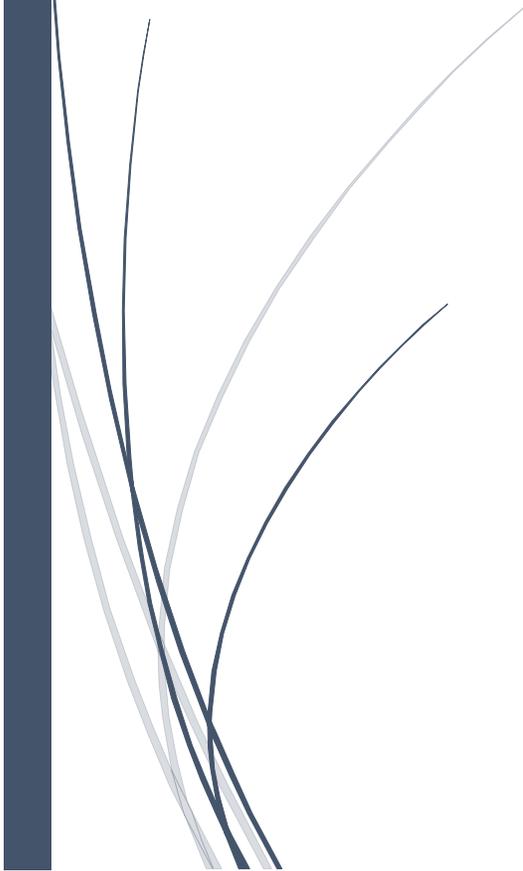


Keynote address by Her Worship Mayor of Musina, Cllr. Mihloti Muhlope during Eric Louw High School Annual Closing Ceremony and Prize Giving on Monday 17 October 2016.



Thank you Programme Director

Fellow Councilors

School Principal and educators

Invited guests

Learners

And everyone present here tonight.

Receive my warm greetings.

It gives me pleasure to address you during this important occasion. I feel very happy when I talk to young people, especially about issues related to education because education is the only key to unlock the golden door of freedom. Although the roots of education are bitter, the fruits thereof are sweet.

Today's event marks the first step towards your success. We all have the potential to succeed. Success is simple. Do what's right, the right way, at the right time. It does not matter where you come from or how you grew up. Let me give you a practical example by myself. I was born and bred here in Musina. I attended my school here in Musina. But look today, I'm the first citizen of Musina Municipality which has a population of around one hundred thousand people. You can also succeed - no matter where you come from. You only have to study hard and make education your best friend.

Let me give you few examples of individuals from Musina who have made names for themselves because they took education seriously. Lovemore Ndou was born here in Musina. He holds seven university degrees and is now a well-known lawyer in Australia. He also holds two world title belts as a renowned boxer.

Doctor Tokyo Mudau is a highly respected South African medical practitioner and author who is also from Musina.

Well-known academic, Professor Lesiba Matsaung is also one of our own. If these examples I gave are of the people from Musina and you also come from Musina, what prevents you from achieving your dreams?

Despite the challenges you might come across in life, concentrate on your studies and build your future. Remember, it is not the load that breaks you down, it is the way you carry it. You can't always get the weather you like. But you can always like the weather you get. So, always develop a positive attitude in everything you do.



When I look at all of you here, I see future mayors, doctors, engineers, journalists, cabinet ministers and state presidents. I know you are all going to pass your Grade 12 with flying colours and enroll in various institutions of higher learning next year.

Although it might happen that one or two of you do not achieve, we must not view failure as the end of the world. Failure gives us an opportunity to begin again, but more intelligently. Let me give you a few examples of successful people who failed several times before they become world celebrities. We all know the names. We've heard them time and time again. But what most people don't know is just how they failed before they succeeded.

One of the wealthiest men in the world and computer guru, Bill Gates failed several times before Microsoft was born and it didn't discourage him from trying again. He was cleverly able to put together a company that revolutionized the personal computing marketplace.

The man who invented Ford vehicles, Henry Ford, failed as a mechanic and engineer at the age of 23. The first batch of his design car was a big flop. In fact, they had so many problems that the Ford Motor Company had to send mechanics to every corner of the country to fix cars. But when the mechanics came back, they brought feedback that Ford immediately implemented in his assembly line. What's important to notice is Ford's perseverance and ability to overcome setbacks. He used failure and the feedback gathered from those failures to fine tune his ideas and eventually change the way he operated earlier. Today, Ford is one of the best-selling vehicles in the world.

In conclusion, let me assure you that the municipality is serious about financing deserving students through the Mayoral Bursary. In the past two years, we have produced professionals who are working in various fields to enhance the economy of our country. Three of the products are currently on contracts with the municipality. This means that in our democratic dispensation, there is no child who could not go to school because of lack of funding. Various bursaries are also offered by government departments and the private sector.

The book of Proverbs Chapter nine, verse nine and ten reads as follows: And I quote: "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight."

Allow me to congratulate and commend all individuals who are receiving the awards and prizes today. Achieving success and maintaining high standards do not come easily. They are the outcome of consistent hard work and dedication by all concerned. On behalf of all the people of Musina, I wish you well in your oncoming exams and hope that you will be matured enough to realize that this country will be poorer without you.

I thank you.

