



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF DIPALESENG LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY, CLLR. NB KHANYE AT THE BURSARY AWARD CEREMONY HELD
AT DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, COUNCIL CHAMBER ON MONDAY, 14TH
APRIL 2025**

HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND CHIEF WHIP

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF MY MAYORAL COMMITTEE

MPAC CHAIR

FELLOW COUNCILORS

VALUED REPRESENTATIVES FROM MAXPROF AND EST SOURCING

MUNICIPAL MANAGER AND HIS MANAGEMENT TEAM

REPRESENTATIVE/S FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

VALUED STAKEHOLDERS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE BURSARY BENEFICIARIES

ALL PROTOCOL OBSERVED

I GREET YOU ALL IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR, AMEN

First and foremost, congratulations to each and every recipient here today. This is not just a financial award; it is a recognition of your hard work, your determination, and the potential you carry within you. You have earned your place here through perseverance, and today we celebrate your achievements.

It is a great honor and privilege to stand before you today on this proud occasion — the awarding of bursaries to our bright, young future leaders from Dipaleseng Local Municipality who were part of the class of 2024 achieving an incredible 91.4% pass rate.

You know, when I was your age, I didn't have a bursary — but I did have big dreams and someone who believed in me, today WE are that someone for you. (Tell story of self, brief history)

Program Director, the South African government has demonstrated a strong commitment to education, recognizing its pivotal role in the nation's development. This dedication is evident through substantial budgetary allocations and strategic policy initiatives aimed at enhancing both access and quality in the education sector.

Over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period, the government has allocated approximately R1.4 trillion to higher and basic education, as well as sports, arts, and culture.

Of this allocation, the Department of Basic Education's budget was increase from R39.4 billion in 2023/24 to R316.5 billion in 2024/25 and in the region of R331.2 billion in 2025/26 term.

With Key Developments in Post-Matric Funding being NSFAS Funding, Comprehensive Student Funding Model as well as Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) Bursaries.

In 2025, South Africa has significantly expanded post-matric funding to support students pursuing higher education. The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) has exceeded its initial funding targets by more than 120 000 students, assisting over 540,000 university students, surpassing the expected 417,938 beneficiaries. This achievement underscores the government's commitment to broadening access to higher education in our country.

Honourable Chief Whip, you see although these initiatives reflect a concerted effort by the South African government to make higher education accessible to a broader range of students, addressing financial barriers and promoting skills development aligned with national priorities, much more needs to be done to bridge prevailing funding gaps that continue be evident.

The importance of cooperative efforts between government and the public sector in education cannot be overstated as through aligning their efforts with government education strategies (like Vision 2030 or SDGs), the private sector helps build a skilled, employable, and productive society. These partnerships are essential to creating a strong, inclusive, and sustainable education rich population for our country, the reason we are gathered here today is a classic representation such significant collaboration.

Program Director, pardon me, however, I cannot descend the podium without touching on Gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide, that remain critical challenges in South Africa, reflecting deeply entrenched societal issues that demand our urgent attention. A quick look at some stats, disturbing one I might add.

- **Intimate Partner Femicide:** In the 2020/2021 period, intimate partners were responsible for 60% of femicide cases, marking a significant increase from previous years.
- **Unsolved Cases:** Approximately 44% of femicide cases lack identified perpetrators, highlighting significant gaps in law enforcement and justice processes.
- **Economic Impact:** The economic cost of GBV is estimated between R28.4 billion and R42.4 billion annually, considering factors like lost productivity and absenteeism

This evidence drives us to the conclusion that suggests that the persistence of GBV and femicide in South Africa is a national crisis that necessitates immediate, coordinated, and sustained efforts from all sectors of society. (Tell story)

As the chairperson of the local RRT on GBVF, we acknowledge the Legislative and Institutional Responses through the National Council on GBV and Femicide which was established to oversee the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide, this council aims to coordinate efforts across sectors to address and prevent these heinous acts, as well as the National Integrated Strategy on the Prevention of Femicide which seeks to strengthen legislation and develop specific policies to prevent and respond to femicide, emphasizing the need for comprehensive national policies.

Program Director, I must say, standing here today, I feel a bit like a proud parent at a graduation — except I didn't have to help with the homework, just the funding!

In my inaugural bursary award ceremony, I want to join my esteemed counterparts in various municipalities across South Africa, who are proactively supporting matriculants by encouraging these learners to work hard and aim to achieve bursaries for the upcoming academic year of study.

As a municipality, I am also a passionate believer in investing in our youth, because you are the architects of the future. This bursary is not just an investment in your education — it is an investment in our community, our economy, and our collective future.

To the parents, guardians, and educators — thank you for being the guiding hands behind these brilliant young minds. Your support has played a crucial role in getting them to this point.

To the recipients, bantwana bami use this opportunity wisely. Work hard, stay focused, and remember that education is one of the most powerful tools you have to change your life, and to uplift those around you. Let your success be the light that inspires others in your community.

Finally, never forget where you come from. We hope that once you've reached your goals, you will return to uplift the next generation — to lead, to teach, and to give back.

On behalf of the municipality, we are proud of you, we believe in you, and we will continue to support you on your journey.

Congratulations once again, and may your journey ahead be filled with success and purpose.

Thank you so much.