

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY
THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF
MVA FUND
MR CROSS KGOSIDIILE

EVENT:
KGATLENG REGIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS
CEREMONY

AT:
KGATLENG BRIGADE, MOCHUDI

DATE: 13 MARCH 2014



Directors of Ceremonies

Members of Parliament for Kgatleng West and Kgatleng East
Constituencies

District Commissioner - Mr Lesotle

Kgosi Pilane

Council Chairman

Councillors here present

Council Secretary

Honourable Councillors

The Permanent Secretary-Ministry of Education and Skills
Development (Secretary for Reforms – Ms Nkhwa)

All Deputy Permanent Secretaries here present

All Directors and Heads of Departments

School Heads

All Staff members of the Ministry of Education

All teachers here present

Students

All MVA Fund Staff

Mrs Public Service

Distinguished, ladies and gentlemen I greet you all!!

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to have been invited to the 2014 Kgatleng Regional Excellence Awards Ceremony.

Today's occasion offers us an opportunity to recognize and reward outstanding students and teachers for academic excellence based on the 2013 Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE), Junior Certificate (JC) and the just released Botswana General Certificate for Secondary Examination (BGCSE) results.

I am also humbled by the fact that this time around non-teaching staff, college lecturers, school managers and Principal Education Officers will be recognised for their excellent performance.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Director, Regional Operations for Kgatleng Region and his team for having seen it fit to recognize and reward all these various categories of staff.

As the name suggests – Excellence Awards are meant to recognize and reward excellent performers (both students and staff). This recognition is not confined to one group of cadres in the educational delivery process, but rather embraces the entire value chain. This is highly commendable.

The objectives of Excellence Awards are;

- To motivate and sustain a culture of academic excellence amongst learners. To buttress this objective, let me quote the words of Arnold Swertzeneker by stating that, “Motivation is the oxygen to Soul,”.
- To build a winning team and this can be achieved by openly celebrating achievements, congregating around a great leadership, sharing the vision and being strategic in orientation.
- To inspire both teaching and non-teaching staff to subscribe to high productivity levels.
- To contribute collectively, towards transforming Kgatleng Region as a region of academic excellence and high productivity levels characterized by a United and inspired workforce.

A colourful event like the one we are witnessing today bears testimony to the fact that hard work and teamwork produce excellent results. I believe those who are being recognised today have persevered and remained focused to achieve distinction. Success and achievement are never the result of an overnight effort. They are rather a result of consistent effort and determination. For those who have achieved excellent results, I congratulate you for your perseverance and determination.

I commend the best performing students for the outstanding results. Directors of Ceremonies, we are all gathered here because

of a learner and allow me to encourage all learners to work extra hard in order to realize their academic aspirations.

I am gratified to note that the theme of Kgatleng Excellence Awards is; **“Inspired, excelling students and staff: the key to unlocking limitless opportunities”**. To you learners, the theme is saying the sky is not the limit and that “every person is an architect of his own destiny”. You have the capacity to go beyond your current achievement.

The theme of the day is also applicable to all high performing regional staff; if you excel; you will be recognized and possibly have better prospects for recognition. I urge all of you to maintain this culture of academic and professional excellence!! As the late Former South African President Nelson Mandela says, “Education is the engine of Human Development,” let us take our responsibility to deliver education as a calling. A calling to save our Society from the vagaries of ignorance and other related uncivil norms. It is the sole weapon through which we can eradicate poverty and diseases. Education further equips us with life skills and talent necessary to achieve sustainable success. This is the paradox to Bantu Education, which was used to justify apartheid as a model of separate development. The apartheid regime of the time argued that everyone should be educated in accordance with the opportunities he/she has in life.

Directors of Ceremonies, the Government of Botswana, through the Ministry of Education and Skills Development continues to invest and devotes billions of pulas to education. This is a commendable commitment. However, financial resources alone cannot guarantee us quality education and achievement. These resources need to be deployed diligently and with abundant commitment of the human resources in order to achieve the desired results. Let us stand up and demonstrate this commitment.

Directors of Ceremonies, I am delighted to note that despite declining results registered this year, we still have individuals (students, teachers and non-teaching staff who continue to make us proud. I wish to commend these men and women of substance for their hard work, dedication and spirit of excellence they have shown and continue to show. It is only this spirit which can take us to greater heights. May I also encourage both students and staff who did not get any award not to despair but to redouble their efforts so that come next year – we can see them receiving their awards. The theme of today's event which says an **“inspired, excelling students and staff: the key to unlocking limitless opportunities”** is a true cardinal statement that gives hope to all. It further reminds me of an African Proverb, which the Rand Merchant Bank of South Africa has adopted as its marketing Mantra and it says, “If you want to walk fast, walk alone, but if you want to go far, walk with others.” In order for us to unlock these limitless opportunities our bond, as staff, students and other key players should be strengthened.

Directors of ceremonies, students' academic achievement in a school, never exceed the capability of the school leadership. Improvement in performance never occurs in the absence of effective school leadership and parental guidance. Let me challenge all institutional leaders here present to rise to the occasion and manage schools in a way that can produce excellent results. This is only achievable if the leadership aligns the necessary resources for the achievement of high performance. As schools high performance is adjudged on the basis of the products we produce. Here I am inclined to make reference to both the quantity and the quality of the products, (Grades and discipline).

I am delighted to note that some schools in the Kgatleng region are doing well. Records show that Phaphane Primary School scooped **position 1** out of the **37 Primary schools** in Kgatleng. Congratulations to Phaphane Primary School staff and students for such a sterling performance. To all other primary schools, I urge you to benchmark with Phaphane Primary School and of course others in the country in order to improve your performance.

In the junior schools category, I congratulate Linchwe Junior Secondary School for scooping **position 1** out of the 10 Junior Secondary schools in Kgatleng.

I am reliably informed that Linchwe CJSS has been doing well for the past 3 consecutive years. Ladies and gentlemen, Linchwe Junior Secondary School is a Special school because it is the only Junior school with Special Education Unit – with Thirty eight (38) learners who are visually impaired and some of them have complex disabilities. This is excellent performance that we are all proud of. Both Phaphane Primary School and Linchwe Junior Community Secondary School have branded themselves as schools of excellent academic performance.

I should also emphasize that good performance should not be a spot event. Appropriate structures and a culture of learning need to be developed to sustain high performance. There should be continuity. “If there is change, it should be change for the better,” source Sir Wonder Masebola.

Directors of Ceremonies, let me also commend Molefi Senior School for having attained **position 18** out of the 32 senior secondary schools in the just released 2013 BGCSE results. In 2012 Molefi Senior School attained position 29 and today it has improved to **position 18**. This is a giant and commendable leap. Once more congratulations to Molefi students and staff for a job well done!!!! If you can move another 11 places, you will become a member of the elite schools which belong to the top 10 schools in the country. I am certain that it is achievable.

Directors of Ceremonies, provision of quality education is expensive. The Government alone may not achieve this noble course. Hence, all Private and Parastatal organisations are strongly encouraged to assist the Government. In this regard, the Ministry of Education and Skills Development initiated the **Adopt a School** programme that aims to facilitate Private Sector participation in the delivery of quality education. The Adopt a School Initiative is a noble move as it encourages all of us to participate in this long and tedious journey in pursuit of quality education for the upcoming generation.

The Adopt a School Initiative advocates for active involvement of individuals and companies in providing service or financial support towards the teaching and learning process. The primary objective of this initiative is to engage a broader stakeholder base in the learning process and possibly improve the learners' outcomes.

We at Motor Vehicle Accident Fund are in full support of this initiative. Currently about 17 schools, including some in this region benefit from us under this initiative. As a responsible citizen, our organisation provides a modest budget on annual basis for this initiative.

Director of Ceremonies, before I conclude, I wish to briefly share with you the mandate of my organization. The Motor Vehicle Accident Fund is mandated to compensate injured people or the

dependants of people killed in road crashes, on public roads in Botswana.

The Fund therefore provides a range of benefits to those affected by road crashes. These benefits include medical care, rehabilitation and compensation for financial loss and support. We are also mandated to promote road safety and injury prevention.

Pursuant to our vision (***Best Chance to normal life***), we have undertaken nation-wide public education campaigns on road safety, targeting the youth. Our road safety and Injury prevention campaigns also target learners at Primary and Secondary School level for we are strongly convinced that an empowered youth is the vehicle to crash free Botswana.

I would therefore like to inform all schools here present that we at the MVA Fund are more than ready to assist you to set up and resource your school road safety clubs. We fully subscribe to the Setswana expression which says, *“Lore lo ojwa le sale metsi.”*

In conclusion, let me congratulate all awardees and thank Kgatleng Region for organizing this colourful event. And may I take this opportunity to wish all of you continued health, academic excellence and high productivity levels in the future.

I THANK YOU ALL!!