

**KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY THE MVA FUND CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER MR. CROSS KGOSIDIILE AT
THE MAKHUBU JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY ON THE 22ND MARCH
2014.**

Director of Ceremonies

Honourable Saleshando of Selibe Phikwe West

The School PTA Vice Chairperson and Committee members

The School Head

Principal Education Officer

Moruti

Representative of Government Departments

School Heads and their delegates from the sister schools

Teachers and students

My Fellow MVA Fund Staff

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning to you all.

“Alone you achieve so little and together you achieve so much”

Director of Ceremonies, let me thank Makhubu Community Junior Secondary School for this opportunity to officiate at this very important event in your school calendar, where you are celebrating the achievement as a school. It must be a very important day indeed as it is filled with successes and jubilation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as human being we are adorned with many rights and privileges. One fundamental right which supersedes others is the right to education. Education liberates us and gives us the opportunity to lead dignified lives.

Personally, no other right provides me with the level of gratification that I derive from having been given the opportunity to attend School. During our times attending school was something that one could have been easily denied, either out of ignorance or simply because of lack of appreciation for the value of education by parents/guardians.

I am therefore humbled to be in the midst of parents and guardians, staff and students who demonstrably place a lot of premium on the value of education.

Parents and guardians, let me applaud you for having found the need to send your children to school to start the learning process. These are the students we are today celebrating the course of their excellent performance.

It has been said on numerous occasions that these students represent the future and hope of our nation.

Director of Ceremonies I am humbled to note that Makhubu CJSS is a 'school of excellence'. This you achieved through your unwavering spirit of hard work and the zeal by all members of staff to continuously raise performance standards and deal with new challenges.

The school has always emerged amongst the Country's **Top Ten** in the Junior Certificate Results. As for quality results i.e. merit A and B the school has always been on top and for the 2013 results you still remain a member of the 'elite schools' at position 6. **I propose a round of applause for this commendable effort!!!**

Ladies and gentlemen, today's theme 'COMBINED EFFORTS TOWARDS AN ENDLESS JOURNEY OF EXCELLENCE'

addresses one of Botswana 's Vision 2016 Strategic goals of, **'An Educated and Informed Nation.'** It is only through a collective and committed involvement of parents, teachers, community and learners that the theme for the day could be achieved.

As stakeholders, we should aim for education that embraces knowledge in all forms, be it curricular or co- curricular. That

which can position students with life survival skills in order for them to compete in the global world.

It is also our expectation that students should play their part by unleashing their intellectual potential so that they can optimize the benefits of education. This can be achieved by displaying all elements of self-discipline. Talent alone cannot guarantee academic excellence and achievement; it needs to be coupled with values such as discipline and botho, which are necessary to keep one focused on the set goals. In this era we should measure the quality of our products through the quality of the exam results they achieve as well as the degree of Mannerisms they portray. Having passed through the corridors of this school, students remain the ambassadors and an embodiment of this school's achievements.

Bagaetsho, we are gathered here to recognize and celebrate with all those who have performed exceptionally well. These

awards are meant to motivate best performers, and non-recipients of certificates to aim higher in their educational endeavour. To the recipients, I wish to encourage you to step up the spirit of hard work.

At the same time, I would like to persuade the other students and their teachers to take a leaf from their peers so that next year and in years to come, they will be called forward to receive these awards. Conferring awards on best performers helps students to unleash their true potential towards becoming responsible citizens of the world. It also encourages and motivates staff to take this school even to greater heights.

The world over, people compete in a global economy and it is my firm belief that the present day student is challenged to approach learning with a very broad outlook.

However, we can only achieve higher academic excellence as our dream, by being committed to our studies, with a good sense of self discipline, perseverance and determination.

'Today's theme' challenges all of us here today to build beneficial synergies for the benefit of these students and the country at large. The responsibility lies with you parents, teachers and students to ensure that ours is an education that develops a human being into a well-rounded and informed citizen of the world. A prominent and highly regarded world leader remarked that "Education is the engine of Human Development."

Our efforts should be complementary and we should be determined to ensure that these students achieve success as they go through the learning process. Our education system is one that creates endless opportunities. Unlike other failed education systems, which restricted opportunities on the basis

of race. Ours has always a vehicle of civility, eradication of poverty and disease.

However, we can only reap the benefits of education if we work together and appreciate the role of every stakeholder in the value chain. Let us not leave the responsibility to guide these students to the teachers alone. As parents we have the responsibility to inculcate a sense of purpose and responsibility in our children before they even start schooling. In this way they will appreciate the value of education.

Parents must assist in the mentoring of students in order for them to adopt desirable behaviors. While the advent and advancement of modern technology is a positive development, they equally pose a challenge as children may abuse them. Wrong use of technology may have negative consequences on the user. You need not be reminded of both the upside and the downside of modern tools such as, Facebook, Twitter, internet

and many others. While they are important tools for sharing knowledge, let us be selective about how we use them

Turning to the teachers and staff of Makhubu Junior Secondary School, the importance of your leadership in achieving success cannot be ignored. As teachers you are charged with a lot of responsibilities, which entails preparation of a learner into an all-rounded individual.

You are therefore challenged to display a high level of leadership so as to inspire your students. Leadership entails the ability to look forward, set objectives, mobilize resources, deploy resources optimally and set on a path to achieving positive results. Let us be reminded that, 'individuals score goals and team win games'. Let us build winning teams. An African Proverb adopted by the RMB of South Africa as a working material says, "If you want to walk fast, walk alone, but if you want to go far, walk with others."

Part of being a leader entails the ability to engage stakeholders meaningfully in setting a compelling vision for the school. For this vision to be attainable, you should work collectively to ensure that all the available resources are channeled accordingly for a common purpose.

If you work collectively and with a common objective, I can promise you, you will be surprised by the achievements the school will attain despite the scarcity of resources.

Turning to the organization that I represent here, we consider ourselves a part of the broader community of Botswana and therefore have a social obligation to effectively participate in the national development processes, in whatever way possible.

This obligation is manifested by our interest in taking part in the Ministry of Education and Skills Development's Adopt a School initiative.

Through this initiative we assist deserving schools with resources to improve their academic performance. My advice is that you should forge partnerships with likeminded organizations and continue with your journey of turning Makhubu Junior Secondary School into a model school. My colleagues are here today and are ready to share with you details of the various programmes that we have. Most of them can benefit you immensely.

Let me on behalf of my organization and I, thank Makhubu Junior Secondary School for having found it befitting to invite my organization to be a part of these celebrations.

Lastly, let me again congratulate you for your exceptional performance, and convey our support in respect of the victory this school has achieved.

Tshwarang fela jalo betsho.

Ke a leboga.