



**SPEECH BY THE MAYOR OF
MAKHUDUTHAMAGA MUNICIPALITY
CLLR. MOKHABELA QUEEN EMMA
DURING THE
CULTURE AGAINST CRIME
@
NGWANAMATLANG HIGH SCHOOL
22- SEPTEMBER-2009**



- **Magoshi**
- **Ward Councillors and ward committees**
- **SGB**
- **SAPS**
- **Educators**
- **Learners**
- **Government Officials**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies and gentleman**



I thank you programme director for giving me this valuable opportunity to the deliver the message of support to the learners of Ngwanamatlang Secondary, Stakeholders present, and the educators as well.

I would also like to thank Jane Furse SAPS for extending this invitation to my office. Surely, this is an indication that we are working hand in glove as the government and it is appreciated to see us coming together to educate youth that crime does not pay at all.

Indeed this is an occasion of high magnitude and I would like to make use of this moment to indicate that the municipality is very grateful to have men and women who are committed in using sports, values, norms, arts and culture as tool to fight immoral action. Referring to crime in particular.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure that you are aware that the MEC of Education, honourable Namane Masemola is working tirelessly to ensure that all schools are performing up to satisfactory level throughout the province.

Just a week ago he was at comprehensive high school during Sekhukhune education summit indicating that it is time for all schools to produce 100% pass rates. Of course it is possible to produce high pass rates only if our children can engage



themselves in extra mural activities when they are at home. This initiative by SAPS to use culture as a tool to fight crime should be extended to streets where we can see our children engaging themselves on cultural activities, rather than sitting on *"shop stoeps"* because that is where they start to be naughty.

Ladies and gentlemen, September has been declared a heritage month. The parliament of the Republic of South Africa has started with campaigns to discourage youth from celebrating heritage with alcohol and you are not exception in this regard. Please let's take our heritage serious because as human beings we must know where we come from so that we can determine the future as well.

Still on the question of heritage, I want to raise my disappointment that schools are not considering to visit our own heritage sites. Sekhukhune is very rich in heritage and I challenge all teachers present here to visit our LED and Communications offices if you have problems to plan local trips around this subject. Our children deserve to be given an opportunity to discover Sekhukhune's best kept secrets and I challenge all teachers to give learners a chance to know their area before they can know other areas.



Makhuduthamaga alone is blessed to have lots of heritage sites that are of tourist attraction. We have stone age villages, caves of significance, unknown trees that are more than 300 years old, fortresses, pilgrimages and many more attractions that I can spent the whole day mentioning.

In short I am making a humble plea to teachers present here to arrange day trips for our children to tour Makhuduthamaga so that they can know the importance heritage in their lives.

I guess most of you will agree with me that we don't know the attractions in our municipality and therefore it is time to contact our Communications and LED offices to arrange local tours that can assist in broadening our knowledge on heritage issues.

The campaign to encourage schools to visit heritage sites will be kick-started as soon as we launch our 2009 tourist guide and I am positive that Ngwanamatlang will be the first school to respond to my call as you responded very well to our annual Miss Makhuduthamaga High School competitions.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to mention that Tjate heritage festival is just around the corner. On the 24 of October, which is Thursday, we will be celebrating the heritage of Sekhukhune with the deputy president of the republic of South Africa. Buses



will be available from all the villages and we are inviting all of you to join us.

Programme director, before I leave the Stage I would like to emphasise that the job of policemen is to curb crime and I encourage all of us present here to report all criminal activities that are happening in the neighbourhood. In our culture it is not permitted to steal but instead you must ask for assistance from the community. As young people you must do away with this unknown culture of "theft" and stick to acceptable behaviour of respecting your neighbour's belongings.

Let me also take this opportunity to advice the SGB of Ngwanamatlang to consider safety of learners at this school as the main priority. Lets ensure that children are not coming to school with dagga and sharp objects such as knives and razors because this premises are meant for learning and not for fighting. You have already heard in the news that the government is worried about high statistics of stabbing cases at schools and we must all come together to fight this evil act.

Lastly, I wish Grade 12 learners who will be writing examinations in due course all the best. I am confident that you will all pass the national common paper which written for the second time



in history of the country with flying colours. Your self confidence, dedication, hard work and positive attitude towards examinations shall be your ticket to success. Who knows, maybe some of these learners shall be part of the group that will benefit from the municipality bursary scheme. Remember it is only those who pass with distinctions that qualify for the bursaries offered in my office.

On behalf of the executive committee, the council, and the administration of Makhuduthamaga Local municipality, I once again thank you for the opportunity given!

Ke a leboga, pula!!!