



## BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN 2016

Education is the most powerful tools which you can use to change the world (Nelson Mandela). Having been inspired by those words Blouberg Local Municipality Mayor Cllr Sammy Selamolela, Member of Parliament responsible for Blouberg Constituency Stan Maila accompanied by the Speaker Cllr Maria Thamaga, Chief whip Cllr Derrick Seduma and Special focus chairwoman Cllr Tiny Moetji took part in the back to school campaign in the process congratulating the best performing schools and motivating learners who failed their grade 12 to never succumb to failure but rather raise up and soldier on.

The back to school campaign in Blouberg kicked off in full swing in the second day of reopening of schools on the 14<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> of January 2016. The first school to be visited was Rapetsoa Secondary School in the Maleboho East Circuit at Matekereng village. The school achieved 100% pass rate in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

The Mayor and his team were impressed with the level of commitment shown by both the teachers and learners at the school. Giving motivation Mr Maila applauded Rapetsoa Class of 2015 for making it to the top despite limited resources. He said the people's quality of life will only improve if people acquire education hence government listed Education as one of the government's key priorities. Maila said the government is doing all within its means to create a better life for all by availing funding for the needy to access tertiary education. He advised learners to utilize government's National Scheme Financial Aid (NSFAS) to further their studies at the higher institution of learning.

Mayor Selamolela assured learners and teachers that the Municipality was fully behind them motivating them to realize their

dreams and encouraged them to do their best as the future leaders of the country. He also indicated that the visit would have positive impact on the schools and would give teachers and learners reassurance that the government took their work very seriously. Other schools visited include Marumofase and Maphutha Secondary School (Maleboho East Circuit) at Indermark Village in Ward 12. Marumofase was one of the best performing schools in the circuit back in days but made dramatic turn in the previous years. However the class of 2015 brought the glory days back. The school achieved 81% positioning as the best performing school in the circuit for the year 2015. Maphutha Secondary School achieved 42%.

The challenges indicated by the school management upon visit to both the school in Indermark include lack of Infrastructure to such an extent where learners use the library as exam room, shortage of staff, dilapidated buildings, furniture and social problems such as substance abuse, school drop out, child headed families,

Other schools visited include Kgalushi and Mmatsetla Secondary Schools in ward 16. Kgalushi Secondary School at Hlona village was the worst performing school in the Bahananwa Circuit. As they recorded 31% in 2015 a serious decline compared to previous year (63.6% - 2014). The school management indicated challenges such as lack of parental support, lack of resources like textbooks, lack of co-operative from learners as the main contributing factors to the decline in the pass rate. Blouberg Municipality Chief whip Cllr Derrick Seduma adopted the school.

Mmatsetla High School at Pax village is the best performing school in the Bahananwa Circuit. The school pass rate from the previous

year was 100% but dropped to 83%, 6 % in 2015. However the

school management has identified the cause of the drop in pass rate and made a undertaking to work very hard to reclaim the glory. During the visit to various schools, members of the EXCO led by Mayor Selamolela gave learners message of hope encouraging them to study hard as they are tomorrow's aspirant leaders

Responding to challenges highlighted by various schools the Mayor made an undertaking to write to the office of the of the Provincial Education MEC how Ishmael Kgetjepe and also to get the private companies like De Beers Venetia Mine on board.

