



ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MOGALE CITY, CLLR LUCKY SELE DURING THE WESTERN TVET COLLEGE CERTIFICATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY HELD AT THE CENTENARY HALL, MOGALE CITY ON THE 31stOCTOBER 2024

Programme Director,

Chairperson and members of the College Council,

Campus Manager and staff of Westcol TVET College,

Leadership of the Student Representative Council,

Leaders of government departments, business and organs of civil society here present,

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, proud family members, and most importantly, graduates!

On behalf of the Mogale City Local Municipality, I wish to express our humble appreciation of this invite to participate in this august gathering where certificates and commendations will be awarded to the bright stars of the Westcol Krugersdorp Campus.

Today marks a momentous occasion, a celebration of your perseverance, dedication, and hard work. As an Institution, we are honoured to share in this joyous moment.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank the instructors, staff, and administration who have worked tirelessly to support you during your journey. Your dedication to greatness is reflected in the remarkable individuals who stand before us now. In the spirit of good intergovernmental relations, the municipality wishes to acknowledge the positive working relationship between itself and the College. We, the municipality's leadership, hope to see this connection grow by leaps and bounds over time.

To the grads, my heartfelt congrats! Your achievement demonstrates the importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in providing you with the skills needed to succeed in today's fast-paced economy.

We believe that the R62,500 in bursaries that the municipality awarded to nine of your most needy students went some way in assisting them through the year.

We also want to commend the school for sending out some of its students to China to learn about the latest technologies. We trust that they will plough back their rich experience and new-found skills in the city when they return.

We are fully behind the Department of Higher Education in its efforts to reimagine and refashion the TVET Sector. We agree with them when they say that there is negative perception about the role of TVET Colleges which must be dispelled outright. Many countries, including or especially the developed economies, place a high premium on skills development and technical know-how, and encourage in equal measure a choice between traditional university routes or technical campus education. We will work with the school to help eliminate this negative perception because expanding access to post-school institutions needs more than your voice to spread this message.

We support the DHE when it increases its investment in TVET infrastructure across the board hence we are looking forward to a refurbished Westcol which will have student residences. We also cannot help expressing the view that the opportunity exists for more collaboration between our institutions. We will return to this point.

Programme Director, we are required to deliver words of wisdom to the cohort of graduates that will be receiving their certificates today. May we turn the tables around a bit. We want to tell you that your hard work and sacrifices make you people of consequence. Your life of juggling various responsibilities and your achievements are wisdom defined. You are the ones that can dispense of wisdom now.

As someone who has pursued further education, I recall a valuable lesson from my administrative law module. My lecturer's remarks still ring true: "Money is not everything, but the memories you cherish from your campus days." We all disagreed with her, yet today I am imparting this wisdom to you. I understand that money is never enough, but the network I've built and the friendships I've made will last a lifetime.

As you begin your professional adventure, keep in mind that money wealth is not the only measure of success. The friends you form, the experiences you gain, and the positive impact you have on your communities will genuinely improve your life.

One of the realisations that must have arisen during the tough times you spent preparing for different stages of exams is self-awareness and a great sense of accomplishment.

Self-awareness

Nothing in the world can stop you from doing what you have set your mind to, you must have realized. You should have completely overcome any self-doubt you may have had by this point. I hope you've come to the realization that self-doubt is a huge waste of time. It no longer holds you captive. You are now a living example of how to succeed.

Sense of accomplishment

A strong sense of accomplishment ought to arise from that self-awareness. From now on, you should never accept anything less because every success must be followed

by another. Among the unspoken rules of success is this one. It is in the nature of humans to constantly challenge themselves. Continue to learn in order to develop.

Community consciousness

You are now qualified to serve as the college's ambassadors. Reaching out to people who are not present with us today is the first task we would like to suggest to you. Each of us has unique obstacles in life, and not everyone is able to accomplish their objectives simultaneously. As Executive Mayor, I would like to appeal to your sense of community. Your Ubuntu philosophy, which teaches us that I am because you are, is what I wish to appeal to. We say, "Motho ke motho ka batho." Please contact them and explain that failing does not equal the end of the world. Tell them that everyone has the potential and ability to reinvent themselves and hence achieve better success. Allow them to try again until their aspirations are realized.

One of the goals we have set for the remainder of this term is to ensure that the lofty ideals that are spoken about at national and provincial levels also become the lived experience of the people in localities. We are determined to champion reindustrialisation of Mogale City. Already, the Gauteng West Special Economic Zone headquarters are coming to our city. The initial projects of this SEZ will be processing of agricultural goods, which means that we will produce, process and distribute to the country and the world fruits, vegetables and special produce.

We are looking to attract vital investment especially in new technologies, but not forgetting traditional goods and services. There is a R3,5 billion investment in the mining sector that has come through and an injection of R330 million investment at the Chamdor Industrial Park over and above existing industries that supplies to the entire SADC region. We want to ensure that all our industrial parks go back to their days of glory.

This is where our collaboration in revitalising our local economy becomes vital. Westcol can play a critical role in bringing about the skills pool that will support this bold forward movement of our city. We want to encourage you, GRADUATES, to think beyond being employees and to become industrialists. It will be a grave sin for a municipality led by a young person to allow further deterioration of the plight of young people. Our municipality stands on this platform to encourage young people to innovate, be creative and to wrestle the world out of the hands of those who suppress your goals and your dreams. The truth should be told, dreams just do not become true. Dreams are made to become true by the bold and brave.

The TVET model has prepared you to address skills gap, drive innovation, and contribute to sustainable development. I urge you to continue learning, adapting, and innovating.

In our Municipality, we recognise the importance of collaborations between TVET institutions, industry partners, and government agencies. We are committed to fostering an environment that supports entrepreneurship, job creation, and economic growth.

As I go forth, I challenge you to:

- Be active citizens, driving positive change in our communities
- Embrace lifelong learning, staying ahead of the curve.
- Foster partnerships, collaborating across sectors.
- Strive for sustainable development, leaving a lasting legacy.

In closing, I leave you with Nelson Mandela's words: "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

Graduates, you have risen to this milestone. Continue to rise, to inspire, and to make a difference. Let us rise up and make our city vibrant.

Congratulations once more! Education is a lifelong journey that never gets outdated. May your future be bright, and may your memories be cherished forever.

Thank you.