

**SPEECH OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF RANDFONTEIN AT THE FUNCTION FOR THE
BEST FIVE PERFORMED STUDENTS PER SCHOOL HELD ON
18 JANUARY 2007**

STUDENTS

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF GDE MR SKOSANA

PRINCIPALS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SCHOOLS: MR. BUHNER, MR. STEYN,
MS. SMITH, MS MAYEKISO, MR. MOLEFE, MR MATHUISA, MR MORRIS, MR PHETHOE
AND MR SHELA.

COUNCILORS

PARENTS WHO ARE PRESENT HERE TODAY,

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

COLLEAGUES,

IN PREPARING FOR MY ADDRESS TO YOU THIS MORNING I RECALLED A QUOTE
FROM AUTHOR, E. E. CUMMINGS, WHICH I'D LIKE TO SHARE:

"WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN OURSELVES UNTIL SOMEONE REVEALS THAT DEEP INSIDE
US SOMETHING IS VALUABLE, WORTH LISTENING TO, WORTHY OF OUR TRUST,
SACRED TO OUR TOUCH".

AS WE LOOK BACK AT OUR YEARS AT HIGH SCHOOL, WE HAVE MANY PEOPLE TO
THANK FOR THIS. OUR TEACHERS HAVE CHALLENGED OUR MINDS, OUR PARENTS
HAVE BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF OUR EFFORTS AND OUR FRIENDS AND CLASSMATES
HAVE PROVIDED FRIENDLY COMPETITION.

ALL OF THESE THINGS HAVE COME TOGETHER TO PROVIDE US WITH A
FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE, A FOUNDATION FOR US TO BUILD UPON, THE
CONFIDENCE IN OUR SENSE OF WORTH AS POINTED OUT BY CUMMINGS. ALL THIS
AND MORE, CAN ONLY BE CONSTRUCTED WITH THE BRICKS AND MORTAR OF
EDUCATION.

THIS EVENT IS FOR TEACHERS, A HIGH POINT OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR - FOR STUDENTS, IT IS THE CULMINATION OF A GREAT DEAL OF HARD WORK, A RITE OF PASSAGE AND A TURNING POINT IN YOUR LIVES.

FOR PARENTS AND PARTNERS, IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT - MORAL, EMOTIONAL AND FINANCIAL. YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGH THE DIFFICULT TIMES HAS PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN ACHIEVING THE INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES THAT WE CELEBRATE TODAY.

I AM PARTICULARLY PROUD AND HUMBLED TO STAND HERE TODAY, ONCE MORE REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF OUR TOWN IN CONGRATULATING THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE THE BRIGHT FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY. AMONG YOU THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE MADE US EXCEPTIONALLY PROUD BY BEING AMONG THE **BEST OVERALL TWENTY CANDIDATES IN GAUTENG WEST.**

LIKE THE YEAR BEFORE, THESE THREE PUPILS ARE ALL FROM RIEBEECKRAND HIGH SCHOOL:

JOHAN NAUDE – EIGHT DISTINCTIONS

CHANTEL BOSCHOFF – SIX DISTINCTIONS

HENRI KNOETZE – FIVE DISTINCTIONS

A SPECIAL MENTION NEEDS TO BE MADE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JOHAN NAUDE. THIS YOUNG GENTLEMAN HAS NOT JUST BEEN THE TOP STUDENT IN HIS SCHOOL, BUT IN THE ENTIRE GAUTENG WEST. TO YOU I WANT TO SAY, YOU HAVE EARNED IT JOHAN, NOW BASK IN THE SUNSHINE OF YOUR SUCCESS.

JOHAN AND ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY HAVE PLACED OUR TOWN ON A MAP OF EDUCATION EXCELLENCE ONCE MORE. THROUGH HARD WORK AND

PERSISTENCE YOU HAVE SHOWN ALL OF US THAT WE CAN, IF WE WANT TO. IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW STRONG WE WANT IT AND HOW FAR WE CAN GO TO GET IT.

RIEBECKRAND HIGH NEVER FAILS TO BRING SMILES TO OUR FACES AND PRIDE IN OUR HEARTS AS RANDFONTEINIANS. OVER THE YEARS THE PRINCIPAL MR. BUHNER HAS CARRIED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING NUMBER ONE IN THE WEST RAND AND CONSTANTLY COMPETES AGAINST HIS OWN RECORD.

HE HAS TO PROVE OVER AND OVER AGAIN THAT HIS SCHOOL IS BETTER AND RANDFONTEIN IS THE TOWN OF EXCELLENCE. THANK YOU MR. BUHNER FOR PROVING US RIGHT ALL THE TIME.

TO ALL OF YOU STUDENTS WHO ARE HERE TODAY. I AM PERSONALLY HUMBLLED BY YOUR COMMITMENT AND EAGERNESS TO ACHIEVE. AS A GROUP YOU CAN BE PROUD OF YOUR WORK AT HIGH SCHOOL.

YOUR PARENTS AND TEACHERS HAVE SEEN SOME OF YOU ACHIEVE HIGH RESULTS IN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AS WELL AS PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN STUDENT ACTIVITIES, SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. THROUGH YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND COMMITMENT YOU HAVE ENRICHED THE LIVES OF OTHERS AT YOUR RESPECTIVE HIGH SCHOOLS.

HOWEVER I MUST SAY AS YOU LEAVE HIGH SCHOOL, IT CANNOT BE EASY TO LEAVE BEHIND SOMETHING THAT HAS BECOME PART OF YOU, THAT HAS HELPED TO DEFINE WHO YOU ARE.

WHEN THE CLOTHES THAT MAKE UP THE EXTERNAL UNIFORM ARE REPLACED, YOU WILL STILL CARRY WITH YOU THE MEMORIES OF YOUR TIME AT HIGH SCHOOL, THE VALUES THAT HAVE BEEN REINFORCED, THE FRIENDSHIPS YOU HAVE MADE. THESE WILL, NO DOUBT, DEFINE THE KIND OF CITIZEN YOU WILL BE.

WE ALL AGREE THAT YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS ARE REMARKABLE, THE RESULT OF ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS, BUT WE CANNOT BE COMPLACENT. WE HAVE TO DEVELOP MORE AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. WE MUST AIM HIGHER TO ACHIEVE MORE. THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PATHS OF OUR COUNTRY WILL BE DETERMINED BY YOUR EFFORTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

AS I SAID LAST YEAR AND I WILL SAY IT AGAIN, AS YOU ENTER THE REAL WORLD. YOUR PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT TO TURN THE SITUATION AROUND WILL BE CRITICAL IN THE NEXT COMING YEARS. WE RELY ON ALL OF YOU TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF THE BROADER VISION OF OUR COUNTRY. WE ACCEPT THAT AT THE MOMENT YOU AIM AT ATTAINING QUALIFICATIONS AND EARN A LIVING, BUT ACHIEVEMENT OF GOOD EDUCATION IS NOT JUST ABOUT JOBS...IT IS ALSO ABOUT QUALITY OF LIFE. A SOUND EDUCATION GIVES PURPOSE. IT PROVIDES COMPANIONSHIP AND SOLACE. IT ENRICHES THE MIND AND SPIRIT.

IN CONCLUSION I WISH TO SAY, YOU MAY NOT HAVE TO BE FACED WITH THE OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES THAT MEN OF COURAGE SUCH AS MARTIN LUTHER KING, MOHANDAS K. GANDHI AND STALWARTS OF OUR MOVEMENT HAVE HAD TO ENDURE, BUT THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN THE COURAGEOUS PATH WILL BE THE BEST.

THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN YOU MUST SPEAK UP WHEN THE FAINT HEARTED WILL NOT, OR ACT DECISIVELY WHEN OTHERS, AFRAID OF THE CONSEQUENCES TO THEMSELVES, WILL NOT ACT AT ALL. WE, AS PARENTS AND EDUCATORS, HOPE THAT YOUR SCHOOL, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY HAVE INSTILLED IN YOU, THE ABILITY TO KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG AND ACT ACCORDING TO YOUR CONSCIENCE AND NOT MERE CONVENIENCE.

WITH THOSE FEW WORDS I WOULD LIKE TO SAY, NTINGA NTAKA NDINI, FLY ON LITTLE BIRD!!! GOD BLESS!