



R100 MILLION FOR STUDENTS AS EKURHULENI BURSARY FUND INCREASES TEN FOLD

- **6000 FINANCIALLY NEEDY HAVE SO FAR BENEFITED**
- **1 357 BENEFICIARIES, MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE IN CRITICAL SKILLS, HAVE GRADUATED**

(Pictured above: Ekurhuleni Executive Mayor Mzwandile Masina delivering a speech during the city's excellence awards at the Alberton Civic Centre)

WE ARE PREPAPERING OUR YOUTH FOR 4IR, SAYS MASINA

By Charles Molele



More than 6000 financially needy learners from Ekurhuleni have benefited from the city's Community Bursary Fund, renamed Godfrey Pitje Bursary Fund, according to Executive Mayor Mzwandile Masina.

Masina was speaking at the city's annual excellence awards ceremony at the Alberton Civic Centre, where he congratulated top performing matric learners for making the city proud.

"In investing in the education of its youth, the government of Ekurhuleni aims to redress salient injustices of this past, and to develop young people who will fashion a higher civilization," said Masina.

"We are continuing to reduce the digital skills gap by building classrooms of the future, ensuring that no child is left behind in the march towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution."

The mayor said his administration has increased the city's bursary fund from R10 million to R100

million in order to advance the skills development project in Ekurhuleni, a manufacturing hub. Ekurhuleni is considered the largest manufacturing hub for Gauteng province and South Africa, accounting for 21.5% of the total gross value addition (GVA), followed by the service sector at 20.7% and finance sector at 20.5%.

"This is a 10-fold increase from the previous years when the bursary fund was at R10 million. The net effect of this investment has been an increase in the number of beneficiaries from just under 300 to 6 697," said Masina.

Ekurhuleni's bursaries are open to the youth of Ekurhuleni who are permanent residents, have a good academic record and are financially needy.

They are also meant for learners intending to study in the fields of commerce, engineering, science, aviation, health sciences, humanities, law and information communication technology (ICT).

The bursary scheme covers the bursary holders' full registration fees, examination fees, tuition materials, full amount of prescribed textbooks, accommodation and other related expenses subject to approval by the city's bursary committee.

Masina said already the city was seeing a return on investment of the bursary scheme.

He said between 2016 and last year, 1 357 students who received

the Community Bursary Fund graduated from various universities across the country.

Through this bursary programme, Ekurhuleni has been working systematically to boost the enrolment of as many young people as possible in the scarce skills fields.

"What is important to note about these graduates is that they have, in their majority, graduated in what are considered critical skills in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics," he said.

"These are skills that are necessary for jobs of the future, which will be geared towards technological and scientific advances. When we speak about the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we must do so not only theoretically, but demonstrate in our investments that we are preparing our youth for its demands."

Masina said the Executive Mayors Tertiary Assistance Fund (EMTAF) has also played an instrumental role in helping learners to access higher education.

He said the establishment of the fund was to ensure that deserving learners from disadvantaged backgrounds had a chance to access higher education without the burden of financial impediments.

He said the fund will ensure that in this lifetime, no academically deserving child would be denied a



Ekurhuleni City Manager Dr. Imogen Mashazi with two of the graduates honored for their achievement.

chance at education because of their family circumstances. He congratulated one of the beneficiaries of this campaign, Queen Mphahlele from Alafang Secondary School, who obtained seven distinctions, including 92% in Physical Science and 89% in Mathematics.

“Between 2016 and last year, nearly 1 500 students have benefitted from this fund (i.e EMTAF). In 2016, the number of beneficiaries of this fund stood at 211 and by 2018, we had more than doubled it to 513. This increase in our bursary allocation has enabled us to help many young people to realise their dreams of pursuing academic training in different career fields,” he said.

Masina also announced that plans to build a university of technology in Ekurhuleni were at an advanced stage and that it was only a matter of time before it was implemented.

Ekurhuleni is one of the only two metros in the country without a university.

The proposed project would have an estimated cost of between R5bn and R6bn, which was the national average based on the universities currently built in Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape.

He said a feasibility study had already been conducted by the Department of Higher Education in Ekurhuleni about the possibility of building a university and everybody agreed that there was a need for one.

Masina said he hoped that President Cyril Ramaphosa would make a major announcement around the building of a new university of technology during his State of the Nation Address in the next two weeks.

MMC for Finance, Nkosindiphile Xhakaza, said while education was not the primary function of local government, Ekurhuleni believed that the city had a moral obligation to play its part in aiding national education departments to realise their mandate.

“We don’t view education as [the] sole responsibility of the province. For us at Ekurhuleni, education is a big priority,” said Xhakaza.

“Education is part of our Growth and Development Strategy. We are a manufacturing hub of South Africa and we desperately need skills to ensure innovation, economic growth and industrialization. We will continue to put resources into education in order to invest in the future of Ekurhuleni,” said Xhakaza.



MMC for finance Nkosindiphile Xhakaza

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HARD WORK AND DEDICATION PAYS OFF FOR TOP KATLEHONG MATRIC LEARNER

By Charles Molele

Queen Mphahlele is a petite, unassuming and courageous young woman who walks with a spring in her step and a sense of purpose.

Mphahlele, 17, a top performing matric learner from Alafang Secondary School in Katlehong, Ekurhuleni, is packing her bags in a week's time, and headed for the University of Pretoria's School of Medicine where she has enrolled for a degree as a medical doctor.

Mphahlele, who lives with albinism, is planning to be a medical doctor with a social and Che Guevara-esque conscience – to plough back in her community, and assist people with skin cancers and albinism, a condition that causes whitening of the skin from lack of pigmentation.

“My passion is to help people with severe skin conditions, particularly those who live with albinism, like me. My aim is to teach people that you can live a normal life provided you take care of yourself,” she said.

“I would also like to teach people about skin cancers and how they affect people. This is what I have always wanted to do since I started school many years ago.”

Mphahlele, one of the recipient of the City of Ekurhuleni Mayor's Tertiary Assistance Fund (renamed Godfrey Pitje Bursary Fund), is humbled by the city's commitment to assist financially needy learners like her.



Ekurhuleni executive mayor Mzwandile Masina congratulates Queen Mphahlele, one of the first beneficiaries of the 2020 Mayor's Tertiary Assistance Fund

"I feel extremely privileged to get a fully funded bursary to go and study medicine at the University of Pretoria's School of Medicine," she said.

Once qualified as a medical doctor, Mphahlele plans to uplift her community and inspire young people, particularly those adversely affected by the demons of cheap drugs like nyaope, early pregnancies and alcoholism.

"I want to encourage young people that they must not give up on their dreams and become victims of all these social ills we see in our

townships. I want to let them know that their backgrounds should not define their destinies and their future," she said.

"In life there are challenges. It's not smooth sailing. You have to make room for disappointments but continue to focus and work hard."

Mphahlele, eldest daughter of Lebogang and Phillip Motjoadi, also wants to make her parents proud by becoming the first medical doctor in the family, and a role model to her other three siblings, who come after her.

Congratulations to all the beneficiaries of the Godfrey M Pitje Bursary Fund



City of Ekurhuleni Members of the Mayoral Committee with the top performing learners in the city. Musician and Ekurhuleni native Kwesta donated goodies to some of the learners and entertained the audience.

STRUGGLE STALWART GODFREY PITJE HONOURED

By Charles Molele



Ekurhuleni City Manager Dr. Imogen Mashazi with the family of Godfrey M Pitje during the Excellence Awards which were renamed after the late struggle stalwart.

The city of Ekurhuleni has renamed the annual academic excellence awards after the late struggle stalwart Dr Godfrey Pitje.

The announcement was made by Ekurhuleni Executive Mayor Mzwandile Masina during this year's awards ceremony at the Alberton Civic Centre to honour graduates, who benefited from the city's bursary scheme.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce that we have taken the decision to rename our Academic Excellence Awards in honour of the late Godfrey Mokgonane Pitje," said Masina.

"Pitje, a native of Daveyton Township here in our City, is one of

the unsung heroes of our liberation struggle. He was succeeded by the great Nelson Mandela as a president of the African National Congress Youth League. But more than this, he was an astute intellectual, an academic who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1944 and later obtained advanced degrees in Anthropology, Education and Law."

Pitje, the former ANCYL president, is fondly remembered in academic circles for his intellectual capital and political activism over decades until his death on 23rd April 1997.

A graduate of University of Fort Hare, and a lawyer by profession, Pitje took up law and served articles in the firm of former

struggle stalwarts, Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo, qualifying as an attorney in 1959. His family was present during the mayor's announcement in Alberton.

His granddaughter, Maboang Matlou, said the family was humbled by the city's decision to rename the awards in honour of the late struggle stalwart.

"As a family, we are happy and humbled that the awards will be renamed after our grandfather Dr Godfrey Pitje. These awards are important because he loved education and was passionate about black excellence and ploughing back into black communities," said Matlou.

"We encourage every young person to pursue their education and build the nation – as our grandfather would have loved to."

- INSIDE EDUCATION



MMC for Infrastructure Masela Madihlaba with some of the excited learners who were recognized for their performance

BEST PERFORMING SCHOOLS

DISTRICT	SCHOOL
EKURHULENI NORTH	HOËRSKOOL KEMPTON PARK
EKURHULENI SOUTH	ALBERTON HIGH SCHOOL
GAUTENG EAST	SPRINGS MUSLIM SCHOOL
EKURHULENI NORTH	BENONI HIGH SCHOOL
EKURHULENI NORTH	EDENVALE HIGH SCHOOL
EKURHULENI SOUTH	BOKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL
EKURHULENI NORTH	HOËRSKOOL JEUGLAND
GAUTENG EAST	DIE HEUWEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
EKURHULENI NORTH	HOËRSKOOL BRANDWAG
EKURHULENI SOUTH	HOËRSKOOL OOSTERLIG
EKURHULENI SOUTH	HOËRSKOOL DR E G JANSEN
GAUTENG EAST	HOËRSKOOL HUGENOTE
GAUTENG EAST	SPRINGS GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
EKURHULENI SOUTH	SUNWARD PARK HIGH SCHOOL
EKURHULENI NORTH	LESIBA SECONDARY SCHOOL
GAUTENG EAST	HOËRSKOOL JOHAN JURGENS
EKURHULENI SOUTH	PHUMLANI SECONDARY SCHOOL
EKURHULENI NORTH	PHOMOLONG SECONDARY SCHOOL
EKURHULENI SOUTH	TIISETSONG SECONDARY SCHOOL
EKURHULENI NORTH	JIYANI SECONDARY SCHOOL
EKURHULENI SOUTH	VILLA LIZA SECONDARY SCHOOL
EKURHULENI SOUTH	LETHUKUTHULA SECONDARY SCHOOL

BEST PERFORMING PRIORITY SCHOOLS

DISTRICT	SCHOOL
EKURHULENI NORTH	LESIBA SECONDARY
EKURHULENI SOUTH	PHUMLANI SECONDARY SCHOOL
EKURHULENI NORTH	PHOMOLONG SECONDARY SCHOOL
EKURHULENI SOUTH	TIISETSONG SECONDARY SCHOOL
EKURHULENI NORTH	JIYANI SECONDARY SCHOOL
EKURHULENI SOUTH	VILLA LIZA SECONDARY SCHOOL
EKURHULENI SOUTH	LETHUKUTHULA SECONDARY SCHOOL
EKURHULENI NORTH	TEMBISA WEST SECONDARY SCHOOL
GAUTENG EAST	HB NYATHI SECONDARY SCHOOL
GAUTENG EAST	THOLULWAZI SECONDARY SCHOOL
EKURHULENI SOUTH	ERASMUS MONARENG SECONDARY SCHOOL
GAUTENG EAST	DR HARRY GWALA SECONDARY SCHOOL
GAUTENG EAST	ZIMISELE SECONDARY SCHOOL
EKURHULENI NORTH	IKUSASA COMPREHENSIVE BOKAMOSO SECONDARY SCHOOL
GAUTENG EAST	MAMELLONG COMPREHENSIVE
EKURHULENI SOUTH	THABO-NTSAKO SECONDARY SCHOOL