

## MAKGOE, MANYONI URGE MATRICULANTS TO WORK HARD

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Beacon of learning...Free State MEC for Education, Tate Makgoe, encouraged parents to support their children in grade 12

The Free State MEC for education, Tate Makgoe and the executive mayor of the Mangaung Metro Municipality (MMM), Thabo Manyoni have urged parents to assist in the education of their children.

Both Makgoe and Manyoni joined forces on Sunday last week to encourage grade 12 learners from various schools in the Motheo district to study hard for this year's final examinations.

Makgoe told parents who had gathered at the Central University of Technology's Boet Trotskie hall during a grade 12 motivational session that was held in collaboration with the SABC, that parents should take responsibility for their children's education and give them a break from chores during examination time, so that they have ample time to study and thus achieve outstanding results.

"Educating our children is not just the responsibility of teachers but every parent and community member should share that duty. What is important is that all stakeholders and role players do their equal share in order to uplift the standard of education in our country."

"All parents should be able to know when it is their children's study time. They should also tell their children when to relax and encourage them to work hard," said Makgoe. Makgoe said the 80 percent matric pass rate target that the department had set for this year in the province will need everyone to do the best of their ability, and expressed confidence that it would be achieved. "If parents and everyone including learners play their part, 30 percent of 2 471 grade 12 learners registered to write final exam, will achieve a university entrance pass," said Makgoe. For his part, Manyoni warned the grade 12 learners to never lose focus of their studies.

He said learners should not lose hope despite their personal circumstances.

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“You should never allow yourself to be brought down by conditions that prevail and it does not matter who or where you come from because your future is in your hands. Many people blame poverty when they fail to succeed in life, forgetting that education only needs you to be determined to work hard; it is the only way to fight poverty,” said Manyoni One of the parents, whose child attends Reamohetse Secondary School in Botshabelo, Matshidiso Lefora, was confident that her son will achieve university entrance pass.

“I have been working hard to help him with his school work since the beginning of the year, and I can proudly say he is more than ready for the exams. It was hard at first, but after sitting him down and making him realise how precious education is, not only for him but for the whole family, he also started taking his school work more seriously,” said Lefora.

The matriculants started their preliminary exams from September 3. After the preliminary exams, there will be 50 days left before learners start with their final exams.

Makgoe said preliminary exams play an important role in preparing the learners for their final exams.

[Source: [www.theweekly.co.za](http://www.theweekly.co.za)]