



**G S College**

Where Quality Meets Potential In Creating Your Tomorrow Today



**higher education  
& training**

Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# **Graduation Ceremony 2011**

**SPECIAL EDITION** - June 2011



An ISO 9001: 2008  
Certified Institution

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# **OPENING REMARKS FROM GS COLLEGE CEO**

The graduation ceremony is without doubt a highlight on our college calendar. It is an event where we honour, acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our students who have met the requirements of the National N Diploma.

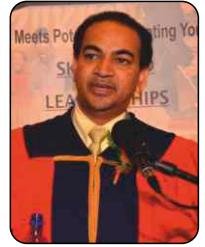
Graduates, today is all about you. You have sacrificed. You have toiled. And you have now succeeded. It is your day to celebrate and we at Gert Sibande College are very honoured to celebrate this momentous occasion with you. However, before you graduate I want you to look around, you will see your family and loved ones. They are the ones who provided their unconditional support during your studies that was crucial to your success. In our midst you will also see some of your lecturers. They are the ones that went the extra mile, sometimes under very difficult circumstances, to ensure your success. Acknowledging and appreciating their efforts is vitally important.

Ladies and gentlemen, the graduates of 2011 are a very special group and I want to share some statistics about them with you. To date, this is the largest number of students to graduate at Gert Sibande College. A total of 202 students will graduate tonight (some in absentia). Out of these 202 students, 158 (78%) are female and 44 male (22%).

Ninety four (94) will graduate in Management Assistant, 1 in Educare, 2 in Marketing Management, 9 in financial management, 57 in Business Management and 39 in Engineering.



Some of the 202 graduates seated and listening attentively to various speakers .



GS College CEO,  
Nick Balkrishen

Hundred and sixty six (166) are African, 28 are White, 4 Coloured and 4 Indian (almost a perfect representation of the demographics of our rainbow nation). As expected, almost 80% of students are between the ages of 20 and 30 years. But there are also 17 students between 40 and 55 years old, reminding us that you are never too old to study and grow. But, for the college, the most important statistic is that 196 of the 202 students are employed. As a percentage this is 97% which is fantastic as the mandate for FET colleges is to provide vocational training that will lead to employment. Their main employers are: Government 62, Businesses 26, SASOL 11, ESKOM 9, Anglo Coal 5 and 17 at Gert Sibande College. The college employed 17 of these graduates because we believe in the quality of graduates we are producing. And I must add that these 17 graduates are performing excellently.

In conclusion, dear graduates, as you walk through the corridors of life, you will find a number of doors of opportunity. However some of these doors are locked. This diploma will enable you to unlock some of these, not all. Consequently you are encouraged to study further and add to this qualification. Remember the words of the father of our democracy, Mr Nelson Mandela, when he said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

Graduates, South Africa is in dire need of inspirational young men and women like yourselves. Remember that all of us are tasked with creating a better life for all South Africans, especially the poor. I am confident that you will meet these challenges armed with your diploma in one hand and in the other the values you have learned at college and at home. May your dreams and aspirations be realised.

## Extracts from the ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

I am honoured to be part of this graduation ceremony which is organised to finally confirm to our graduates that they have made it.

A graduation ceremony is, among other definitions, an indication and confirmation of one's long awaited academic achievement. This diploma ceremony highlights special achievements of all of you who are graduating today. I am therefore, here to congratulate you and to wish you well on the journey that lies ahead, the journey to the world of Work, the world that is waiting for you to unleash the skills that you have acquired from Gert Sibande FET College.

I know that the skills and knowledge you have acquired from this college are of high standard and that because you are properly capacitated, you will be good ambassadors of this college wherever your service will be required.

The Minister and Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training have repeatedly called for commitment from businesses to ensure that workplace learning becomes an integral part of all vocational programmes. It should not be a struggle to place students with business for experiential learning.

Mpumalanga department of Education  
Deputy Director General,  
Lucy Moyane.



I want to conclude by saying you are here today as graduates because your will was to acquire these academic achievements. Let therefore the same will carry you further as you aspire to grow in your respective fields.

I wish also to convey the department's admiration to the management of the college. I commend your successful implementation of programmes that are geared towards addressing your local priorities.

We acknowledge the fact that you have achieved your outcomes despite challenges that are inherent in any sector that is undergoing a process of transformation. Let us continue to seek business' commitment in partnering with the college to deliver demand-led programmes.

## **GRADUATES & GUESTS ARRIVE**



THEY ARE WARMLY WELCOMED BY SRC



Well Organised REGISTRATION Process

# **BEFORE THE PROCESSION:** management and dignitaries mingle



## **PROGRAMME DIRECTORS** Performed Excellently



Standerton  
Campus  
Manager, Neelan  
Govender.



Sibanesetfu  
Campus  
Student Support Officer,  
Nozipho Khumalo.



Sibanesetfu  
Senior Education  
specialist:  
Engineering Studies,  
George Manaka.



Standerton  
Campus Business Studies  
Lecturer,  
Clarette Peens.

# **PROCESSION** *Enters*

GS College Council Member, Cindy Chikunga leads the procession.

Below: Executive Management follow.

*Dignitaries rise to sing the National Anthem.*

## **Sterling rendition of the SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Left: GS College Choristers lead the singing of the National Anthem.

# MESSAGE of SUPPORT

## from the SRC PRESIDENT

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, On behalf of the SRC I would like to convey my congratulations to the graduates of 2011. Guys you are inspiration to us. I will read a **PRAYER FOR GERT SIBANDE COLLEGE GRADUATES**

Dear God, Bless these graduates as they go out into the world to make it a better place. While they pursue their dreams, gently guide them, lead them, and show them your way to success and happiness through service to others as they maximise their own potential.

Fill them with joy when they reach their goals. Strengthen them, as they deal with life's obstacles and show them that every challenge is a path to character development.

Give them the intelligence to make a plan for their futures. Give them the patience and persistence to pursue their ambitions. Most of all, give them caring hearts to look for ways to

GS College SRC President,  
Ackson Mwami



help the people they meet on their journey through life.

Encourage them and lift them up now as they spread their wings into a clear sky of limitless opportunity.

Let each and every graduate here be wrapped in the warmth of your infinite love and let your wisdom show them the way to make the most of their lives.

In conclusion, I would also like to thank the management and staff of Gert Sibande College for always being there for students. These graduates are the fruits of your hard work. Thank you.

## Proud Parents and Family Members Witness the **GRADUATION OF 202 STUDENTS**



# Beautiful Diploma Ceremony



The college is extremely proud of the achievement of Oupa Sakie Masilela who persevered with his studies although confined to a wheelchair. Oupa is currently working as a Finance Officer at Eskom (Megawatt Park).

## TOP STUDENTS



GS College Deputy CEO for Academic Affairs and Student Support, Hester van Zyl hands over a trophy to Bianca Barnard who is the best student in Business Studies field.



Best Engineering Studies student, Pieter Van Biljon receives a trophy from GS College Human Resource Manager, Nomusa Ngwenya.

## EXTRAORDINARY MUSICAL TALENT



Graduates Celebrate by dancing to the music.



GS College student, Themba Nkambule on stage.

# Message of **APPRECIATION** from COLLEGE COUNCIL

Organising a function of this magnitude is no easy task. It requires meticulous planning, precise co-ordination and most importantly enthusiastic teamwork.

It is my privilege this morning, on behalf of the college council, to convey our heartfelt appreciation to all those individuals who contributed towards the success of this function.

Our appreciation also goes to:

- The DDG, Ms. Lucy Moyane your words of wisdom and encouragement are highly appreciated. The Department of Education has been a pillar of support for Gert Sibande College.
- The college choir for their excellent rendition of the musical items.
- The student from Sibanesetfu Campus, Themba Nkambule for his amazing performance of a song that he composed.
- The SRC president, Mr Ackson Mwami, for his inspiring message.
- The parents for always supporting these graduates.
- The programme directors who performed admirably.

- The staff of Gert Sibande College for always going the extra mile for our students.
- The graduation organising committee needs a special mention. Could the members of the organising committee please rise and receive a hearty applause.



College Council Member,  
Cindy Chikunga

Ladies and gentlemen, I would be failing in my duty if I did not thank my fellow college council members for their support and sacrifices during the past 3 years. They have worked together with all stakeholders in the best interest of our students and these graduates are the result.

Lastly, to our beloved graduates, thank you for persevering to the end. Now you will reap the reward of your hard work. Congratulations and well done.



College **HOSPITALITY STUDENTS** provide **REFRESHMENTS**

## **STUDENTS CELEBRATE after Graduating**

