

## **SPEECH AND PRIZE GIVING DAY: 6 October 2023**

### **HEAD'S SPEECH**

**Salutation:** Director of Ceremonies-

- ⇒ Guest of honor:
- ⇒ South Zimbabwe Conference reps:
- ⇒ DSI- UBABA UM. NGWENYA
- ⇒ Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education reps
- ⇒ Honorable MP
- ⇒ Honorable Counselor
- ⇒ Fellow Heads of schools here present
- ⇒ Distinguished Guests
- ⇒ Valued Stakeholders
- ⇒ Members of Maranatha Allumini
- ⇒ School Development Committee Members
- ⇒ Parents AND Guardians
- ⇒ Members of staff
- ⇒ Our Junior Civic leaders- your worship – the Deputy Mayoress
  - Grace Nyoni
  - Honorable Councilor – Chantelle Chisiri
  - The senator for Nketa Mganwini Contituency – Sen Bradley Sibanda
- ⇒ Boys and girls
- ⇒ Ladies and gentlemen;e

Good morning to you all. I would like to welcome you to our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Speech and Prize Giving Ceremony.

**Introduction:** This is a historic occasion where we celebrate Academic Excellence and various achievements attained through the years. This day comes after a long break which was forced by the deadly Covid 19 pandemic. The last time we gathered for an occasion like this was in 2018. We would like to thank the Almighty God for taking us this far.

Today we are celebrating under the theme: *Striving for Excellence in the Competence based Curriculum.*

**May I delve into my presentation:**

**Brief history; Enrollment and Staffing:** Vision/Mission:

A journey of 1000 miles begins with one step;;Maranatha Adventist High school rose from humble beginnings in 2001 when it opened its doors to 181 learners and 8 teachers; The institution has grown through the years to where it is today, with an enrolment of 920 learners, (465 boys and 455 girls): A Staff complement of 60 teaching and 13 non- teaching members.

[AMONG THIS STAFF: 10 are holders of Masters' Degree; 36 are holders of Bachelors' Degrees; 20 have Certificates /Diplomas; We also have 5 student teachers from HTC and 2 from University (SU and MSU) This is testimony that the school (particularly learners are) in safe and capable hands. The achievements that we are celebrating today are as a result of the hard work and commitment by this formidable force.

The school was established with a mission to develop learners Spiritually, Academically, Physically and Socially for active service in this world and to prepare them for the eternal world to come. Since then, the school has kept track of this mission. Our vision; to be the Center of Academic Excellence; drives us to endeavor to do something better each day until we reach the greatest heights.

Ellen G White posits that:

‘There is opened before us a path of constant advancement. We have an object to gain, a standard to reach, that includes everything good and pure and noble and elevated. There should be continual striving and constant progress onward and upward toward perfection of character.’—(*Testimonies for the Church 8:64.*)

The school has been true to the vision and mission as witnessed by numerous graduates that have been churned out to the various fields within and beyond the borders of Zimbabwe.

**Academic Results:** On the academic front the school has recorded great successes in the past. In the recent years although Ordinary Level results have been on a downward trend, we have this consolation that they have been kept above the 50% pass rate. As for the Advanced Level, our pursuit for excellence has been maintained, as witnessed by the pass rates of 90% and above.

Below is a 5-Year pass rate summary

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
O level	79	78.24	74	66.5	52.8

A level	97	87.76	90	93.7	90.1

Although the pass rate was not so good last year, we realized some very encouraging and remarkable achievements in terms quality of A Level results as follows:

1 candidate scored 25/25 Points

1 candidate scored 24 Points

1 candidate scored 20/20 Points

2 candidates scored 19/20 Points

1 candidate scored 18/20 Points

3 candidates scored 17/20 Points

3 candidates scored 15/15 Points: The majority of these were in the Sciences; Others were in the Commercials

This is great! This is excellence! It is worthy celebrating indeed!

**Spiritual**: On the spiritual side, we are striving to keep the flame of faith ablaze. The school holds Weeks of Spiritual Emphasis on a termly basis. Spiritual activities include morning devotions, chapel services, prayer band, outreach programs, Pathfinder and other AY activities. Baptisms have been realized through these services.

This year, a total of 20 learners and 1 staff member were baptized.

**Sports**: All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy so goes an English proverb; so our learners are exposed to various sporting disciplines, like soccer, netball, handball and volley ball. This year we

resumed these after about 3 years of inactivity. Some of our teams went as far as Provincial level, the likes of handball and volleyball. Although no accolades were received, we do not despair as we have hope that the future holds something bright for us.

Our learners also participated in Debate, Public Speaking, Trips and tours to cite just a few:

- Geography trip: Chipangali
- History – Khami ruins/ National Museum
- Mathematics: PPC
- Major trip: Masvingo, Mutare, Nyanga (August 2023)

**Discipline:** The school believes in and practices redemptive disciplinary approach. An approach that does not dehumanize but seeks to leave a person with their dignity. Although we once experienced some unpleasant cases of disciplinary infringements, we are slowly seeing an improvement in that area. We do encourage our learners to respect other persons, leave in harmony and to shun evil.

### **Development/Achievements**

#### **I now move on to Infrastructure Development and other projects**

We have over the years been in a drive to develop and improve the school's infrastructure.

Other developments and achievements, include but are not limited to:

- Construction of the A Level/ Science 2-storey block (2018).

- Opening of a Textile Industry for production of school uniforms and other related accessories. (2021/2022)
- Purchase of 2 vehicles namely a Honda shuttle and a Mazda Titan truck (2022);
- Installation of a palisade fence around the school to improve security (2023)
- Equipping of staff our members with ICT tools/gadgets, ie Tablets (49 up to date) (2021/2)
- Designing of a school Website and Installation of a School Management System (2023). While this is very much in its infancy we should all expect to see more, not less, technology finding its way into our institution in the years ahead.
- Refurbishment of Junior Science labs (2023)
- Installation of a Greenhouse (2023) to augment our income. The SDC chair will elaborate on these and other projects.
- Ladies and gentlemen, none of this would have been possible without the support of our wonderful parents and I am grateful for the trust and confidence you continue to place in our teachers and wider school community. I would like to thank importantly the SDC for their hard work over the years.

### **Challenges:**

Even though we have made these strides we have faced insurmountable challenges, chief among them being financial constraints. We have not been spared from the harsh effects of hyper inflationary pressures bedeviling every sector of our nation. These have seen us putting on halt some of our major development drives such as:

- Upgrading of our sport field,
- Constructing additional ablution facilities to match the growing numbers of learners and staff,
- Fully furnishing of our A Level/ Science block, just to mention but a few.

**Future plans:** our future plans include and are not limited to:

- Achieving Academic Excellence characterized by 100% pass rate at A Level in the year 2023 and beyond: A 10% increase in O Level pass rate in 2023 and eventually getting above 75 % in 2024 and beyond.
- Finishing the boundary fence by putting a palisade wall at the front side of the school by end of this year 2023.
- Construction of additional ablutions by 2024;
- Construction of a multipurpose hall by 2026;
- Fully furnishing the A Level /Science block and lecture theatre;
- Equipping every department with adequate and up to date textbooks;

- Purchasing high quality PA system to use during our worship and other services.

## **CONCLUSION**

Ladies and gentlemen, as we celebrate our achievements, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our hard-working parents and never-tiring stakeholders who have supported us through thick and thin. Not forgetting the hard-working, competent members of staff who have been working tirelessly in the midst of invincible challenges.

If it weren't for these, the ship would have sunk into oblivion.

As we face the future, we have nothing to fear because with God Almighty on our side, with continued support from our valuable parents and stakeholders combined with dedication to duty by our formidable army of teaching and non-teaching staff; we will have power and motivation to soar to greater heights.

May I also take this opportunity to invite and encourage our esteemed former students (Allumini) to partner us as we journey towards excellence. If you/they could pick one project and work on it they would have eased our burden greatly.

I have no doubt that together we can and we will make Maranatha Adventist High School a Center of Academic Excellence, not only in Imbizo District but even beyond the borders of our lovely Zimbabwe.



Finally, to the prize winners I would like to say congratulations. You have fought a good fight, but the race is not yet over. So, fight on until the last lap; [We need those 10As for O Levels and 15 points for A Levels.

To those who will not get prizes, do not lose heart, rather be challenged and motivated to improve your grades, and remember we are not competing against each other but against the standard, so keep your eyes focused on the goal.

Ellen G White has this to say: “Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached. Before the student there is opened a path of continual progress. He has an object to achieve, a standard to attain, that includes everything good, and pure, and noble. He will advance as fast and as far as possible in every branch of true knowledge. Ed 18.4”

With these ‘few’ words, I rest my case.

I thank you.

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