

Address by the Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature, Hon. Supra Mahumapelo, to the Autumn Graduation Ceremony [Faculty of Education] at the North-West University Mafikeng Campus on the 10th May 2013.

As the North West Provincial Legislature we are honored to have been invited to this important occasion. Our story is a simple one as Chinua Achebe says that if you don't like my story write yours.

Our story as the North West is that we need to change how we are perceived as a province. And for us to change how we are perceived as a province there are certain things that we will have to do working together.

We are perceived as a province that embraces mediocrity, a province riddled with inefficiencies, a province that has bad roads, a province that is riddled with corruption and a province that doesn't have the capacity to produce people with the necessary intellectual capacity to change the world. We are perceived as a province that is unable to work together towards the same objective.

These perceptions exist out there about us as a province.

Our story is that we need to change those perceptions about our province. That is the story we need to write about our province so that the realities which are the correct situations about the province have to be known out there.

And for us to arrive at that objective we need brains. We need men and women with the necessary commitment to make sure that we change things.

I am happy that today here we are in a ceremony where the brains that have been necessarily trained theoretically to deal with some of the challenges that we face in life are here to be congratulated and celebrated. We will need these brains to change the situation of our province.

I want to assure the graduates that there is no way going forward in life that you would not come across challenges. But know that challenges are necessary platforms of success. Use challenges that you face in life as stepping stones to success. During challenges in life you must call on your God in order to overcome your challenges.

This university is important for us as a province and government to work together in overcoming the challenges we face.

We will not be able to overcome any challenge if we do not work together. If there is no "Saamtrek: pulling together among ourselves as a people", we will not be able to overcome the challenges that we face as a people.

Thank you.