

## MAYOR LIFTS SPIRITS AT 'WORST' SCHOOL

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BETTER: Principal Daisy Lempe, left, welcomed Thabo Mofutsanyana mayor Dr Balekile Mzangwa, who encouraged pupils to improve.  
Picture: LEHLOHONOLO MOKOENA

### ***Lehlohonolo Mokoena***

Pupils and teachers from Thabo Mafutsanyana district's worst performing school, Selelekela Secondary School in Qwaqwa, were encouraged by the visit of the district mayor. Thabo Mofutsanyana mayor, Dr Balekile Mzangwa, came to Phuthaditjhaba to motivate the school and to hear about problems.

Selelekela Secondary returned the poorest score of 29.63% in the district's 60 high schools. The school pass rate dropped from 57.6% in 2010. The district's 7549 pupils' pass rate in 2011 was 74.2%

The principal, Daisy Lempe, told the mayor she was also unhappy about the outcome. "To be honest I was not expecting such disappointing results as my pupils were studying hard. Really, I am shocked because their year marks were good and so were term exams. What went wrong in the finals, I really don't know," said Lempe.

She told Mzangwa and the media in attendance that she believed the biggest challenge pupils faced was that most of their teachers were new to the school. "The new teachers are settled now and I am appealing to parents to show more interest in their children's education. The school has a lot to do to come up with new strategies for 2012 matrics."

The mayor said the school should target an 80% pass rate this year. "Despite challenges and difficulties you are experiencing in life, make sure that you always stay focused on your education. "What we want within the district and the entire country are educated young people," said Mzangwa.

A new matric pupil, Nthabiseng Mokoena, 19, promised the mayor on behalf of other pupils that Selelekela would not disappoint again. "We as the 2012 matric class of Selelekela Secondary School are promising the mayor that we will do everything to improve the school's results. We really thank the support of the mayor; it shows the district cares for us," said Mokoena.

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