

Siyaphambili Motivational Organization

# NOMAKANJANI

## GRADUATION DAY

### Special points of interest:

- What does success look like for you?
- Are you willing to make the sacrifice to reach your goals?
- Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy
- Success means having the courage, the determination, and the will to become the person you believe you were meant to be
- You were meant to be successful.
- "2007 is my year" Let these be your words.

I am walking down main hall following the next student, wearing a graduation gown and a suit my sister bought me. This is the first time I'm actually owning a suit after a long time. The last time I wore a suit I was 6 years old and my mother bought it for me for Christmas. Today my family is up there sitting with all the other parents. It's graduation day. In my mind I am looking back to how I ended up walking here. I am thinking about when I first arrived at the University of Durban Westville to register for Engineering and was rejected. I am thinking about the day when I was looking through the newspaper to see if my name is amongst those who passed matric and whether I got the exemption. How unbelievable it seemed when I saw a star next to my name.

Today – I am graduating. Today I cannot believe that I came here to study but I had more fun than just studying for the exams. I am thinking about the parties we had, I am thinking about the trips to other universities/colleges, I am thinking about friends I made, I am thinking about times

we hanged around lecture hall or at the cafe. I am thinking about the colleges and universities that visited our university. I remember my cousin visiting with her college – playing net ball. I remember the freedom of staying in my own room – sleeping anytime I want. I remember the Saturday nights we used to go watch movies at the Wheel (around the beach). I remember different sports I learned to play just for fun. All this and I still managed to get an education in the process.

It's my turn, I hear my name called. I walk closer to the rector, hand him my hood, and he hangs it around my neck, as I face the students. At that moment, for those few minutes – I feel, I did it. *Continued Page 2..*



From security guards and now they are graduates. Univ. of Free State.

### Inside this issue:

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## Believe in yourself

"The first person who has to believe in you is you." No matter what anyone tells you, no matter what you got in your test or the position you got in class. Even if you are repeating Grade 12 for the 10<sup>th</sup> time. You have to believe in yourself this time. You have to believe that you were meant to be a success. Tell that to yourself everyday when you wake up. "I was meant to be successful". "I was meant to be successful". "I was meant to be successful".

Have faith that you will pass Grade 12 with exemption. Apply to the Universities – this month. Ask for help from teachers, family or your prin-

cipal with filling out the application. Around April 1988 I was failing Mathematics in my class but I still applied to Universities. Even if your parents don't have the money to take you there. You should still apply. Never listen to anyone who tells you, you cannot, or you should not.

And ... don't ask your friends if they are applying – JUST APPLY. Apply to all universities around JHB, in Durban or Cape Town. Even if you don't think you'll go to those. Create more choices for yourself – Life is easier that way.

## GRADUATION Continued .....

Silently in my mind and heart I am saying "I am proud of reaching this place". As I walk back down to sit with other graduates. I also remember my friends from Alafang High School. I remember all the teachers that taught me. It's a wonderful feeling. After the ceremony as we leave

the hall, I walk back to take photos with my family. I introduce my University friends to my family. Even my grandfather who hardly travels, is here today.

Now I understand what success feels like.

By: Synod Phahla, Founder

A Special THANKS to the principals for giving us a chance to make a contribution.

### Participating Schools

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Thuto-Lesedi High     | - Ms. Motaung    |
| 2. Alafang High          | - Mr. Motshabi   |
| 3. Fumana High           | - Mr. J. Sibeko  |
| 4. Lethukuthula High     | - Mr. S. Ngobese |
| 5. Eketsang High         | - Mr. D. Sibeko  |
| 6. Katilehong High       | - Ms. Ngwenya    |
| 7. Mpontsheng High       | - Ms. Mpshe      |
| 8. Phineas Xulu High     | - Ms. Mpshe      |
| 9. Erasmus Monareng High | - Ms. Maboa      |
| 10. Sijabulile High      | - Mr. Sedoaba    |

## THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is not about me. It is about you. The student who is about to make difficult choices ahead. I am writing this newsletter for one purpose only. To share a different point of view about University or College. My aim is to make you understand there was a time when I was doing grade 12 – when I made a decision that I wanted to pass more than anything. I wanted to go to University even if it meant I took the easiest courses available or do the easiest degree they can offer.

I always wanted education to have an easier and better life. I had that in mind when I applied to all those universities, but I mostly longed for the experience. I wanted to

see this place for myself. I have been hearing about it for quite some time. I've been meeting people who have gone to University and saw that they all came back with a glow, they had different souls, they were having a lot of fun. They were getting all the attention. But most importantly it is the stories that I used to hear from my sister that made me want it more than anything.

Believe me, if you were allowed to sit around the University and saw how much fun it is, you would want to study harder than you do today. You would even surprise your parents – when they see you wake up at 6am studying or when you come back from school, not watching TV but studying.

The question I have for you is, do you want to hear those stories about University/College/Technikon from someone else. Or do you want to experience the life for yourself?

Even today, as a grown up I still think about those times and catch myself smiling. This is an experience I wish for you.

I am going to share my stories and stories from South Africans with you every month - through this newsletter. From time to time I will ask an American friend to contribute a story. I am also going to give you tips on what you can do to pass. I am going to help you decide that "NOMAKANJANI" I will pass matric.

By: Synod Phahla, Founder



"I am proud of what I've accomplished today." She says.

*"NOMAKANJANI, I will pass Matric"*



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### About: Siyaphambili and Nomakanjani:

*Siyaphambili is the name of the organization formed by South Africans who live either in South Africa or United States of America. They studied in your school or a school just like yours. They believe most students have the potential to reach bigger dreams. Nomakanjani is the name of the news letter meaning "No matter what!" This was taken from a USA based business organization that teaches people that they will reach their dreams as soon as they make "no matter what" decisions.*