

## **Sakienah Ismail - Youth Cadet Speech**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, and all protocol observed. I am Sakienah Ismail and I was part of the Metro Police Youth Cadets. I was given a few ideas on what to say today, but I will go with the flow.

When I received my uniform on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2015, I immediately became obsessed with it. Being a teenage girl in Grade 10, growing up on the Cape Flats, I had it tough; but then again, who on the Cape Flats ever had it easy? The Cadets saved me from becoming a statistic and taught me to stand out and be unique. After all, I wasn't born to blend in, but created to stand out. Not only did the Cadets save me from making terrible decisions, it gave me a group of strangers who became my family in the end.

It was here at the Metro Cadets that I also found my bubbly personality; in fact, where I found myself. Seeing the facilitators sacrificing their time and going the extra mile brings joy to my heart - so much so it even encouraged me to become a public servant myself.

Sergeant Ellman taught us to persevere up that steep mountain; Sergeant Strydom taught us that no matter how messy your life might be, it's a start of something beautiful; Sergeant Jansen taught us to think out of the box and be unique.

Superintendent Nickerson, for teaching me that if you are open-minded, you can get a lot across to the next person; Constable Swartz for reminding us that there's always a bully telling me that "I'm big; you're small, I'm right; you're wrong". Unless you can do something about it, finish those pushups; Sergeant Samuels for teaching me that love transcends all boundaries.

Matthew 5:9 says "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." That's why he who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life.

When I heard about the exiting programme my heart broke, because now I'm leaving a family I have been with for 3 years.

13/3/18

To my surprise the City works for me and I was told I'm one of the carefully and specially selected 18 Cadets to enter the programme and can I just say how honored and blessed I feel to have been given this opportunity. Even words fail to explain how honored I feel.

Before I continue -, Chief, Alderman and all the other contributors, thank you so much for making this programme possible.

I was told to say what the Cadet programme meant to us as Cadets and I only have one word – everything. It equipped me with many skills and instilled so many driven values in me.

I'm telling you the City really works for me.

To the staff that were with me throughout my three years, from the bottom of my heart, thank you very much for everything.

To the management who made the Cadets possible and granted us an even bigger and better opportunity, a bigger thank you is extended to you.

To every officer present, please note, all men and women were not created equal, because the finest become police officers for they are the unwanted being underpaid who will go unappreciated doing the unthinkable for the ungrateful. So if no one told you this before, let me be the first to say you're awesome and I salute you.

Thank you very much.