

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, MR J.L MAHLANGU, MPL, DURING A SOD TURNING CEREMONY FOR THE NELSPRUIT SCOUT CENTRE IN MBOMBELA, MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.

Monday, 25 October 2010

Programme Director, Mr Michael Nsimba or Mrs Hülsermann;

Chief Scout of South Africa, Rev Mehana;

Chairperson of Nangu Thina, Germany, Uwe Bothur;

Representative of Schwabe Pharmaceuticals, Dr Ullrich;

Distinguished guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Good Morning!

Programme Director, I'm indeed honoured and humbled, to be given this rare opportunity to stand before you, to address this live-changing gathering this morning. Today marks an important day to us as the government, the scout movement, and partners, as we strengthen relations between us. As government, we strongly believe in partnerships to achieve our goals, hence we believe that **working together** with social partners, **we can do more** to provide a brighter future for our children and a **better life for all**. We are delighted and welcome the sod-turning for the construction of the Scout Centre, which will contribute fruitfully towards the development of the young people in our city, to become responsible and independent citizens.

The centre will provide them with guidance towards achieving full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual wellbeing as individuals.

We cannot ignore the fact that our youth are being destroyed by drugs and substance abuse, hence we believe that the construction of the scout centre will come in handy to top-up our efforts as government, in addressing these social ills. We appreciate the commitment of the Scouts movement, for believing in the youth of our province. It is our collective responsibility, to nurture and create the youth that has an obligation towards itself and its future.

Ladies and gentlemen, the contribution made by Schwabe Pharmaceuticals, of close to ten (10) million Rands towards the construction of the Mbombela Scout Centre, is an investment that will create a legacy for future generations. Your intervention to solicit the funding for the construction of the centre, is a commitment to continue to follow on the footsteps of the founder of the Boys Scouts movement, Baden Powell, who lived his entire life urging people to *"to leave the world a bit better than you've found it."*

We also appreciate the fact that the emergence of the centre will result in job opportunities, both direct and indirect, to the local people. As a youthful province, we must guard against the destruction of the moral fibre which continues to hold our communities together. We have a collective responsibility therefore, to ensure that these youth do not drag themselves into drugs and substance abuse. These youth are the future leaders of this province and our country, hence we will do anything possible to show them the road to success. It will be our fault, if we fail to transfer the wisdom and skills we got from our fore-parents. We cannot fail South Africa – for if we fail to provide direction to the youth of our province, we would have failed the entire nation.

On behalf of Premier David Mabuza and the people of Mpumalanga, we would like to express our outmost appreciation for the positive efforts of the Scout Association of South Africa in our province.

We salute Nangu Thina, Germany; Schwabe and the Boy Scout Movement for making what we are about to witness, a reality.

Working together we can do more to empower the youth of Mpumalanga thereby leaving an impressive legacy for generations to come.

I thank you!