

**Remarks made by the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule for
the occasion of the official handover of Izimbali Secondary School
on 24 February 2014**

The Honourable Premier, Mr DD Mabuza

Religious Leaders

The District Executive Mayor of Gert Sibande, Cllr MPP Nhlabathi

The Executive Mayor of Mkhondo Local Municipality, Cllr BH Mtshali

Members of the Executive Council

Political Structures present

The DG of Mpumalanga Provincial Government, Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize

Heads of Departments present

Members of Senior Management

Representative from Labour

Representatives of the interim School Governing Body

Principals

Educators

Representatives from the media

Representatives from the business community

The Community of Mkhondo Municipality

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Sanibonani

We are really grateful that today we in our collective to witness yet another milestone in our province, adding on our endeavour to improve the provisioning of quality of education for all.

Last Wednesday, Mpumalanga Province opened its doors to the first year students at a newly established University of Mpumalanga, one of the first Universities to be build by the democratic government.

This was history in the making and a confirmation that indeed South Africa has a good story to tell.

As if that was not enough, today we also open another page of hope and courage still adding on our desire to make the lives of our people better through the delivery of quality education.

Honourable Premier, Izimbali Combined Boarding School came to fruition in an effort to address the plight of learners from Multi Grade and farm schools so as to give practical support to those who are vulnerable such as orphans and child headed families.

The intention is to create an enabling environment for them to grow and to be educated taking into account that leverage can only be achieved through education.

Today ladies and gentlemen, we are making a commitment that your efforts are not in vain; we have embraced your vision and appreciate your foresight and leadership because had it been not your persistence these children were not going to be as delighted as they are today.

Thank you Ndunankulu, because you made us realise what goodwill truly means.

Our people can celebrate the 20 years of Freedom and Democracy because they are witnesses to real progress.

Programme Director, My task is to present the Honourable Premier:

INTRODUCTION OF THE HONOURABLE PREMIER

I am honoured and privileged to introduce the honourable Premier, an educator by profession; it stands to reason why matters of quality education delivery are closer to his heart.

He is also the Provincial Chairperson of the African National Congress and the Leader of Government in this Province. The first citizen of Mpumalanga Province.

He has served in a number of progressive organisations including AZASCO, NEUSA, FEP, NECC, SADTU, and the African National Congress.

He was a member of the provincial legislature, Parliament.

He was the MEC for the Department of Education; Roads and Transport, and MEC for Agriculture and Land Administration.

He has travelled extensively and is very passionate about improving the welfare of the people of this country.

I take this opportunity to request the Honourable Premier to address us.

Nginyabonga.