

**Speech to be delivered by the MEC for Education, Mrs.
Reginah Mhaule at the Meeting with QLTC held at the
Ingwenyama Lodge on 13 April 2014.**

Programme Director, Mrs. Lucy Moyane DDG: Curriculum

Ehlanzeni Executive Mayor, Cllr Letta Shongwe

QLTC Co-Chairperson, Mr. Oupa Bodile

Members of Senior Management

Provincial QLTC Members

District QLTC Members

Circuit Managers

Circuit Patrons

Departmental Officials

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Sanibonani,

Ladies and Gentlemen it is indeed a great pleasure that we are gathered here today in this joyous manner. Allow me to thank each and everyone of you for taking the time out of your busy schedules and spending it with us for the advancement of the course of education in our province. Your effort in availing your good selves is extremely appreciated and I

believe that this day will go down in history as one that laid the catalyst for the advancement of education attainment.

Importance of Stakeholder Relations (QLTC)

One of the core objectives of the Mpumalanga Department of Education is that our learners are exposed to the best possible quality of education. This objective is a driving force in always maintaining stakeholder relations within the Department of Education and Teacher Unions.

It is therefore for this reason that the Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign came into existence. Indeed, ladies and gentlemen through the establishment of the QLTC, we have seen great rewards in the improvement of our level of dedication in the schooling systems and the quality of education which our learners are entitled to.

These improvements are not a theoretical conclusion because through the realization of quality teaching in our schools we have witnessed our figures also escalate to the appreciation of the province and the nation.

As a province of Mpumalanga we have seen the great improvement on our Grade 12 results over the past years. In 2009, when the administration took over our matric pass rate was at 49.9%.

As such changes were needed to be quickly effected in order for the Province to be amongst those producing matric results that truly reflected the potential that South Africa and Mpumalanga in particular had.

Last year, the Class of 2013 registered a glorious 77.6% pass rate. Surely ladies and gentlemen this is proof that the changes implemented, which include improving quality of teaching and learning, undertaking regular assessments to track progress, implementing teacher

development programs, improving early childhood development were now paying off.

We do however acknowledge that there is still room for improvement, but that encourages us as a Department to work even harder to achieving a 90% pass rate this year.

We have demonstrated that we are a hard working province; working together with different stakeholders we can continue to improve our educational standards.

Address Circuit Patrons

Today, ladies and gentlemen it gives me great pleasure to be amongst individuals and organizations that respond to the call for the business sector to participate towards the realization of quality teaching in our schools.

Allow me to take this time and remind the house that the education system is not solely for the Mpumalanga Department of Education. As different citizens, different business entities, different church organizations, people of different ethnic groups, we can all play a role in the quest to ensure that our children receive effective teaching and learning in our lifetime.

The small contributions that we make in the education system guarantees us a South Africa that will be graced with young responsible young adults who will be able to make sound decisions and contribute towards the economy of the province.

It is always humbling to know that as a Department our continuous cries for partnership with the business world do not fall unto deaf ears, but are met with positivity, determination and willingness to offer a helping hand

so that the standards of education within the province are elevated to even greater heights.

Ladies and Gentlemen, It is through these fruitful partnerships that we are able to stand proud as our learners flourish and reach their true potential in their schooling years.

We encourage more business people and entities to join us as we build an educated nation of remarkable resourceful individuals that will plough back in their communities.

It is a sad but a true reality that for most children education is the only leverage they have so that they may escape from poverty. We therefore cannot afford to fail these children. We ought to give them the opportunity to reach their goals.

Allow me to once again, express my sincere gratitude towards your contributions; we truly appreciate the meaningful role that you continue to play, the support that we have received from your organization makes a difference.

We are also acknowledging that you take out your time and resources to ensure that the future of our kids in our rural and township areas are well taught and that they are not denied of a brighter future.

Telling a Good Story

Your stories are real stories of the struggle and advancement of the education of the black folk.

We thank you for your benevolence as you have ploughed potent seed back into the communities. We appreciate your efforts, time and

resources as you partake in the banishment of illiteracy from the face of our country and province.

History has registered your contributions to education and you have played a very positive role in ensuring that a good story is not just told but written.

Today, we can all walk tall and shoulder high knowing very well that the story we can tell together is a good story and a story of emancipation from poverty and illiteracy to a better life for all.

Let us together continue to tell the story of our people, a positive story to ensure that even our children are not left behind but are correctly informed about our past so that they can have a sense of our future direction.

Programme Director, there could be no better way of telling this story than the selfless manner in which our Circuit Patrons have contributed their treasures, time and talents to the advancement of education.

I believe that this is a good lesson for all of us to an extent that such investments and acts of patriotism have a potential to even lure others in the fold as we need as much resources as possible to advance education in our country and government cannot be able to do this alone.

Token of Appreciation

You have selflessly taken it upon your shoulders to ensure that you fund week end and winter classes amongst others in your communities. You have dug deep into your pockets in ensuring that such an exercise

succeeds. You have done this not knowing some of the kids who are beneficiaries of these interventions. This is the most noble exercise and there could be no better other.

We thank you for that and acknowledge that the improvement in learner performance in our province is a result of your contributions and participation. We thus appeal to all of you to continue participating in the development programmes of our communities.

You are business people and professionals who have great power and influence in your communities, please serve our communities and let us together advance education and banish illiteracy into the annals of history.

Conclusion

Let me take this opportunity and remind everyone that on May 7 we are given an opportunity to once again choose a ruling party for our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen this is an opportunity that we must embrace with both hands.

Over the past years we have witnessed a South Africa that has gradually grown from a nation that was filled with discrimination to one with a united people that aim to work together in building what was damaged.

Like the late, former President, Nelson Mandela let us fight for a better life for all, by making a mark and voting.

Even though it is not much, allow us to give you a token of appreciation today, and let it be a reminder of the role you have played in the building of our nation.

Our Departmental slogan reads, ***Sisonke Sifundzisa Sive***, which loosely translates to “***Together Educating the Nation***”.

We therefore thank you for giving the slogan a meaning, because through your contributions you have allowed that extra class to take place without any challenges.

I thank you.