

Remarks by the MEC for Education; Mrs. Reginah Mhaule for the occasion of the Official handover of Makause Secondary School on 12 June 2015.

Programme Director, Mrs. Mahlasedi Mhlabane

Global CEO of Glencore, Mr. Ivan Glasenberg;

Executive Mayor of Emalahleni, Cllr Salome Sithole

Religious Leaders

Members of the Executive Council

Political Structures present

Heads of Departments present

Members of Senior Management

Representative from Labour

Representatives of the School Governing Body

Principal of Makause Combined School

Principals of neighboring Schools

Educators

Representatives from the media

Representatives from the business community

Community Members

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Sanibonani,

Indeed history is being made today, it is for that reason that I am struggling to hold my excitement following this patriotic benevolence from the visionary leadership of Glencore.

It feels good to know that learners who used to wake up at 04H00am in order to catch the first bus that travels more than 12 kilometers every school day will henceforth reach school within a 500 meters radius.

If this is not a good story to tell, then we must re-define what a good story entails. We cherish this contribution because we truly understand what it means in our quest to deliver quality education to the people of this province and this country in general.

It is such contributions that ushers a glim of hope for a better tomorrow and a better country for all who live in it.

This confirms what is pronounced in the Preamble of our Country's Constitution that we need to work together to improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person.

It is this kind of gesture that adds impetus on our quest to build citizens that will be able to take their rightful place in the family of all nations.

School Infrastructure Development is what preoccupies us always, because we are mindful that not only does it create an enabling environment for teaching and learning, it also instills a sense of belonging and pride. It makes one to feel good to be a South Africa.

Schools of this stature have a potential to produce responsible citizens that may stand on the pick of the highest mountains and walk on stormy seas and raise the South African flag high just like:

Our very own Mr. Sibusiso Vilane, the First Black African to summit the highest mountain on earth Mount Everest and the CEO of Imbumba Foundation who for the past three years reached the peak of the highest mountain in Africa, the Kilimanjaro Mountain in order to raise proceeds to promote his Caring4Girls programme, Mr. Richard Mabaso.

Mr. Richard Mabaso is in our midst and has brought with his special gifts for all the girls at this school.

Just like

Our own daughter, the former Ms. Mpumalanga 2012 and the ambassador for the Mpumalanga Department of Education for the Compulsory Education Campaign, Ms. Nompumelelo Sihlangu, the only girl from the African Continent, who will be contesting for World Miss Fashion TV that is going to be held in the next two days (14 June 2015) in Cyprus.

Just like

Our very own daughter from Volkrust in Pixley Isa Ka Seme Local Municipality the reigning Ms. World; Ms. Rolene Strauss.

It is for this reason and this reason only, that government is hard at work and committed to make everything and anything possible working side by side with big business to construct state of the art schools so that our

children may find it easy to complete with their counterparts throughout the world.

Allow me to also extend my greatest appreciation towards the Municipality of eMalahleni and specifically Phola Township for creating a healthy working environment for Glencore, which has evidently allowed them to continue with their construction plans until to this stage were we handover this state of the art school. Siyabonga Kakhulu.

Just this year in Mpumalanga we have officially opened Emakhazeni Boarding School at Emakhazeni Local Municipality , Sibongamandla Secondary School here at Emalahleni ;Frank Maginyane Secondary School, Acorns to Oaks Secondary School in Bohlabela District with the Minister and the Department has taken a decision to handover a minimum of two schools per month to showcase that commitment.

Makause Secondary Schools is a true reciprocation of our undying respect, love and dedication to the youth of this country that scarified all they had including their lives to demand an education system that was not going to subject them into inferior citizens.

This is a special gift to our young people and it completes my heart and soul that this school is bestowed during at the occasion of the Youth Month. What a befitting coincident? Siyabonga Glencoe.

As stated it the freedom charter which we are celebrating its 60 years of existence, this school is but one of the enabling effort for the Opening of the doors of education and culture, from Cape to Cairo.

Honourable Minister, in this province we have made a commitment that in this financial year, we will:

- Review costing of the backlogs in line with approved policies, plans and regulations, norms and standards.
- Refurbish workshops at technical high schools;
- Construct 10 Grade R facilities in public ordinary schools;
- Complete the refurbishment of Phase two of the ECDI and

- Upgrade two special schools
- Increase our boarding schools from the current four with another one to be constructed within the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality
- Targeted **178** schools to benefit from the eradication of basic services backlog and has set aside a budget of **R241 million**.
- Project to eradicate and replace inappropriate sanitation infrastructure, provide water reticulation systems and installation of electricity in schools is in progress.

Introduction of the Minister

On this note, let me take this opportunity to present to you one of our outstanding leaders, a woman of note, a mother and a highly passionate figure that I have ever come across. She is an embodiment of Ubuntu and she loves education with all her heart.

Angelina Matsie Motshekga was born in Pimville, Soweto, where she first became very active in various capacities in the struggle against apartheid.

She holds a B.A. in Education, a B. Ed. from the University of the North and a Master's degree in Education from Wits University. She has published and conducted research in education, women's development and language studies.

Motshekga has had extensive involvement in educational struggles and experience in education policy development. Her experience as an educator includes teaching at Soweto's Orlando High and lecturing at the Soweto College of Education and Wits University. She also founded and served on various bodies focusing on education and women's development.

She has worked as a convener for Gender in the Office of the President and as a trainer in the Department of Public Service and Administration. She was elected a member of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature in 1999 and was appointed Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Education. She was appointed Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Social Development in 2000 and in April 2004 as MEC for Education till 2009.

She joined Parliament on May 6, 2009 and was appointed a Cabinet Member of Basic Education on May 11, 2009.

She has served the ANC and ANCWL in different positions and at different levels over a long period.

She is the National President of the ANC Women's League.

She is also a member of the ANC National Executive Committee and National Working Committee.

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

Nginyabonga