

**Speaking notes for the occasion of the welcome ceremony of the Trek  
for Mandela Climbers at Cyril Clarke Secondary School on 21 July  
2015**

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Mbombela Local Municipality MMC for Sport, **Cllr. Boroko**

The Chairperson of the Provincial Moral Regeneration Movement, **Rev MM**

**Nthali**

Head of Department, Mrs. **MOC Mhlabane**

Mr. Richard Mabaso and your family, your mother in particular

The Chairperson of the School Governing Body; **Mr. Jonathan Lungu**

The Author of - Alive Again, **Mrs. Andre Bosch**

The leadership of Ligwalagwala FM and Rise FM

Ms. Mpumalanga, **Zamanene Nene**

Members of the Social Service Cluster

Members of Senior Management

Circuit Manager, **Mr. Musa Linkwati**

Principal of Cyril Clarke Secondary School, Mrs. **Masondo**

Educators

Non-Teaching Staff

Representative from the Media

President of the Representative Council of Learners

Learners

### **Sponsors**

Vodacom

Shuter and Shooter

Ligwalagwala FM

Rise FM

### **The Trek4 Mandela Climbers**

### **Entertainment**

Siyathuthuka Brass Band

Gedlembane Secondary School Traditional Dancers

Supre Breo

Imbongi-

### **Sanibonani**

I wish to join the MMC for Sport, Cllr. Boroko who is standing proxy for the Executive Mayor of Mbombela Local Municipality by welcoming you to Mpumalanga- the Place of the Rising Sun.

Mpumalanga Province is the birth place of outstanding personalities and boast majestic splendour and scenic beauty that is second to none.

Mpumalanga is where you get to be fully embraced with warm smiling hearts and the virtue of Ubuntu in abundance.

The East has always been known to be the source of wisdom, the oasis of prowess and victory as it is stated in the Holy Books that the wise men came from the East (Mpumalanga).

As we welcome you today, we are not alone but stand hand in glove with the sons and daughters of the Place of the rising sun equally saluting and paying homage to you for your courage and accomplishments.

I am confident that the first Accounting Officer of this Country, Dr. Cassius Lubisi, the Queen of Gospel Music, Rebecca Malope, Ms. World Rolene Strauss, World renowned and house hold musicians Ray Chikapa Phiri, Hugh Masekela, Nothembi Mkhwebane, Pretty Mhlongo, Donny, Afro-traction, the 2013 Idols finalists, Musa and Brendan, the National Coach of Amabhokobhoko Heyneke Meyer, the 2015 World Ruby Sevens Player of the Year, Mr. Wernek Kok , the World acclaimed Soloists, Ms Pretty Yende, the 2015 SAMA Awards Winner who won the best Rap Album of the year and the best collaboration affectionately known as KO, all put their best feet forward in acclaim and fascination that you are now back on home soil having successfully conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in the quest to salvage the dignity, education and future of an African girl child.

Our majestic splendour and second to none scenic beauty of the panorama precinct, the Shangaan Cultural Village, the Three Rondavels, Mac –Mac falls, the Gods Window, the Pot-holes, Makhonjwa and Lebombo Mountains, the Olifants, Crocodile and Blyde River Canyon, the Kruger National Park which harbours the big five and the Sudwala Caves which are regarded as the oldest known caves in the world, equally admire and welcome you in your home and area of influence.

The Daisy which is the flower that only grows in Barberton and the Botanical Gardens blossoms today for this occasion guarantees a brighter tomorrow for the province.

The five million citizens from the **18** local municipalities, three municipal districts namely Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Nkangala are totally bought out and convinced of a positive outcome and total emancipation of the girl child you seek to liberate.

I wish to confirm that since the 13<sup>th</sup> July when you departed the borders of our beloved Republic of South Africa, we were at all times with you in spirit as we made prayer supplications, praying that everything should progress according to your plans to summit Mount Kilimanjaro until you came back home safely.

And now that you have made a safe landing in Mzansi and Mpumalanga in particular, we thank God the All Mighty for the courage bestowed in you to fulfill this mission. Now I hope you can proudly say with a bit of a smile- **Mission Accomplished.** You have really trekked for Madiba to the benefit of our girl learners.

As you were trekking, we went the corners of the province extending a helping hand in honour of the late founding father of our democracy, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. We visited special schools, handed over projects, donated blankets and yesterday we donated food parcels as well as sanitary towels in two schools and I made a vow that there must be a desk or a chair and table in every classroom for every learner in this province.

## Reading Campaign

As part of an initiative to inspire reading and the freeing of the mind, we take this opportunity to request all citizens of Mpumalanga to make time every day to read a book. In this endeavour, the Mpumalanga Department of Education will collaborate with various institutions and organisations including Vodacom, Shuter and Shooter and the Nelson Mandela Foundation to mount an aggressive Reading Campaign.

Part of this campaign will be the establishment of the MEC's Book Club that I am officially unveiling today. I will prescribe three books to be read by members of the club who in turn will publish their reviews on the departmental website page.

This act is designed to inspire and share the reading journey bringing a whole new perspective and insight to the reading experience. It is also our view that having the opportunity to analyze writing with fellow readers can only help one gain a greater understanding of the writing and reading process. Likewise, explaining one's own observations to others will cement the lessons more firmly in one's own mind. More over this reading club is intended to bring fun into reading.

Membership to the Book club shall be voluntary and members are requested to send their email address to Mr. Khumbulani Ndawo at [k.ndawo@education.mpu.gov.za](mailto:k.ndawo@education.mpu.gov.za) or contact him at 082 413 3808.

It gives me pleasure to prescribe the two books for that must be read in the next two weeks:

## **Conversation with Myself** by Nelson Mandela

This book gives readers access to the private man behind the public figure: from the letters written during the darkest hours of President Mandela's twenty seven years of imprisonment.

It provides an intimate journey from the first stirrings of his political thought and conscience to his galvanizing role on the world stage, *Conversation with myself* provides a rare chance to spend time with Nelson Mandela in his own voice: alive, direct, clear and private.

It is introduced with a foreword by US President Barack Obama. It brings into light an unhindered insight into the human side of the Icon.

The second prescribed book is *Alive Again* by Ms. Andre Eva Bosch – it says: ***There is hope & courage inside all of us.***

This book serves as my special dedication to all the climbers because the tale in it resonates fully with their mission and vision.

I have invited the Author of this book to be with us to briefly share the story and to read one page of the book with us.

This will constitute the unveiling of the MEC Book Club.

**Ms. Andre Eva Bosch please joins me on stage.**

Programme Directors other phases of the campaign will include us sending a clarion call to our communities to donate books to schools and community libraries. Together with the Departments of Basic Education and Culture Sport and Recreation at the provincial level, we will be handing over community and school libraries.

We will request communities to return school books so that they may be used for the intended purpose.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation will contribute the branded boxes to be placed in strategic places where the donated books can be thrown into.

We will inform our communities on the impact made through this campaign at the occasion of the celebration of the International Literacy day on 08 September.

Ladies and gentlemen, in honour of Madiba, I will prescribe 6 books which will be followed by 7 books to mark the 67 years of Madiba's dedication to the struggle for liberation. These books will serve as a build up for Book Club 's celebration of International Literacy Day on 08 September.

I request that we all support this endeavour.

## **Conclusion**

Once more, let me warmly welcome you back to South Africa, your land of birth and to Mpumalanga Province, the province of Sibusiso Vilane and Richard Mabaso which believed and still believe in their vision-where the Caring4Girls programme was officially launched on 30 September 2013.

I wish to thank every one of you for honoring us with your presence.

Nelson Mandela said **“It always seem impossible until its done”**

## **Ngiyabonga**