

**Speech to be made by the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule at
the Mandela Day Activity in Sibukosetfu Secondary School on 28 July
2015**

Programme Director

Executive Mayor of Mbombela Local Municipality, Cllr PS Mathonsi

PR and Ward Counselors'

Leadership of the Constituency Office

Pastors present

Leadership of ABSA

Leadership of Shutter and Shooter

Head of Department

Members of Senior Management

Acting District Manager; Mr. A Mdaka

District Management Team

Chairperson of the School Governing Body Mrs. CT Phalane

Members of the School Governing Body

Principal of Sibukosetfu Secondary School; Mr. VA Mdluli

Representative Council for Learners

Parents

Educators and

Learners

Sanibonani

Allow me to express my bountiful joy and happiness towards this gathering today. I am very grateful that you have cleared your busy schedules to gather here with us in this auspicious occasion, where we have come to keep the legacy and spirit of our Former President Nelson Mandela alive.

We all know that his heart was closer to children and especially their well-being and education. It is in that spirit that we have decided to descend upon Sibukosetfu amongst other school to do our bit towards developing our children and communities.

I thank you for your presence.

The Importance of Mandela Month

As we are fast approaching the end of July, the Mandela Month, we are encouraged not to stop doing great deeds but to carry on making every day

a Mandela Day. The act of giving is indeed one of the greatest gifts to humankind.

Madiba, the greatest liberator of the 20th century, has immensely taught us a lot, but one of the utmost lesson he has taught us, is the importance of Education. Madiba knew no bounds as he comprehended education to be the foundation to the success of a country and its people.

One of the late President Mandela's profound statements on education reflects the importance of education for a secured future.

" Without education, your children can never really meet the challenges they will face. So it's very important to give children education and explain that they should play a role for their country."

Taking queue from this statement brings joy to my heart, when we are able to come together as different Departments and Stakeholders, in the quest to ensure that we make the lives of our learners better, by creating a conducive environment, so that they are able to concentrate on their school work, and excel as we expect them to.

Express gratitude towards Stakeholders

As the Mpumalanga Department of Education, we are always grateful to everyone who extends a helping hand towards the success of the education.

I cannot stress enough, that education is a societal phenomenon. I am therefore very appreciative that MRTT has provided time, skills and resources to this project.

Shutter and Shooter has also come into the table bringing their resources to add value to this school and we really appreciate their benevolence.

Today, Tomorrow, Together. ABSA has once more proven to be the reliable banking institution catering to the needs of communities and learners in particular. We want to thank ABSA for coming with resources to see the positive conclusion of this project.

We also appreciate the Imbumba Foundation for the great work of embarking on trek for Mandela and conquering Mount Kilimanjaro to benefit our girl learners who face challenges in their puberty stage with regards to sanitary towels.

You have all played a massive role during the 2015 Mandela Month and your efforts have certainly not gone in vain.

We sincerely thank you for putting a smile to our children and making life easier for them to take their studies further in an environment we all can be proud of.

This may seem like a drop in the ocean, but you have made the lives of these children worthwhile.

The most intangible aspect of your benevolence is that both organisations have restored the pride, respect and integrity of these children in a way that cannot be measured or quantified. This is also a legacy for Mandela, ABSA, MRTT, Shutter and Shooter and Mbombela Local Municipality.

It is also proper to extend our appreciation to the Executive Mayor Of Mbombela Local Municipality, Cllr Mathonsi for all the support rendered in making the Mandela Month activities a success.

We also appreciate the support of the ward councilor for running with the project by rallying community members behind this initiative. Our gratefulness also goes to members of the community and all of you who have volunteered their skills and time to work towards the success of this project.

Conclusion

Nelson Mandela once said, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." There can be no better way of giving than giving an opportunity to education. Once more I plead to all of us present here to carry on with the good deed of giving and improving the conditions of teaching and learning for the betterment of our society.

Ngiyabonga.