

**Speech to be delivered by the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule  
at the Official Handover of Phelwane Primary School in Tweefontein on  
03 September 2015**

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Leadership of House of Traditional Leaders and Contralesa led by Prince

Siphosezwe Mahlangu

Executive Mayor of Nkangala District Municipality, Cllr. TD Ngwenya

Executive Mayor of Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, Cllr. Ndaweni

Mahlangu

Members of the Mayoral Committees

Head of Department, Mrs. Mahlasedi Mhlabane

Head of Department from PWR&T, Mr. KM Mohlasedi

Ward Councillors/ CDWs

Members of Senior Management

Chairperson of the School Governing Body; Ms. Mohlohlo

Members of the School Governing Body

Officials from the two Departments

Circuit Manager

Principal of Phelwane Primary School, Mrs. KE Masango

Representatives from the Media

Educators

Labour Formations

Non-Teaching Staff

Parents

Ladies and Gentlemen

Learners

Lotshani

## **Appreciate Presence**

I take this opportunity to extend our profound appreciation of your setting aside some of your most important activities to attend to this event.

Your presence is highly valued and it adds impetus on our intentions to make education a societal phenomenon.

I also take this time to extend my pleasure to the MEC for Public Works Roads and Transport in absentia and the two Executive Mayors for gracing this event with their presence.

The Departments of Education and Public Works, Roads and Transport have already formed a formidable partnership laying down school infrastructure within Mpumalanga Province. I have to appreciate the good work done by Public Works. Our working relationship has also been augmented by urgency and need to deliver quality services to our people as per the mandate of the people of our country and Province led by the African National Congress.

As the two Departments, we always delight in the hospitality extended to us as usual when we find our selves in the Nkangala District and the Thembisile Hani Local Municipalities. The presence of the House of Traditional Leaders and CONTRALESA makes us feel more than at home as we are truly convinced that we are welcomed by all our stakeholders in the community of Tweefontein.

## **Phelwane Primary School**

Phelwane Primary School is today our focal point as we are here to handover the school building to the community of Tweefontein. We want to foremost extend our apologies for not handing the school building over in 2013 as it was originally planned. It is owing to matters that are outside our control that we were unable to do so hence our presence today.

Phelwane primary school is a fully fledged school that has been recently constructed in Tweefontein South Circuit in the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, Nkangala District. The school caters for an overall enrolment of 365 learners from grade R to Grade 6 and has 12 classrooms, 02 flushing toilets, 08 envirolloos, an admin block, a library and a kitchen.

We acknowledge that the establishment of this school was initiated by the community of ward 15 in Tweefontein E who made a proposal to the government to establish the school in 1982, as the school was under the chieftaincy it was with their initiative that the school came to be.

### **The Role of Parents and Educators**

Significantly, government will provide the necessary support to bolster such initiatives as part of our programme to elevate the standard of teaching and learning.

As I speak to you, I can foresee the role of educators adding value to the educational journey of our young ones. I want to remind educators that their role is very critical and cannot be in one way or the other be undermined. The survival and progress of a nation can only be catalysed through education of which educators are the foot soldiers and central to the delivery of quality education.

I thus want to make an appeal to our educators to raise the stakes and utilise the new infrastructure to their advantage in the teaching and learning equation.

I also want to encourage a spirit of co-operation between teachers and parents with regards to the teaching and learning experience of our children. The teaching of the curricula dispensation coupled with values and morals is an imperative within society and cannot happen without teacher and parental co-operation. It is in this context that we are dependent on the teacher-parent partnership to produce responsible future citizens who will take South Africa in the right path of socio-economic development.

I thus want to appeal to teachers and parents to instil a sense of pride to their children for education. The importance of education cannot be divorced from the actual structure under which it is taking place. In simpler terms, as much as your education is important, the school infrastructure is equally important.

### **Significance of enhanced school infrastructure**

I am delighted to indicate that our programme to improve school infrastructure is progressing well and is already showing positive results.

This thought was like a dream, however this dream is today a reality and this confirms the theme that says South Africa is alive with possibilities.

Schools are centres for Community growth and development and warrant communities to value and safeguard all the time.

The Province will appreciate that the learners who are in our schools understand and appreciate that the only reason for them to be at school is for them to learn and empower themselves academically, socially and otherwise.

Our learners should be taught to respect their teachers and to adhere to the rules of their respective schools.

Our parents should participate and get involved in school matters all the time and encourage their children to study and do their homework everyday.

Our teachers need to be supported consistently to render quality teaching and leaning and should by all means possible be in class teaching, enthusiastic about their work all the time.

I call these basic fundamentals and share a view that if we can implement them, half of the problems we are facing in education will be resolved.

## **Conclusion**

Nelson Mandela once said:

*“Education is the great engine of personal development.*

*It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation.*

*It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another”*

On this note, I want to thank the Executive Mayor, our colleagues from Public Works, Roads and Transport, our Head of Department, the School Governing Body of Phelwane Primary School for hosting us today, School Management Team, District Office, Educators, Parents, learners, and every one who played a pivotal role towards the success of this event.

Our gratitude also goes to our sponsors and those who have contributed in making the renovations to the school in preparation for the handover event.

We have to single out the MRTT for offering their expertise and human resources when ever and when ever we are in need. In this case MRTT has offered us the expertise of their students to do the renovations.

We are delighted that this project has come to fruition in a manner less imagined and will forever remain a true legacy of this democratic dispensation.

Indeed, as articulated by government, *Today is better than yesterday and tomorrow will be better than today. Working together we can do more.*

As I conclude, let me once more thank this community for the patience shown as this event should have been held a long time ago. We appreciate your understanding and co-operation in this regard.

**Ngiyathokoza.**