

Speech to be delivered by the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule during the Donation of School Uniform held on 22 September 2015 at Makhahlela Primary School

Programme Director; Ms. NL Mabaso

Old Mutual Representative; Mr. L Gabela

School Principal; Ms. WG Mashego

SGB Chairperson; Mr. DM Khumalo

District office Staff Members

Teachers

Learners

Good Afternoon,

Please allow me to express my profuse happiness towards this gathering today. This assembly is indeed one that fills me with great pleasure.

It is therefore, an honor to be gathered here with everyone present as we witness these great deeds.

RECAP ON RELATIONSHIP WITH STAKEHOLDER

Old Mutual has in the past played a big role in offering a helping hand in ensuring that our learners are provided with a conducive schooling environment. Early this year, we saw this company taking the initiative of donating scholar patrol kits to Ukhwezi Primary School in Belfast.

It is always devastating receiving news that a learner has lost their lives to a motorist while simply crossing the road on their way to or from school.

Most recently with the launch of the MEC's Book Club, Old Mutual also committed towards the procurement of books for the Book Club.

It is therefore for these reasons that the department is highly appreciative of the initiatives, and we continue to anticipate that this gesture triggers a chain reaction so that even more organizations follow suit.

Let me bring to everyone's attention that the education system is not solely for the Mpumalanga Department of Education. We all can play different roles in the quest to ensure that learners receive the best education on our watch. We all can contribute in building a better South Africa.

We are therefore very grateful for the roles that Old Mutual continues to play.

APPRECIATION OF DONATION

Today, ladies and gentlemen, we once again witness Old Mutual, offering a helping hand. We are gathered here to witness our learners receiving their school shoes, and to also humbly thank this company for this esteemed contribution.

It is always encouraging when the business society gives back to their communities. These patriotic gestures suggest that, when the Department constantly seeks for assistance, our requests do not fall on deaf ears but relationships are built.

It is these relations that bear fruitful partnerships. The Department is highly appreciative of institutions and individuals that respond to our call and offer us support.

Allow me to quote from the late father of the nation, Tata Madiba when he stated that “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.

This quote should remind us that it is every person’s responsibility to ensure that every child is afforded an opportunity to study and that they do so in the most dignified manner, so that they may be inspired to become better citizens that will strive to change the world.

ADDRESS THE LEARNERS

My children, 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.

When companies such as Old Mutual come and offer a helping hand, they do not expect you to pay them in monetary value, but by working hard in your studies, by always doing your homework, and most importantly respecting your teachers.

Being afforded an opportunity to be in school, is one of the greatest gifts that anyone can receive, it is therefore important that you use this opportunity to equip yourself with as much knowledge as you can.

CONCLUSION

As I conclude allow me to thank Old Mutual for this noble gesture, and for putting a smile on the face of these children but most importantly making the lives of the people of the province just a little easier.

Thank you Old Mutual.

Nginyabonga.