

**Message of support from the Honourable MEC, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule
at the School Administrators Awards Ceremony on 12 February 2016
in Gert Sibande**

Programme Director; Mrs. Trea Shabalala

Acting Gert Sibande District Director; Mr. P. Magagula

Chief Director: EMIS DBE; Mr. Mpanza

Provincial EMIS Head; Mr. W.A Barnard

All Members of Senior Management Present

School Administrators

All media present

Honourable Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Sanibonani,

It is a great pleasure that this gathering aims to appreciate individuals that have gone beyond the norm to cover an extra mile on what is expected of them; it takes up a great deal of compassion and drive for any individual to willingly extend a helping hand to those that are in need, without expecting any reward.

I intensely believe that personal growth and skills development is very effective and plays a powerful medium in societal change and development, but for these phenomenon's to be effective, it needs individuals who are prepared to share and translate their skills into quantifiable action, with the aim of promoting development in an area of need.

As we congratulate you today, The Mpumalanga Department of Education hopes that your good conduct will also influence your peers in a positive way, by so doing, this will keep the flame of giving and helping glowing and burning.

I am certain that having introduced the South African Schools Administration and Management system, SA SAMS in short, to local farm schools has been of great help, as this system allows schools to organize and use their learner, staff , facilities and finance information more effectively.

You stepping in and closing the gap ensured that you opened another page of hope and desire to make the lives of our people better.

It is however unfortunate that these schools lacked inadequate resources and infrastructure. It is for this reason that we have been in a process of addressing the plight of learners from multi grade and farm schools, by building boarding schools that will accommodate them and their needs.

We are therefore very grateful that individuals on the ground have taken the initiative to also create an enabling environment in farm schools

Your willingness to go the extra-mile has assisted the Department to become paperless in data submission through electronic submissions, this is very important as it has shortened the time for submission that provides real-time data for management and decision- making processes. . I deeply appreciate this.

This initiative is in-line with the Operation Phakisa goals, for a provincial data driven education management and administration that will revolutionise and transform our education system, and by assisting these schools with your remarkable knowledge and expertise in SA-SAMS, you were able to ensure that the processes of transforming our education systems are met.

Conclusion

As I conclude, allow me to encourage the educators and clerks from the schools that have benefitted from these administrators, to also make time to learn and equipped themselves with this skill.

I acknowledge that you might not be in a position to currently use this skill, but that will not always be the case.

My advice would be for you not to let the problems in the world dictate what you do, rather than forcing a preconceived pathway written “success,” to be your inspiration. **I thank you.**