

Speech to be delivered by the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule at the Launch of the Justicia Digital Learning Campus on 17 March 2016.

Programme Director, Pastor Solly Mhaule

CEO: Good Work Foundation: Kate Groch

Mr. Trevor Manuel

Ms. Maria Ramos

Officials from Good Work Foundation

Representatives from the Hazyview Digital Learning Centre

Representatives from Justicia Digital Learning Campus

Representative of the House of Traditional Leaders

Representatives of ABSA

Circuit Managers

Principals

Learners/Students

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Representatives from the media

Good Afternoon

Speech to be delivered by the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule at the Launch of the Justicia Digital Learning Campus on 17 March 2016.

I am deeply sorry that I could not be part of this august occasion which I would have wholeheartedly loved to attend had it not been issues beyond my control. Be that as it may, we are elated to observe the coming into fruition of this progressive milestone, the second state of the art digital learning campus.

This is indeed a good story to tell which provides adequate evidence of a country at work following a progressive partnership of purpose between Government and non-governmental institutions.

This learning campus will add impetus on our quest to cement that which is espoused in the National Development plan, vision 2030. The ultimate goal is that our children should at all times be exposed to an enhanced education process that which will free them from the sorry state of poverty, ignorance and helplessness.

The National Development Plan I referred to captures this brilliantly as it says:

“Our story keeps growing as if spring is always with us.

Once, we uttered the dream of a rainbow.

Now we see it, living it.

It does not curve over the sky.

It is refracted in each home, in the community, in the city, and across the land, in an abundance of colour.

When we see it in the faces of our children, we know: there will always be, for us, a worthy future.”

What makes this launch more meaningful is that it brings to light what we regarded as a noble injunction from Mr. Trevor Manuel who officiated at the launch of the first Digital campus that is at Hosana. His instruction was that we needed to work hard to expand the programme given its significance.

It is therefore a great pleasure that Mr. Manuel has once again graced the occasion to witness his injunction being implemented to the later.

It is therefore prudent that we thank the leadership of Good Work Foundation, Mr. Manuel and all who supported this noble initiative.

Siyabonga Kakhulu

We must make every effort to leverage and ensure access to education opportunities because it remains the only vehicle for our growth and development.

It is our only remedy to free us from the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and joblessness. Indeed education is the only means at our disposal to move South Africa forward.

These patriotic acts such as today's launch of this campus constitute a desired social investment that feed into emotions of hopefulness and confidence for the prosperity of our learners and the community at large.

The Honourable Premier, Mr. DD Mabuza delivered his state of the province address on 26 February 2016.

In his speech he stated that, our children are our future, and it goes without saying that a brighter future require bright children, shining examples of

professionalism, stellar captains of industry, parents, teachers, leader labourers that radiate confidence and demonstrate committee to this invaluable contribution that they make to our collective socio economic development and empowerment. It is therefore for this reason that we am very grateful towards Good Work Foundation for the continuous support and contributions they have made in ensuring that our citizens are afforded the quality education.

It is very important for us to ensure that our learners are afforded the quality education, after all, leadership success is measured in how our education system creates an environment for children from poor households on farms, and those in rural areas and townships to imagine and realize endless possibilities for a better life, free from poverty and social deprivation, and this today, through Good Work Foundation is the first step towards these learners realizing their dreams.

Address Good Work Foundation

Good Work Foundation, on behalf of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, I express our deepest gratitude for your consideration on the interest of the local communities with regards to their educational developments.

I am informed that this hails from the inspiration of the Hazyview campus, which has ensured that more than 2000 local school children access digital learning and have raised their mathematics and English results by more than 30 percent, this is truly remarkable.

As a Department we are therefore inspired and are confident that this campus will also be an information hub that will assist in the challenges are learners are facing in this area.

Address the community

To the communities that will benefit immensely from this project, remember that this is a place where you can build on the foundation that you had created, this place will ensure that you are one step closer to reaching your goals, take this opportunity with both hands and use it to your advantage, use this facility as a hub of knowledge and information. I cannot over emphasize the fact that education ensures that our dreams, hopes, aspirations are turned into realities. Grab this opportunity with both hands.

Conclusion

Programme Director, allow me to once again take this opportunity and express my greatest gratitude towards Good Work Foundation.

As a mother myself, children are very close to my heart. One cannot deny the feeling of warmth that fills your heart as a child smiles because you bring joy to their heart. I am entirely grateful for this gesture.

God bless you efforts, God bless South Africa

Ngiyabonga.