

Remarks by the MEC for Education, Mr. Bonakele Majuba at the occasion of the official handover of Nazarene EDUcare Centre at Mgcobaneni in the City of Mbombela Local Municipality

Programme Director, **Cllr William Nkhata**

Executive Mayor of the City of Mbombela Local Municipality, **Cllr. Sibongile Makhushu**

Minister of Social Development, **Ms. Lindiwe Zulu**

MEC for Social Development, **Ms. Lindiwe Ntshalintshali**

Ward Councilor **TS Mgwanya**

Deputy Chairperson of NDA , **Chief Livhuwani Matsila**

Acting CEO of NDA, **Ms. Reekeletseng Hlapolosa**

NDA Provincial Manager, **Mr. Maxwell Mathebula**

Members of Senior Management

Representatives from the media

Representatives from ECD Sector Associations

Principals

Learners

Members of the Community

Sanibonani

Thank you very much for inviting us to be part of this occasion.

We are truly grateful to be part of this history in the making and to participate in this official handover ceremony.

Minister Zulu, we always enjoyed cordial working relations with the Department of Social Development under the stewardship of MEC Ntshalintshali

This collaboration led to the smooth function-shift of the Early Childhood Development Programme from the Department of Social Development to Education.

As I have been visiting ECD Centers throughout the Province, I marvel the institutional capacity both physical and human, which the Department of Social Development has handed over to the Department.

You have indeed laid a solid foundation for the delivery of quality education in this province and I am of the view that it is proper to thank you and your Department.

Even though you have handed over the function for ECD, you continue to hold our hands by supporting our efforts. Please be ensured that we really enjoy your patriotic resourcefulness – ***We truly appreciate that gesture.***

I am reminded of the words of Wild Emerson when he says, “What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

We will continue to be receptive to your kindness, love, guidance and insight as we manage this new mandate.

Today, the Province has been able to provide funding to **63 887** children who are in registered **1463** ECD Centres.

We intend to increase this number of children by **7000** in this financial year. This will help to increase accessibility for our children to the ECD Programmes.

This school calendar year, the Department has procured and dispatched **12** mobile ECD classrooms to different areas in the Province, still in an effort to increase our capacity to deliver on this programme.

Minister Zulu, Mpumalanga Province has established the Early Childhood Development Institute in Bushbuckridge which is accredited to provide NQF level 4 training to ECD Practitioners.

I wish to invite you Minister when your schedule permits to visit the Mpumalanga Early Childhood Institute to witness the kind of programmes on offer there.

The Department is currently embarking on a massive recruitment drive targeting unregistered ECD Centres and to provide them with the requisite support to ensure full compliance to the governing registration prescripts.

I am aware that this is your programme and with the greatest of appreciations I wish to end it here.

You have truly enriched us and the community of **Mgcobaneni** with this resource.

Indeed, we remain proud of this gesture and we pledge that it will be utilized for its intended purpose.

It is now our responsibility to make it welcoming, homely and to ensure that it broaden the access to care and education so that no child is being left behind.

Ngiyabonga