

TO : NEWS EDITORS

FROM : MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE : 11 APRIL 2011

SUBJECT : RE –OPENING OF SCHOOLS WAS WITHOUT MAJOR GLITCHES

Today. The MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule is happy with the way schools re-opened for the second quarter of the 2011 academic year.

The MEC made this observation when as she embarked on the **School Support Programme** this morning.

She was highly impressed with the levels of motivation of the staff and learners at Immemeza Secondary School and Ebhudlweni Primary School at Waterval Boven this morning.

Below is the shortened version of the MEC Address at Immemeza Secondary School.

“Let me take this time to welcome you to the second quarter of the 2011 school year.

I am in the company of the media; Ligwalagwala FM; our brother Donny; the District Director, Mr. JJ Mabena and other senior officials from both Head Office and the District.

We came to say government cares for you and for your future. We wish that the best should happen in your lives.

We are convinced that indeed best things can come your way only if you embrace education and work hard to be educated.

The song by ubhuti Donny, **Basheshe Bahleka** means that there is no condition in life that is permanent. The only thing that is permanent in life is **change**. It also means that tough times never last but tough people do. Listen to it and thereafter change the way you look at life and strive to be a better person.

Government has put Education top on the list of its priorities because it is the only key to a better life for all.

Education remains a fundamental pillar towards total emancipation of our communities from the doldrums of poverty, helplessness to prosperity.

There is no country or nation that can prosper if its people are uneducated.

We deliberately chose to join you today so that we can motivate you to embrace education and work hard to free your selves from the bondages of ignorance and fear.

The condition you today find your selves in can change for the better only if you are educated.

There are simple or basic things you must do in order to be educated.

- You must love and appreciate that you have a right to be here;
- Respect yourselves, your parents and your teachers all the time;
- Know that the reasons for you to be at school is to empower yourselves academically and socially and
- Read your books and practice Mathematics everyday.

All these cost you no even a cent; they can be done by the poor and the rich.

These days you do not need to have money or parents to acquire quality education. In fact those who are poor stand to benefit more from our education programmes.

The Department has increased the number of **No Fee Schools** from **1 416** to **1604** an effort to ensure that Education is accessible to all.

Learners who are orphans and those whose parents rely on social grants for survival are by law not supposed to pay school Fees.

70 000 learners are currently ferried from their homesteads to schools throughout the Province to ensure that they realize their dreams.

836 000 learners are benefiting from the national schools nutrition programme to ensure that they maximally participate and benefit from everyday schooling activities.

Programme Director, on 06 January 2011, I announced the 2010 Grade 12 results and at that occasion, I requested all stakeholders to rally side by side with us until we have a situation where every learner who enters the system makes the grade.

I said; while we are encouraged by the **8.9 %** improvement we should not rest until all our learners in all grades are able to excel in their academic performance.

Today we are in this school, **Immemeza Secondary School**; your counterparts in **2009** obtained **77%** pass rate in Grade 12. In **2010**, they obtained **96.77%**. Please give them a big round of applause.

We are here to demand **100%** with convincing distinctions and I know that this is not an unreasonable demand because this school has the potential to excel.

In turn, the Department will give bursaries to all learners who have passed with six distinctions and having been admitted in institutions of higher learning.

In addition, should your school outshine the rest of the schools in quintal one or two; I will give it the rights to host the Awards Ceremony next year. This is a promise I will keep.

Promise us that you will do better this year and in turn government will give you the necessary support. Remain enthusiastic with your studies and burn the midnight oil and you will be rewarded immensely.

There are no shortcuts –you have to earn your success, work hard side by side with your teachers and the rest will follow.

Let your names be counted amongst those who will be called next January for having excelled in their academic performance.

Our target is that we must at least improve by 10% this year and we also want to strive to be above the National aggregate.

Convey our appreciation to the School Governing Body and to all parents and indicate to them that I was here and have requested that they attend meetings and contribute towards the success of this school.

Thank you once more to all of you, I wish you the best in all your endeavors.

Ngiyabonga!

End

Issued by the Communication Directorate
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