

Keynote Adders by MEC for Mpumalanga Department of Education, Mrs Mmathulare Coleman delivered at the occasion of the DST Thuthuka Maths and Science Development Camp on 03 April 2009

Programme Director : Mr. Freedom Hadebe
President of SAICA Northern Region: Mr. Bersan Lesch
Members of Senior Management
Learners
Educators
Ladies and Gentleman

Sanibonani!

I am grateful and humbled for the opportunity extended to me to address this gathering. I do so because the Department of education value and appreciate the noble role that this programme plays in improving the lives of our people.

The role that the Department of Science and Technology in collaboration with its partners will indeed help to leverage our people and the country from a state of vulnerability to hopefulness and a better live for all.

Of significance is that the camps are intending to enhance the skills for Grade 11 and 12 Learners in the key areas of Mathematics and Science and accounting in order to grow the their competencies in these subjects. I am aware that the South African Institute for Chartered Accountants (SAICA) played a pivotal role in the conceptualization of the camps programme to help overcome barriers to transformation within the accountancy profession.

My view is that we should not stop in singing praises for the visionary leadership you have shown in this regard.

We will forever be grateful that this country has patriotic intellectuals who remain selfless and willing to spend their time and energy for the benefit of the greater masses of our communities.

Our collective view is that the performance of our learners in Mathematics and Science does not bode well for the nation's urgent requirements for skilled personnel in engineering, science, technology and teaching.

We need as the Department of education educators who can teach our learners Mathematics and Science in a manner that can accelerate efforts for the economic growth and development of this country.

Those of you who harbours the intension to be teachers must remain in contact with us. We are availing bursaries to such learners so that access to institutions of Higher education can be easy.

The Department has increased the number of **Dinaledi Schools** to bring live and excitement in learning Mathematics. So far a lot still need to be done to ensure that these schools perform as expected.

This is aimed at strengthening fundamental numeracy so that more learners will appreciate Mathematics.

The opportunities for you as individual learners and for the country will only be immense only if we all take pride and embrace Mathematics and Science as a vehicle and the only key for emancipating us from the demons of the apartheid order to a situation where everybody's potential will be appreciated.

The Department and government will continue to improve the knowledge base of our educators and their conditions of service in order for us to achieve the objectives mentioned above.

We must work very hard to prove the prophets of doom who suggested that an African child does not deserve to do or may not benefit from doing Mathematics. Some went further to argue that a girl child can not comprehend mathematics and science. All this needs to be demystified by our uncompromising action, dedication and commitment.

Last year when we announced the 2008 grade 12 results, we extended awards to Lancelord Jele and Sanele Sibiyi with tokens of appreciation for obtaining 100% in Mathematics.

The two boys came from poverty stricken families. Their schools are under resourced. Those conditions did not make them submissive or to perpetually despair. However such conditions made them to want to succeed at all cost.

That is the spirit I will urge all of you to develop and embrace. A spirit of success at all cost.

I also take this opportunity to extend our profound appreciation to all who will be receiving tokens of acknowledgment for outstanding commitment, dedication and responsibility in this programme.

This is a step towards success and in the right direction. It remains prudent that you stay focused to realize your dreams.

All successful people had once in their lives dreamed good things to happen in their lives and surroundings.

I am obliged to also make a call to all of you to meaningfully participate in the affairs of this country, your country by exercising your right to vote on the 22 April 2009. It remains the only right thing to do.

At the same time I wish that you can enjoy your Easter holidays. On this note let me quote a paragraph from proverbs 4. It says:

***“Pay attention to what I say my son
Listen to my words.
Never let them get away from you. Remember them and keep them
in your heart.
They will give life and health to anyone who understands them.
Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts”.***

Thank You.