

**INPUT MADE BY THE MEC FOR EDUCATION, MRS REGINAH MHAULE
AT KOPANANG SCHOOL AT EMALAHLENI MUNICIPALITY.
13 OCTOBER 2009**

Programme Director

Head of Department, Mrs Mahlasedi Mhlabane

Regional Director, Mr JJ Mabena

Circuit Manager, Mr IM Matsobane

Acting Principal, Mr Mlambo

Member of the School Management Team

Educators and

My beloved learners

I greet you all.

I bring warm greetings from the entire provincial management team. I find comfort in that you have heeded to our call to assemble here to take a stand for the sustainable improvement of the current state of affairs in this school.

I know that some may think that this action is belated, however, I was taught that it is never too late to mend.

I believe that you will agree with a view that there is no situation in life that is permanent. All things do come to an end, and this is applicable to the troubling situation that is a thorn in the flesh of all stakeholders in this school.

We cannot behave like an ostrich which normally puts its head in the sand when it is confronted with challenges.

South Africa is marveled all over the world for its ability to rise above the expected norm in confronting challenges head on. We are the only country that was bestowed with Four Nobel Prize winners, Chief Albert Luthuli, Former President Nelson Mandela, Former President FW De Klerk and Ach bishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

South Africans from all walks of life were collectively were able to confront the draconian apartheid system that was highly sophisticated and come out victors.

It is in that context that I declare here and now that what ever that was bedeviling the smooth running of this school must cease its power and influence now.

You are all here to learn, to be knowledgeable and to acquire skills to make your lives better. Most of you here are from highly deprived families and as such have no choice but to come to Kopanang Secondary School because this country guarantees everyone right to learn.

It is therefore unjust, unacceptable and unconstitutional to have a public school that does not render its policy mandate. This cannot be allowed to happen in a democratic country like ours.

The days and time of ill discipline, laziness and a culture of indifference at Kopanang Secondary School have come to an end.

Kopanang is a school, in a school learners would come early, attend to their lessons, respect their teachers and write their homework.

Teachers are enthusiastic about their work, are in class, on time, teach for seven hours and are sober in mind and body.

The department renders the necessary support, resources and ensures that teaching and learning takes place unhindered.

Without this happening there is no school as teaching and learning is compromised.

When the people of this country gave the African National Congress the mandate to govern the country for the next five years, they made it clear that the improvement of education must be first amongst the list of government priorities.

I was then tasked with the responsibility to ensure that the people of Mpumalanga enjoy the benefit of the provisioning of quality education. Without this, there will be no reason why we must continue to occupy our offices.

I will not rest until the problems of this school are over. These problems must end here and now whatever the magnitude.

Anyone who does not wish to see progress in this school must write to me before the end of this week and indicate why the community of Kopanang Secondary School should not enjoy peace and stability. I commit to respond to each letter that I will receive.

My fax number is 086 564 9549. I repeat anyone who does not want to see progress in this school must write to me and I will respond.

If I don't get any correspondence by the end of this week, I will conclude that you all agree that Kopanang Secondary School deserves better.

I am aware that most of you will not be able to access fax machines, for that reason I am going to leave behind five officials from Head Office.

These officials are:

Mrs. Ntombikayise Masemula (Team Leader)

Mr. Hlahla Ngwenya

Mr. Kagiso Phatlane

Mr. Steve Mlangeni and

Mrs. Elizabeth Mampane

Mr. Markus Machaba from the Regional Office will still render his co-managing duties.

The responsibilities of this team from Head Office is to ensure that the learners who want to learn are given the necessary space and that those who do not want to achieve anything from this school leave as a matter of urgency.

They will listen to all stakeholders and provide the required guidance for sustainable stability at this school.

They must support the teachers, school management team and ensure that there is an everlasting solution.

Should they report that they are unable to receive the cooperation of the stakeholders, I will have no other option but to conduct public hearings to look at the viability of closing the school.

From today onwards, Kopanang must be a normal school and an institution of learning, where teaching is the order of the day.

Kopanang must change for the best. The people of Mpumalanga should take pride in such change and Kopanang should serve as a beacon of change in the future.

Tonight, I will be participating in a talk show programme in one of the radio stations. I am going to announce that the situation in Kopanang Secondary School has changed. I am going to request them to come tomorrow to see wonders of team work, respect for the call of duty, commitment zeal and patriotism.

I am going to say this confidently because I know that all of you standing here want prosperity, excellence, progress and success.

The remaining 13 days are enough to ensure that you can catch up with the lost time and bring yourself up to speed with preparations for the exams.

Let me use this opportunity to wish all learners who will be writing the 2009 Final Examinations all the best.

The people of Mpumalanga, your relatives and friends expect you to perform at your outmost best to achieve outstanding results. This expectation remains legitimate and justifiable given that you endured and conquered difficulties during the past eleven years of schooling.

The efforts and hard work you have invested is good reason enough not to doubt that you will make it when the results are announced on 07 January 2010.

These examinations add impetus to your dreams of a better life and are indeed a vehicle for self emancipation. They require your unwavering zeal, commitment and willingness to succeed.

Through your hard work and perseverance you can succeed. You also need to put your minds to the crossing of the line.

Use every opportunity at your disposal to supplement your studies. Never put off till tomorrow what can be done today. Remember these wise words, "Procrastination is the thief of time,"

The department will ensure that all systems are in place and ready for these examinations commence and end without hassles.

May you all be blessed and know that South Africa and the world at large are with you every step of the way.

All the best for the final year Examinations.

Thank You.