

**Remarks to be presented at the occasion of the Learner Seminar at Ehlanzeni Region on 06 July 2009 by the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule**

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Programme Director  
Acting Head of Department  
Acting Regional Director, Mr. AF Mdaka  
Motivational Speakers  
Members of Senior Management  
Principals  
Educators  
Learner Formations  
Learners  
Ladies and Gentleman

I take this opportunity to extend my humble appreciation for the invitation received that I attend this learner seminar. I am grateful because we are obliged by the constitution of this country to ensure that learners progressively benefit from their learning environment.

We have also made it our duty to ensure that we create enabling conditions for making the lives of our people better through the provision of quality teaching and learning.

In my view, we can only improve the quality of life of all citizens and to free the potential of each person by converging as we did today to share openly our experiences, wishes and suggestions for the attainment of quality education.

We intend to do everything in our ability to ensure that our education delivery respond directly to individual and economic needs of our province.

It is in this context that we decided to convene you in this fashion so that you can actively participate in shaping the direction, pace and the creation of an enabling environment for the acquisition of quality education.

We wish that you can fairly understand what we intend to do so that you can also help us to help you. We embrace a culture that says there must be nothing about us without us.

When you clearly know the expectation of the country and of the province in particular you must therefore become our true ambassadors by denouncing all societal ills and embrace all that is good for your growth and development.

We do not want to see a situation where you will blame government, your teachers and parents because you did not use the opportunity that you were given fruitfully. Grab the opportunity at your disposal and make the best of it. You are an architect of your own fortune. There is no one but yourselves who can make or break your destiny.

Marko Saravanja says:

“Your ability to learn faster than your competitors will be your advantage.

But knowledge without action is worthless.

Your ability to translate your learning into action and master the forces of change will be your competitive advantage. But action and knowledge without ethics is dangerous.

Your ability to base your actions on foundations of strong values, ethics and morals will be your ultimate competitive advantage.

Liberate yourself and embrace learning as a life long process.”

The Department decided to coordinate this seminar so that you can freely network on matters that will broaden your horizon and make you better citizens.

Government has adopted the following non-negotiable:

**As a DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIAL, we promised to:**

- ensure all schools receive the necessary resources in time for teaching to commence;
- ensure all schools have their full staff allocation, and that any vacancies are filled without delay;
- improve my own knowledge and skills base to be more effective; always be available to assist schools, principals and teachers;
- respond to requests or concerns of education stakeholders;
- visit all schools within the district on a regular basis;
- monitor teacher and student attendance, and ensure no child is out of school;
- assist all schools to improve their performance, ensuring regular tests are conducted, and results are reported to parents.

**As a LEARNER, we promised to:**

- accept that the main reason for being in school is to learn and develop academically, socially and culturally;
- adhere to school rules;
- respect the legitimacy and authority of teachers;

- participate in Learner Representative Councils (LRCs) to safeguard my interests;
- show respect to other learners and not to discriminate;
- avoid anti-social behaviour like theft, vandalism, assault, sexual harassment, alcohol and drug use, and other activities that disrupt the learning process.

In this context, I want to urge all of you, that henceforth, you must help us to free our schools from drug and weapon trafficking, bullying, harassment of girls, disrespect for teachers and all that continue to bedevil our institutions.

You must progress from the learning environment so that the province can take pride on its own intellectuals, skilled force and business acumen.

Once more take this time and engage meaningful on matters of education emancipation.

I wish you the best in your deliberations, have a wonderful day!

Thank you!