

SPEECH PRESENTED BY THE MEC FOR EDUCATION AT THE OCCASION OF THE MPUMALANGA REGIONAL TRAINING TRUST: DATE: 03 April 2009

PROGRAMME DIRECTORS

**The MEC for Economic Development Mr Padayachee
Executive Mayor of Emalahleni Municipality; Cllr Linah Malatjie
The Head of Department Mr. Raymond Tywakadi
CEO of MRTT Mr. Davis Maropane
Members of Senior Management
Circuit Managers
Principals
Learners**

South Africa is indeed alive with possibilities. These ever lasting possibilities are embedded in the Freedom Charter and the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

Clearly articulated is a sentence that says ***we need to improve the quality of life of all citizens and to free the potential of each person.***

Government continues to strive to consciously ensure that its citizens and institutions to invoke the spirit of creativity and willingness to expand the reality of these possibilities to care and nurture one another. What we celebrate here and now is a product of such input.

South Africa is a developmental state with abundance of resources. These resources remain hidden in their natural habitat. It therefore requires certain technical skills to be able to dislodge these minerals for the benefit of our all people.

This can only be achieved if our education institutions and intellectuals make informed decisions of the direction, structure and course for economic emancipation of our country and its people.

I am thrilled today to be part of this event, which seeks to empower our communities to be able skilled and self sustainable.

However, the economic and social landscapes are not as aesthetic as we would want it to be.

The challenge facing the country is the shortage of technical skills. The limited technical requisite skills make it difficult if not impossible for our people to share in the benefits of an improved economy. This unfortunate phenomenon perpetuates unemployability of the human capital of this country.

The Department of Education releases thousands of young women and men to ease the demands of business sector in recruitment. But the reality is most of these learners find themselves idle at their homes with no jobs for the reasons mentioned above.

Programme Director, I have taken a note on the vision of the Mpumalanga Regional Trust Training (MRTT) that they want to be distinguished as a sustainable experiential, education and training provider in Southern Africa.

That is good and commendable and is a step in the right direction for the people of this province and the country at large. This requires a visionary, committed and united leadership.

It is initiatives like this, which will see the citizens of this country taking advantage of the possibilities that this country affords to all us, our children included. We are going to encourage a great number of learners to cease the opportunity that comes as a result of this endeavour, therefore eradicate the state of unemployment and dire lack of technical skills.

This construction sector will lead to a better employment rate, because the learners will be afforded the opportunity to be trained and accredited at an environment that they are used to.

We are in stage where more and more skilled construction and building trades are substantially needed in the country to meet the obligation of 2010, as well as improving the country's infrastructure beyond 2010.

The challenge is for MRTT is to make sure that they go beyond the CETA accreditation, and add other accreditations in line with the training programmes they offer.

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.