

**Remarks by the MEC for Education at the occasion of the
2010 School Choral Eisteddfod on 15 June 2010 at
Emalahleni**

Programme Directors, Dr JZM Sambo and Pastor SK Zamisa

Executive Mayor of Emalahleni, Cllr Linah Malatjie

Head of Department, Mrs. Mahlasedi Mhlabane

Members of Senior Management

Mr. JJ Mabena, hosting Regional Director

Provincial Coordinators, Mrs. Paulinah Mphahlaza

Regional Music Coordinators

Circuit Managers

Choir Conductors

Media

Organized Labour

Representatives from Emalahleni Municipality

Principals

Educators

Parents

Learners

Ladies and Gentleman

Sanibonani

I am grateful to get this opportunity to grace this occasion. My office has advised me that amongst the Programme Directors is a Doctor and the other is a Pastor. What a combination.

I have always known Dr Sambo as the International master of Ceremonies and the custodian of music rendition in this part of the country.

It gives me pleasure to be part of an activity that is managed by his majesty, Dr Sambo. Keep on keeping on.

The Enthusiasm brought about by the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup Tournament that has never been experienced in the history of the country. It is indeed an experience we all envy and wish that it be utilised for nation building, reconciliation and patriotism.

The departmental curriculum enrichment programme must tap from this experience by profiling sporting, cultural as well as schooling activities.

Music has long proven to be another pillar and a significant one to send positive messages of hope, courage, commitment and dedication.

History has recorded that music has been used as a vehicle for the liberation of our country from the draconian system of apartheid to a free non-racial, non sexist and democratic South African.

Today, South Africa is marveled by the whole World for its ability to excel on matters of democratic principles and governance.

It is therefore opportune for schools to use the curriculum enrichment programmes to instill love for reading, discipline, time management, respect for each other and most of all enhancement of teaching and learning.

Mpumalanga Province is known for the ability to unite and focus on issues that matter most. In this regard, Education has been identified by government as the programme that must receive top priority.

I therefore take this opportunity to call on all citizens of Mpumalanga to rally side by side with us in our quest to improve the delivery of education in this Province.

We can not sit back and do nothing when our children falls on the last lap of school performance. We must work hard and free all our institutions from anything that hinders teaching and learning. This must be everyone's obligations.

My only hope is that you will help us in this regard and make education a societal phenomenon.

I want to thank all those who played a pivotal role in making these competitions to be what they are, from School Management Teams, School Governing Bodies, Conductors, Members of the Coordinating Teams , Choristers, Educators, Learners and all who contributed to the success of this patriotic endeavour.

In particular I want to single out Mrs. Paulinah Mphahlaza who has always been very instrumental in the coordination of these competitions. I know what it takes a lot of effort and dedication to put such an event together.

I wish you all the best in everything you do at work and in your homestead.

It is also prudent that we all support the ongoing 2010 FIFA Soccer Tournament and ensure that nothing is done to embarrass the country and the continent. In this regard, please report to the law enforcement agencies anything that seek to divert our attention to the success of the tournament.

Lastly, I take this time to congratulate all school Choirs who participated in these competitions. Your participation has made you winners. The fact that you have made it thus far qualifies all of you the accolades of champions.

Feel It ,it is here.
Thank you