

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO BE DELIVERED BY MEC FOR EDUCATION  
MRS. REGINAH MHAULE AT THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER  
OF A COMPUTER LAB AT MGWENYANE PRIMARY SCHOOL ON 13 MARCH 2010**

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Programme Director

Mr Robert Gumede

Members of Senior Management

Principals

Members of School Governing Body

Representative Council of learners

Educators

Learners

Representatives from Robert Matana Gumede and Keni Foundation

Media

Comrades and friends

Ladies and gentleman

I am deeply honoured to be part of this noble endeavour which is aimed at improving the delivery of quality education to all our learners and communities.

Education remains the only strategic pillar for changing the lives of our people for the better. It is in that context that Government has put education on top in its list of priorities.

The country would be doomed if there could not be sound and sustainable education outcomes.

It is in the above context, that we profoundly appreciate any contribution aimed at adding value to education delivery.

We are indeed humbled by the patriotic gesture that Mr Robert Matana Gumede and Keni Foundation continue to display in our communities.

Your benevolence does not go unnoticed and we will forever take pride to the reality that there are men and woman who are committed to sacrifice for the emancipation and well-being of others.

It is a matter of fact that while government does its best to redress issues of school infrastructure development, it requires a collaborative effort to overcome that challenge.

It is rare these days that a person can take out of his own pocket to contribute immensely for the development of others. This is what we call true selflessness, patriotic generosity and sincere benevolence.

This display by Mr. Gumede will go a long way in generating positive energies to the learners of these schools and indeed the scholastic outcomes will improve.

I pray that others who are in positions of influence should emulate the exemplary leadership and do what you have been able to do for our communities.

At the same time, we use this opportunity to say publicly that our schools are and should remain centres of community development, where

outstanding performance and high levels of professionalism are the order of the day.

We will reciprocate by ensuring that learners at Thembeke Secondary School, Khaliphani Secondary and Mgwenyane Primary pass with flying colours.

This must be done to say thank you to this son of the soil, Mr. Robert Gumede and at the same time send a message that something went wrong in 2009 when Mpumalanga obtain 47.9 percent pass rate in the Grade 12 examination results.

We must prove to South Africans that we have the ability, courage and know how to produce positive results that we can all be proud of.

Mpumalanga province has embraced a pioneering spirit and we must through our actions and conduct indicate that only the best can happen in the area of our jurisdiction.

The use of IT has been a foreign concept in most of our schools. There are some who accepted that IT remains only accessible to the previously advantaged communities.

Mr Gumede is demystifying that perception by bringing in your door steps resources that would enable your to inter act with the world with ease. Your knowledgebase will never be the same.

Your are now better off than yesterday because this resource will make life more meaningful and your schooling days more exciting.

Manage these resources well and ensure that they are never stolen or broken so that more effort can be channeled at extending this noble gesture where there is a need.

I want to guarantee everyone that the Department of Education is putting all efforts of making sure that there is continuous improvement in the way we do things.

We are embracing Mr Gumede as one of our own, a true ambassador and a custodian for community development.

We collectively pray that God bless you and your team with an abundance of courage to extend such contributions to other places of need.

I also want to convey my profound appreciation to the leadership of the two schools because had it not been your visionary foresight this event and contribution may not have taken place. Remain committed to the improvement of our schools and make sure that our learners' outcomes move beyond satisfactory to excellent in the sight of the provincial community and the country.

There must be engineers, mathematicians, medical practitioners coming from these three schools. Those that are more intelligent must contact my office so that we can ensure that they get bursaries to become teachers.

Teaching is a noble call it requires men and woman who are patriotic and committed to the uplifting of the people.

Once more, thank you for inviting us to this occasion it was in deed worth attending.

Thank You very much.