

**SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY THE MEC SIPHOSEZWE MASANGO  
ON THE OCCASION OF SADTU CONFERENCE ON THE  
19 OCTOBER 2005**

Programme Director

Members of the National Executive Council

Member of the Provincial Executive Council

Political structures present here

Comrades and friends

All protocol observed

I bring with me fraternal greetings from the leadership of the Department. This I do fully aware that you have gathered here to take stock of the achievement of the past 10 years within the education fraternity.

I want to agree with that because we can only accelerate transformation process only if we know precisely what we have gained and what are the challenges.

You will recall programme director that when we ushered the new democratic dispensation the MEC for Education was Mr DD Mabuza, He was succeeded by MEC Craig Padayachee and I want to take advantage of this opportunity to profoundly appreciate the good work done by these outstanding comrades.

The successful leveled the plain field, developed enabling policy framework and introduce programme endeavours to ensure that the doors of Education are opened to all provincial school going children. Some of these endeavours do have their limitations, however, the intention of introducing them were noble.

What comes to mind immediately can be listed as follows:

1. Introduction of scholar transport
2. Development of school infrastructure
3. Introduction of the School Nutrition Programme
4. introduction of School governance Structures
5. Integration of school

In relation to policy development, you will recall that in the past d----- amongst others these were developed:

- National Education Policy
- South African Schools Act
- Language, Religious, Age and HIV/AIDS policies

A new curriculum was introduced and it is envisaged that in 2007 all grades will be implementing the national curriculum Statements.

Academics, political analysts do agree that no country in the world, was able to achieve that south Africa achieved in 10 years and we all need to applaud ourselves for these progressive gains.

Government is aware that these gains did not come cheap. There were instances of resistance, manipulation, perceived imposition, corruption that seeks to embrace these processes. However, government was determined to introduce the above since it firmly believed that to emancipate our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, we needed to spare no effort but introduce these developments.

Today, the task that lies ahead of all of us is to take the process forward faster towards the realization of the goals we set ourselves.

That of building an education system that truly belongs to all.

Then we can do by:

## **1. Empowering governance Structures**

Our governing structures must be empowered so that they can continue to enhance transparency, participation of parents, business, church, moral regeneration movement, co-operative governance within the schools.

It is unfortunate that there are some quarters of these structures who still do not envy the democratic gains of this country and do not wish to embrace diversity, non-racialism, tribalism and gender equity.

## **2. Developing a Curriculum that can respond to the needs of our communities**

The National Curriculum Statement intends to ensure that what we teach our children must better their lives and that of their surrounding communities. The task of determining curricular objectives vests within the ambit of school governing bodies. Surely we need to take stock of the extent at which governing bodies influence curricular options.

When you visit a place like Dullstroom and notice the developments in that town, the first question that comes to mind is does the surrounding schools prepare learners in subjects that can respond to these developments? The answer to this question will indicate how much certain things have been taken for granted.

The Adult Basic Education Programme is another endeavour that is introduced to ensure that illiteracy is completely eradicated. The limitation is that these programmes is seen as being in the periphery and the efforts to mainstream it are moving at a snails pace. When I tabled my policy and Budget speech this year, I said we must ensure that ABET sector is professionalized and amongst other things, we will before the end of this financial year ensure that Educators in this sector are paid on pro rata basis.

This must be done urgently because illiteracy contribution to joblessness, poverty and economic under-development.

### **3. Enhancement of the Capacities of Principals**

A principal is an accounting officer of a school and the school management team must help to enhance accountability and responsiveness.

It is not just for a principal to play ignorance on issues of transporting of children, sports, infrastructure development attendance of learners.

School teams and reporting strategies must be established such that within seconds a principal can explain the development of any learner in his or her school with authority.

It is on those basis that the Minister and Government intends to confer some of the function of school governing bodies to school management teams.

The question to ask is, Are our principals ready? Yes, the response to the question would warrant brainstorming by this conference.

### **4. Improving motivation. Patriotism and caring by our Educators**



