

**SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY THE  
CHIEF DIRECTOR Ms DD MASHEGO  
AT HE OCCASION OF THE SWEARING-IN OF THE  
AMERICAN PEACE CORPS ON THE  
21 SEPTEMBER 2006**

**Programme Director**

**USA Ambassador to South Africa**

**Members of Senior Management**

**Beloved Peace Corps**

**The Media**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**It is gratifying to be afforded an opportunity to welcome men and women who put aside things that are prudent to themselves in favour of those things that matters to the human race as a whole.**

**This commitment needs to be appreciated and expanded in order to develop nations that care and support each other. Indeed, we must rejoice, sing and celebrate that there are those individuals who are always willing to sacrifice their own interest in order to give a helping hand to others.**

**This is the attitude that must be marveled, cherished and be instilled to all our children, parents and communities in general.**

**South African democracy can only be sustained only if those closer to us share their experiences, talents, skills and resourcefulness. Yes, the transformation agenda can only be accelerated if we collaboratively continue to learn and tap from each others strengths. The Congress of South Africa ..... put this vividly in their motto which says “each one teach one”.**

**The Mpumalanga Department of Education prides itself for being one of the recipients of this team of men and women who came to serve for n personal gain.**

**Programme Director, you will recall that as of now, government is still battling to root out the legacy of apartheid past, so that the doors of education and culture can be opened to for all. This can only be done by increasing access to education, improving physical school infrastructure, building capacity to school management and educators.**

**The view of the Department is that the collaboration and this initiative by the American Government give impetus to efforts that seeks to develop an education system for faster and shared growth. It is for that reason that the Department commits itself to all endeavours that will ensure that this programme unfold without major hassles.**

**The Department will in collaboration with the Peace Corps continue to ensure that there is a conducive environment for them to implement their programmes.**

**He will continue to do this because we are mindful that the Peace Corps programmes brings with it a special and unique perspective, a desire to help, a reflection of rich diversity, a strong co-operation and support for people of Africa.**

**Above all, this brings a promotion of cross-cultural understanding. It intensify the role in the global effort to fight and reduce all obstacles that seek to divert us from bridging the digital divide.**

**The Department's core message is 'Making the Education Enterprise Everybody's Business'. It is therefore fitting that compatriots from USA are welcomes to add value to all government programmes to make the lives of our people better.**

**Now that you are in this wonderful country, please help us to maximize the participation of women at all levels to education. Help us to foster an spirit de corps amongst educators and to promote an maintain high standards of ethical conduct, professional integrity and efficiency in the promotion and maintenance of standards of teaching and learning.**

**Let me conclude by appreciating once more that you will provide us with leadership, problem-solving techniques that will make positive impact to our systems.**

**I am aware that your resourcefulness, independent judgement will enhance skill development guided by the spirit of dedication and national building.**

**I thank you.**