

**SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,  
ME MATHABO MOKAPO ON THE OCCASION OF DONATION OF PRESENTS TO  
THE LEARNERS OF LEBONENG SCHOOL ON 30 NOVEMBER 2006, THABONG,  
WELKOM**

**Programme Director  
Lecturers of the Free State School of Nursing  
Students of the Free State School of Nursing  
Educators of Leboneng School  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
Learners**

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers of this important event that is aimed at giving prizes to the disabled learners of Leboneng School.

My appreciation goes to the students of the Free State School of Nursing, Northern Campus who saw it befitting that today they donate gifts to the challenged learners. Your gesture is a true demonstration of the caring society that we are striving to build.

I hope everyone within our communities will emulate this gesture so that the process of building a true South Africa that cares for its vulnerable groups is taken to greater heights.

As Africans we were brought up in a culture that emphasizes true love for your neighbour, values of ubuntu and compassion for other fellow citizens. Indeed this occasion today reflects in no uncertain terms that we have not abandoned our cultural roots.

The gifts you are donating to the disabled learners have our blessings as the Municipality and I am certain that the staff of the school is as well overwhelmed by your goodwill.

In the Scriptures, it is said that the Lord always rewards those who give out in the true spirit of love. And I am convinced that this gesture by your good selves will go a long way in building a loving and caring society that we envisage.

Thanks to changes in the curriculum, that came about with the advent of democracy. For now, social responsibility projects form part of our learning experience, unlike during our apartheid past which reinforced individualism and self-centeredness.

My message to the learners of Leboneng is that they should appreciate these gifts. They must also acknowledge and accept that our democracy has their interests at heart. And no longer again will people in our country be discriminated against on the basis of their disability.

On this note I wish to thank everyone who made this occasion a success and hope that you will all have a wonderful and prosperous festive season.

**Thank you.  
COUNCILLOR MATHABO MOKAPO  
EXECUTIVE MAYOR**

