

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ME. MATHABO MOKAPO, ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE LEARNER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN - 25TH AUGUST 2006.

Programme Director
MEC for Education, Me Ouma Tsopo
Members of the Department of Education
Educators and Teachers
Members of the Media
Parents and Guardians of school-going children
Learners
Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel honored and overwhelmed to be given an opportunity to address a gathering of this magnitude. To me, it is not only the size of the event that I am worried about, but most significantly the purpose for which we are gathered here today.

On this note I wish to extend my warm greetings to you all, who are gathered here today, as the Free State Department of Education embarks on a programme to launch the Learner Registration Campaign for 2007.

Allow me, to commend the MEC and her team for initiating such a crucial campaign in the realm of education.

The objectives of this campaign give a crystal clear signal to everyone that, as the new government, in this second decade of liberation, we are committed to making a difference in the lives of our people.

Resumption of schooling on the first day of the academic year, is crucial in that it sets the pace for work that will be undertaken by educators and learners during the course of the year.

To parents and guardians gathered here, I wish to appeal to you to take the message that the Department is bringing seriously, and implement it to the latter.

All current legislation that governs schooling in our country, places a huge responsibility and role on the part of parents/guardians. And at no point should you abdicate this huge responsibility that has been placed on your shoulders.

To our learners, who are assembled here today, I initially want to wish you good luck for your exams that are already around the corner. Study hard for the exams and pray the Almighty God, that he bless you in your educational careers.

Take note that a nation without an education is a nation without a soul. And like Socrates, a philosopher writing in Medieval times, once said: "I would rather die unhappy than be a fool".

To unpack this great saying by Socrates - it means that one can only develop happiness through his/her lifetime by acquiring knowledge.

Learners need to always remember that our government has created many opportunities for young people in the new dispensation. And in order to access these opportunities the only weapon is education.

I therefore wish to welcome you all within the borders of Matjhabeng Local Municipality. I hope that this event will be to the benefit of everyone gathered here today.

Thank you.

COUNCILLOR MATHABO MOKAPO
EXECUTIVE MAYOR