

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ME. MATHABO MOKAPO, ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF ADULT LEARNER WEEK AND INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY - 8TH SEPTEMBER 2006.

Programme Director

MEC for Education –Me. Ouma Tsopo

Management and Officials of the Department of Education

Teachers, Educators and Adult Learners

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel honored and privileged, to be afforded the opportunity to address you, as we celebrate Adult Learner Week and the International Literacy Day.

It is almost three decades now, that the Adult Learner Week has been celebrated across the globe, and the International Literacy Day was first started in 1967. As we have entered the second decade of our liberation it is incumbent upon us to ensure that, we reach out to those of our community who were marginalized because of class, race, gender and other forms of discrimination, by encouraging and promoting their participation in all types of adult learning.

The importance of these celebrations impresses upon us the need to fight the scourge of illiteracy that is a creation of our past. These celebrations highlight the need for us as a community, to ensure that this prevalent trend existing in our society, of the disparity between those who have access to education and information, and those who do not, is countered.

Our interpretation and conceptualization of adult learning should be that it is a right and a tool for equitable sustainable development, and that it plays a crucial role in transforming lives, communities and societies.

To our adult learners and prospective adult learners, my message is that let us break the barriers created by illiteracy, and equip ourselves with skills, knowledge, attitudes and values which will open up new paths to life.

I therefore call upon you to join the detachment, which has created for itself a brighter future, by acquiring education and skills. The education you will acquire through ABET will enable you to participate in the social, economic and political realm of life.

At this point, I wish to commend the MEC, and her team for organizing these celebrations in our Municipality. In the same vein we want to propose to the Department to consider running some of the ABET centers during the day.

Our proposal is prompted by the fact that most communities, particularly women are unable to attend classes that run in the evening on account of issues relating to safety, distance and family commitments.

We also hope that the Department will ensure that it amplifies cooperation between stakeholders active in the promotion of adult learning, so that all the problem areas that relate to adult learning could be resolved speedily.

As a Municipality, through our Ward Councillors, we commit ourselves to sensitizing communities as we engage in constituency work, about the critical need for adults to register/enroll with ABET centers.

On this note, I wish to welcome everyone present, within the borders of Matjhabeng, and sincerely hope that the celebrations will attain the desired outcome.

Thank you.

COUNCILLOR MATHABO MOKAPO
EXECUTIVE MAYOR