

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE ACTING EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MATJHABENG
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ME EMMA TLADI ON THE OCCASION OF THE IMBIZO
FOCUS WEEK ON 26 OCTOBER 2006,WELKOM**

Programme Director
MEC for Education- Me. Ouma Tsopo
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure to me that I have been invited to grace the occasion of the Imbizo Focus Week, together with members and stakeholders of the teaching fraternity.

Since the advent of our democracy in 1994, a culture of Izimbizo has been inculcated in our political landscape. This culture demonstrates a complete break with our apartheid past, where the majority of citizens could not be part of the decision making process.

We really must commend our new government, as we enter the second decade of our liberation, for ensuring that our people become masters of their own destiny. The common saying goes like "Nothing about us, without us"

Today, we meet during this Imbizo to engage stakeholders in education about pro-poor programmes of the Department of Education. Our government since its inception in 1994, has formulated legislation, policies and programmes throughout all facets of human endeavor, that show a bias towards the poor. It is therefore no surprise that today the MEC and her team will be engaging you on pro-poor programmes in the realm of education.

Education of our children and youth constitutes the bedrock on which future generations and leaders will emerge upon. I therefore wish to appeal to everyone gathered here to embrace the message that the MEC and her team are bringing, for it will be to the common good of all.

Also, take this opportunity to ventilate your views and opinions on matters that are pertinent to you. Engagements of this nature are a distinguishing characteristic of the democratization of the South African society, and should be utilized to the full.

On this note, I wish to welcome everyone within the borders of Matjhabeng and hope that this Imbizo will live up to the expectations of everyone gathered here today.

**Thank you
CLLR EMMA TLADI
Acting Executive Mayor**