

**SPEECH BY LIMPOPO EDUCATION MEC ISHMAEL
KGETJEPE AT THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF
SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE BY IDC AND
ADOPT-A-SCHOOL FOUNDATION, PHAGAMANG
SECONDARY, 30 AUGUST 2018**

Program Director

Mayor

IDC

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL FOUNDATION

SGB

District director

Our school principal

Parents

Our learners

Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you very much for this opportunity to be here with all of you. We are so honoured today and would like to express words of gratitude and appreciation as we officially handover these completed infrastructure projects here at Phagamang Secondary.

You will know that this year is not an ordinary year for it is a year the people of South Africa are celebrating Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu centenary by intensifying efforts to create a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa in which all people, including our learners in all our schools live in peace and with equal opportunities. This is indeed making equal opportunities available to our learners. Today we are truly living up to their ideals of partnering for change, to the ideal of service to our people and to the ideals of solving problems and intervening where there are challenges. Today shows that we are all servants in service of our communities irrespective of the sectors we represent. In the spirit of the Thuma Mina Campaign, we are indeed demonstrating that private and public sector can work together among our people and for our people. We are sending a strong message that we are committed to working together with our people to create better school infrastructure, better learning conditions, better learner support material, better teacher support material and facilities that will see our school operating to the best of their abilities producing the best out of learners in schools of Limpopo.

The three secondary schools that are being supported in this initiative are making us proud by performing above 90%, making them best schools and support like must make them achieve 100 pass rates. So, our partnership is a caring partnership that seeks to support schools, improve results and improve the quality of education, especially in the rural parts of our Province.

We have on numerous occasions said that Government cannot work alone and indeed we must not work alone, more especially on matters of Education. Clearly, IDC and the Adopt-a-School Foundation understand the importance of education and of partnership. This is a private-public service delivery at its best and one that puts the interest of learners first. A clear indication that government works cooperatively with its private sector in the area of education, which plays a significant role in shaping the country to become more and more prosperous.

We really appreciate this endeavor which will ensure that learners at this school learn in an infrastructure that supports their education. It will also help in ensuring that our quest to instill human dignity to our young learners is not compromised. We know that with dignity comes

confidence and ultimately excellence. Excellence is what must define us as a sector and it is education which is critically important in fighting the current social ills affecting our communities.

We are very much pleased today and wish to thank our partners in this endeavor for this massive contribution at this school and the other three schools that you have adopted in Vhembe and Sekhukhune. Our schools need these facilities because they contribute to learner performance. We don't expect these schools to drop the ball in their performances while receiving this much support. The facilities will undoubtedly enhance the government's agenda of providing quality education irrespective of where our schools are located. Let this handover spur on other sectors in society to follow this fine example of prioritizing education in other areas. Day in and day out, the Department is handling communities that still need better school infrastructure and we still have schools that have been damaged by storms and with the rainy season almost upon us, we are likely to suffer other damages. We need to unite and partner in this regard so that we address these backlogs. It is important for

government and the private sector to work together as we are seeing today.

We are certainly leaving behind a legacy of uplifted and better living standards and socio-economic condition of the community. Our future doctors, nurses, geologists, engineers, accountants will surely come from these schools that we have upgraded and we believe that this investment will go a long in assisting in such a development. We want more schools to be adopted, more especially our primary schools because for us to achieve success at the senior phase, we need to first and foremost achieve success at the foundation phase in terms of learner performance. We must accordingly support the foundation phase by availing all the necessary educational needs that they require. We applaud this progressive gesture and we must emphasize at all times the importance of cooperation, partnership in our endeavors to improve education in the province. It is true that for government to succeed in improving education, it must have the support and participation of all stakeholders, all of us, the community at large. The way to go is to build together and as a department we are deeply committed to

empowering our learners and we are committed to working with everyone in the interest of education.

Let us inculcate a culture of ownership and people's pride in the infrastructure that is meant to benefit learners of our schools. Let us also make it our responsibility and obligation to make sure that these facilities remain safe and protected from any form of vandalism and to allow generations to come to reap the benefits of this infrastructure development initiative. To us, every contribution, big or small counts and goes a long way in closing infrastructure gaps that can hinder learner performance in our schools. The responsibility that comes with educating a child is so enormous and requires a collective effort from everybody and this include the civil society, the private sector, faith based organizations, the traditional leadership, NGOs, and individual members of the community.

Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu have taught us the spirit of activism and if we want to deliver quality education, nurture children into responsible citizens and future leaders, we need partnerships and efforts of thousands of activists to change the conditions in our schools. We must

in the spirit of Thuma Mina make our resources available and send them where they are needed the most. We must make ourselves available to be sent to schools and communities where there are challenges to provide the much needed solutions and relief. Together, we can help our young people to explore opportunities that will allow them to make purposeful steps towards their future.

Together we move South Africa Forward!

Thuma Mina!

I thank you!