

## **SPEAKER'S NOTES FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING AND THE HANDOVER OF MALAMULELE HIGH SCHOOL.**

Portfolio Committee Chairperson and Committee Members

Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, Hosi Penny Ngove

Members of the District House of Traditional Leaders

CONTRALESA

Executive Mayor Vhembe District, Cllr Dowelani Nenguda, PMT and MMC Members

Mayor Collins Chabane Local Municipality Cllr Gezani Maluleke, PMT and MMC Members

Acting HoD Martin Mashaba, DDGs, District Director and the Circuit Manager

Teacher Unions

SGB Associations

It is my singular honour to be here this morning, in the midst of hundreds of Collins Chabane residents who joined us this morning in this historic milestone of the handing over of Malamulele High school. I must indicate that I am overwhelmed by the massive infrastructure that we have constructed for this community. I think I am even more excited than the recipients of this beautiful infrastructure because I know the change that it will bring in a form of results and the relief it has already brought as far as space is concerned. The people who are watching this event on social media may not understand why I am overjoyed but let me indicate that we are not here just to handover ordinary infrastructure, but we are handing over a state-of-the-art school. The project that will go a long way in addressing the injustices of the past and restore the dignity of a black child.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 when I presented the budget speech at the Provincial Legislature, I indicated that 2023/24 is declared a year of school infrastructure. I also made mention that among the schools that I will be handing over to the community is Malamuele High, and we are here just to do that.

We want to appreciate the people of Malamulele for your patience since the inception of this beautiful project. We know at some point you felt that the project was taking forever but the delay was to ensure that we give you the best. We did not want to compromise on quality by just handing over a shoddily built school. I am happy that due diligence was done in this specific project, and I am proud to be here for the long awaited handover.

### **School Safety and Burglaries.**

Some may ask a question as to why do we build schools and later hand them over to the communities?. We remain the custodian of Education Policies in the Province and we are responsible for any form of support that schools need to stay afloat, but we have the School Management Team and the School governing body, who are responsible for the day to day running of the school. We are this morning handing over the school to them in the presence of all the stakeholders of interest including Tihosi, Pastors, and the community in large. This is to emphasize the point that education is a societal matter and as the department, we cannot mould and raise the future leaders alone. We need the support of parents, guardians, community safety structures, pastors and civic structure to assist us to instil and maintain discipline in our schools. We currently have cases of burglaries and theft in some of our schools in the province and it is a serious cause for concern. We may not have adequate resources to hire security personnel to guard all our schools and we need you to come on board. We need active safety structures that will jealously guard all the schools in the area to safeguard the gains that come with the state-of-the-art school.

### **Programme Director**

This very same school was in the news early this year when schools reopened. I will not shy away from mentioning that the cause of the problem is parents who do not attend meetings. You had meetings and agreed on raising funds to assist with the security of the school while we mitigate on how we can render such service to all the schools in the province. I got a brief that some parents were reluctant to honour the agreement and as such, the matter was escalated to the media to expose the principal. It was also brought to my attention that the principal refused to give books to learners whose parents were unable to raise the agreed fee. Let me clear it today that the Department is currently not in a position to provide security to all the schools in quantile 1-3.

I commend the leadership of the school, the SGB and parents who agreed on a model to fundraise for the security of the school. Your unity in this regard is very important and will go a long way in ensuring that what we have already given you is in a safe place. The South African School Act is also very clear that no learner must be deprived of stationery, report card or statement of results because their parents are owing. You started on a wrong footing, and I believe the misunderstanding will never repeat itself in the coming year. I urge parents to be patriotic. The funds raised are meant to protect the computers, school nutrition and other essentials that came with the package. We also understand that within the community, we have indigents who are struggling to make ends meet and must be noted as such when monetary decisions are taken. The norms and standards money that we allocate is not sufficient to cover everything and I still urge you to work with the principal on how best we can safeguard the property.

### **Vandalism**

We have a problem of vandalism of government property including schools. The vandalism is done by our own learners and I think it is about time we apply a consequence approach to habitual offenders. We have learners who will unashamedly break window pales, doors, furniture and toilet seats for fun. We have spent millions on this school and I expect learners to be on their best behaviour. The previous structure that you occupied before stood the test of time, we have thousands of learners who matriculated there and continued to tertiary. I want you to adopt the same attitude, this infrastructure must also cater for your siblings and your own children. It is your responsibility to ensure that the school remains intact, it stays neat and none of you must break anything. You are here to learn and that is what I expect from you. We have a very tight budget and there are other areas that are awaiting schools like the one you have, if you vandalize what we gave you, we might take years to come back for repairs, that will disadvantage your siblings who must still enroll for a year and stay for about five years. Love your environment, love your school and respect your teachers.

## **Handing over**

Having said all that I raised above, let me now come to the crux of why we are here today, the handing over of the state-of-the-art school. Hosi Ngove and other Chiefs in our midst, this is what we are handing over today to the community of Collins Chabane and the people of Malamulele in particular.

- 1. New 24 Classrooms with 12 Tanks for Water Harvesting**
- 2. Large Administration Block**
- 3. 30 Seats Water-Borne Toilets**
- 4. 2.36km Fencing and Guard House**
- 5. 2x Boreholes and Equipped 1x Borehole with Elevated Tank Stand & 5kl Water Tank**
- 6. Nutrition Centre**
- 7. Computer Laboratory**
- 8. Library**
- 9. Science and Life Science Laboratories (Combo)**
- 10. 12 x Covered Parking**
- 11. 12 x Uncovered Parking**
- 12. 70kl Water Tanks and 2x Septic Tanks with Associated Mechanical and Electrical Works.**

The school is now in your capable hands, use the institution to better the lives of our learners. Take care of the infrastructure and jealously guard it with all you have. It is not a day of speeches but a celebration of the milestone and the continuation of the narration of the good story by the government of the Day, creating better lives for all.

I thank you!!  
Ndza khensa!!