

"Let's together build a caring society, for a better life for all"

**MOTIVATIONAL SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE,
MR J.L MAHLANGU, MPL
AT KABOKWENI, MBOMBELA MUNICIPALITY**

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Programme Director

Officials from the Department of Education

Business People in our midst

Members of schools governing bodies

Educators and learners

Parents

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is usually said that a nation which does not invest in its children, does not have a future. It is doomed because without a good and strong foundation, its future looks bleak. It is doomed because it never laid a firm foundation for its future generations. In the words of author and motivator, John Richardson, Junior and I quote:

"When it comes to the future, there are three kinds of people: those who let it happen, those who make it happen, and those who wonder what happened."

The question I pose to you this morning as parents, schools management teams, educators, learners and business people is, in which category do you classify yourself? Are you part of those who let things happen while folding your arms and watching? Are you part of those who are concerned, caring and make it happen? Or are you one of those who will be blamed and shamed for failing the country and our province?

My believe is that all of us here, are part of those who are concerned, caring and are eager to make it happen. You are eager to make it happen because you continue to be a part of those who want to contribute towards our dream of “A better life for all.” I therefore implore on all those who are not part of this dream – especially the business people, to join us as government and other interested stakeholders, in building a caring society for “A better life for all.”

Parents, learners, educators, business people – let us stand up and do things for ourselves, lest we blame government for our own destiny. *Vuk’uzenzele!*

I urge you parents, to participate fully and support schools in your area. I challenge the local business people and even others, to support our schools financially and otherwise. You can do this by adopting a school in your area, for you will one day be counted for being part of those who made things happen. Remember that it is the people in your locality who made you what you are because of their loyal support to your business. Learn to plough back into your community, for they will support you more once they realise that you are part of them.

Let’s us join hands and ensure that the doors of learning shall be opened to all, and that our children learn under conducive and favourable conditions. Let us make the education enterprise, everybody’s business – for the future of this country is in our hands.

To educators, school management teams and school governing bodies, your contribution is valuable and significant. I urge you to continue to play a positive role towards making sure that our children receive the best education ever, and that they receive it under favourable conditions.

As parents yourself, you can meet government half-way by playing your part and assist the school of your child in whatever form you deem appropriate – thereby assisting government to realise a better education for our children, which is a foundation for a better tomorrow and “A better life for all.”

Let’s us all embrace the President’s call of *Vuk’uzenzele*, and not wait for government to provide everything for us. Show that you care and that you are concerned about the future of our children. It’s all in your hands – lest you will be blamed for being part of those who let things happen while folding their arms and watching or being part of those who wondered what happened.

In concluding, ladies and gentlemen, freedom fighter Mahatma Gandhi once said, and I quote:

“Men often become what they believe themselves to be. If I believe I cannot do something, it makes me incapable of doing it. But when I believe I can, then I acquire the ability to do it even if I didn't have it in the beginning”.

I know you have the ability and passion to make a difference.

Vuk’uzenzele!

Let’s together build a caring society, for a better life for all!

Ngiyabonga!