

EDUCATION IS A SOCIETAL ISSUE

No modern society has scaled the heights of social progress without education

Photo: Nonhlanhla Kambule-Makgati



MEC Maaria Ishmael Kgetjepe and his entourage including MMC Thlalefi Mashamaite who represented the Executive Mayor Mme Rosina Mogotlane

Thanks for affording me the opportunity and honour to address the official launch of National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) development programme for the Waterberg district. A gathering of this kind, which is made up of important stakeholders of our district, is a clear indication of our intention to break new ground in meeting the development needs of our province. Perhaps given the peculiarities of our past, we most certainly need a programme launch of this kind to identify key weaknesses as well as rethink approaches and strategies to sustain our education's reconstruction and development programme. Most importantly we need this development programme whose noble objective is to consolidate support of the Department, unions, civil society and community stakeholders to improve education. We must caution upfront that the end of the programme as rolled out by NECT must not signal the end of active participation by all stakeholders in supporting schools. The show must go on even beyond this programme because education remains that critical means of promoting good citizenship as well as preparing our people for the needs of the modern economy and a democratic society.

One of the most heartening things about our new South Africa; is our people's commitment to work towards quality education. By people, I mean ordinary men and women, big corporates, small business, non-profit

sector, faith based organisations, traditional leaders, state-owned entities and international bodies, amongst others. All these partners are playing a crucial role in supporting government in fulfilling the Freedom Charter's clarion call that "The doors of learning and culture shall be opened". With this kind of second to none commitment, they are enabling us to provide quality state funded education in our lifetime. Indeed, we are a province at work and this launch here today represents a high point of collaboration between government and non-governmental organisation, labour, parents, business and other education stakeholders. This historic collaboration lays the necessary groundwork for our education system to take off, especially in the areas of mathematics and science. You will agree with me that lack of collaboration robs our province of the benefits which would accrue from such an exercise. Today with this collaboration we will be able to understand certain failures in governance and how we can best address such challenges as a collective with interest and a common goal of improving the quality of education.

When NECT was launched in July 2013, the singular goal was to strengthen partnerships in order to achieve the education goals of the National Development Plan (NDP). Since then government has made available resources to support the work of the NECT for a range of programmes that

seek to unlock the potential of the basic education sector as a whole. The ANC-led government developmental blueprint, the NDP, implores us to improve the performance of the South African education system. On top of the NDP policy injunction is that we must improve literacy, numeracy, maths and science outcomes. It further enjoins us to improve learner performance in international comparative studies. It calls upon the whole basic education sector to stem the tide of learner drop outs.

The National Development Plan laid out the parameters within which each social partner can make a contribution towards the achievement of our shared vision. This shared vision entails the reduction of poverty, stimulating economic growth, effecting economic transformation and creating employment. We know too well the indispensability of education if we must deliver on the critical mandate of addressing inequality, poverty and unemployment. This reality places enormous responsibility on government and all its social partners to improve education of our people, with particular attention to primary and secondary school levels.

We must bear in mind that no modern society has scaled the heights of social progress without education more especially science and technology as the innately driving impulse. Only a sound and quality system with strong emphasis on mathematics and

science can serve as a reliable feeder to tertiary institutions, which will in turn be able to produce top-notch graduates geared to the needs of the country. It is therefore encouraging to note that, notwithstanding several challenges dogging our education system, our country has always striven to find creative ways to bring us together, through the National Education Collaborative Trust, to improve our education in this district. Once again, we are relying on social partnership and continued dialogue among all stakeholders to ensure an improved education system responsive to our needs as a province.

As we have stated before and still do so today, education is a societal issue. Society is a powerful instrument of inculcating in the young minds of our children, the norms, culture, traditions and values of the new democratic society as we build a new nation. Through the Trust, which brings together stakeholders including business and labour, we are working to achieve the education vision we set out in the National Development Plan. Through quality education, we will move our province forward; through education we will succeed in building a truly non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous society.

It is in this context that we cannot continue to expect teachers to promote quality learning and teaching alone. All of us must work together in unity to promote effective learning

and teaching in our schools. The notion of education as a societal matter is finding full expression in the NECT programme, it is important to work with business community to support the work of NECT. We are saying the most effective partnerships are where partners not only enrich each other but also find ways where they can mutually benefit.

The singular aim of this partnership is to improve quality of teaching and ultimately increase the number of learners taking science and pure maths thus resulting in an improvement in the quality of matric results.

It is so gratifying to know that a lot of work has been done by NECT to date in profiling schools to get a deeper understanding of school operations and develop responsive school implementation plans. We also know that schools have been categorised in terms of functionality for differentiated support. Schools have been visited by change agents for support visits in order to improve school management since January to June 2015. Some workshops for principals were conducted that will bring immense benefits to strategic planning leadership and governance programmes and capacity building for teachers. We also note with a sense of satisfaction that a curriculum gap analysis report was completed for maths in order to inform interventions to improve teaching and learning. Speech Supplied

Continuation from Page 5

With all these achievements to date and the NECT's plans for the next six months; we certainly place a premium value on the partnership of this kind, we are aware that part of the plan is the adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding between the district and the NECT on the minimum school support visits by Subject Advisors to Fresh Start Schools with Curriculum Change Agents. They will also in the next six months be providing training in governance and management for the School Management Teams. The

most revolutionary element of NECT is the teacher development programme in maths and science. What is pleasing about this programme is that it does not interfere with the normal day-to-day teaching and learning as they normally take place outside of teaching hours, mostly over weekends.

We appeal and invite all stakeholders to join hands around these ideals and to participate in supporting schools in this district as targeted by NECT in order for them to achieve more swift and in-depth improvement. All these areas need urgent atten-

tion and action as pointed out in the National Development Plan and NECT is here to strengthen cooperation between stakeholders so that we are able to respond to these challenges as a collective.

While we acknowledge the gains of the past 21 years that makes us say South Africa is a better place today than it was then, we must admit that much more still needs to be done with regards to improving participation and success rate in mathematics, science and technology space. We need to transform education to ensure that

through educating our children, we drive the economic growth by supporting the National Development Plan. Our aspiration is to be equal and even surpass the best in the world.

In conclusion, a programme launch of this nature is indeed critical in enabling us to take stock, to share ideas as stakeholders and most importantly to explore new ways of addressing our challenges. I am therefore encouraged by this initiative that brings us together under one programme with the goal of improving education outcomes in our district.

As a country, our vision of creating a united, non-racist, non-sexist, just and prosperous society will only see the light of day if and only if it is fertilised by economically lush conditions of social progress and education holds that key.

In ten days' time our Grade 12 class of 2015 learners will be sitting for their final exams, we call upon everybody to support and motivate our learners in this crucial time of their academic lives. The prosperity of South Africa lies in their hands.

PRESENTATION OF THE MEC FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HON. ISHMAEL KGETJEPE BY MMC T.A MASHAMAITE DURING THE LAUNCH OF NECT DISTRICT INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

Photos: Nonhlanhla Kambule-Makgati

Programme Director

Good morning. Thobela.

I have the pleasure of presenting to you our Guest Speaker this morning who is also the MEC responsible for the Department of Education in Limpopo Province.

- He was born in the royal village of Mohlaletse, the traditional headquarters of Sekhukhune land.
- He is the descendant of the great warrior King Sekhukhune of the Bapedi.

- He is a scholar of note who completed his Secondary Teachers Diploma at Sekhukhune College of Education.

- » Bachelor of Arts Degree conferred by the University of South Africa

- » Advanced Diploma in Labour Law with the then Rand Afrikaanse University now University of Johannesburg
- » Master Diploma in Human Resources Management with Rand Afrikaanse University now University of Johannesburg

- » Certificate in Municipal Management with the University of Natal

- » Advanced certificate in Governance and Public Leadership with Wits Business School (WBS)

- Maaria is an astute and seasoned politician and a leader who have led the political structures at different levels starting from being a leader of the Student Representative Council as the Deputy President at the then Sekhukhune College of Education.

- After the unbanning of the political parties in 1990 he became one of the key activists to establish Sekhukhune Democratic Teachers Association which preceded the formation of National Education Union of South Africa (NEUSA).

- He was part of the leadership that spearheaded and canvassed for the formation of the South African Teachers Democratic Union (SADTU)

- He served in the different structures of the African National Congress as both the Provincial Executive Committee Member (PEC) and spokesperson.

He was also appointed as the Regional Convener of the Sekhukhune region to rebuild the structures of the African National Congress.

- He was elected as a Ward Councillor in 2001 after the first democratic local government elections in Fetakgomo Local Municipality and later sworn in as a Chief Whip.

- He was later deployed to serve in the Limpopo Provincial Legislature and appointed as the Chairperson of the Safety, Security and Liaison Portfolio Committee in 2009.

- In July 2013 he was appointed as the Member of the Executive Committee of the Limpopo Provincial Government (MEC) to oversee the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA)

- After May 2014 elections he was sworn in as a Member of the Limpopo Legislature and further appointed as the Member of the Executive Committee responsible for the Department of Health and later appointed as MEC for Education.

- Hlabirwa is also an administrator who has distinguished himself in serving in different structures of public service.

- » He served as the Head of Labour and Governance in the Department of Education Limpopo Provincial Government.

- » Director Corporate Services at Ephraim Mogale Municipality
- » General Manager (COO) at Sekhukhune District Municipality
- » Municipal Manager at Sekhukhune District Municipality

Ladies and gentlemen, let us welcome the MEC for the Department of Education Honourable Maaria Ishmael Kgetjepe.

Over to you MEC.
I THANK YOU.

Biography Supplied



MEC for Education : Hon. Maaria Ishmael Kgetjepe



MEC for Education : Hon. Maaria Ishmael Kgetjepe and MMC Thlalefi Mashamaite

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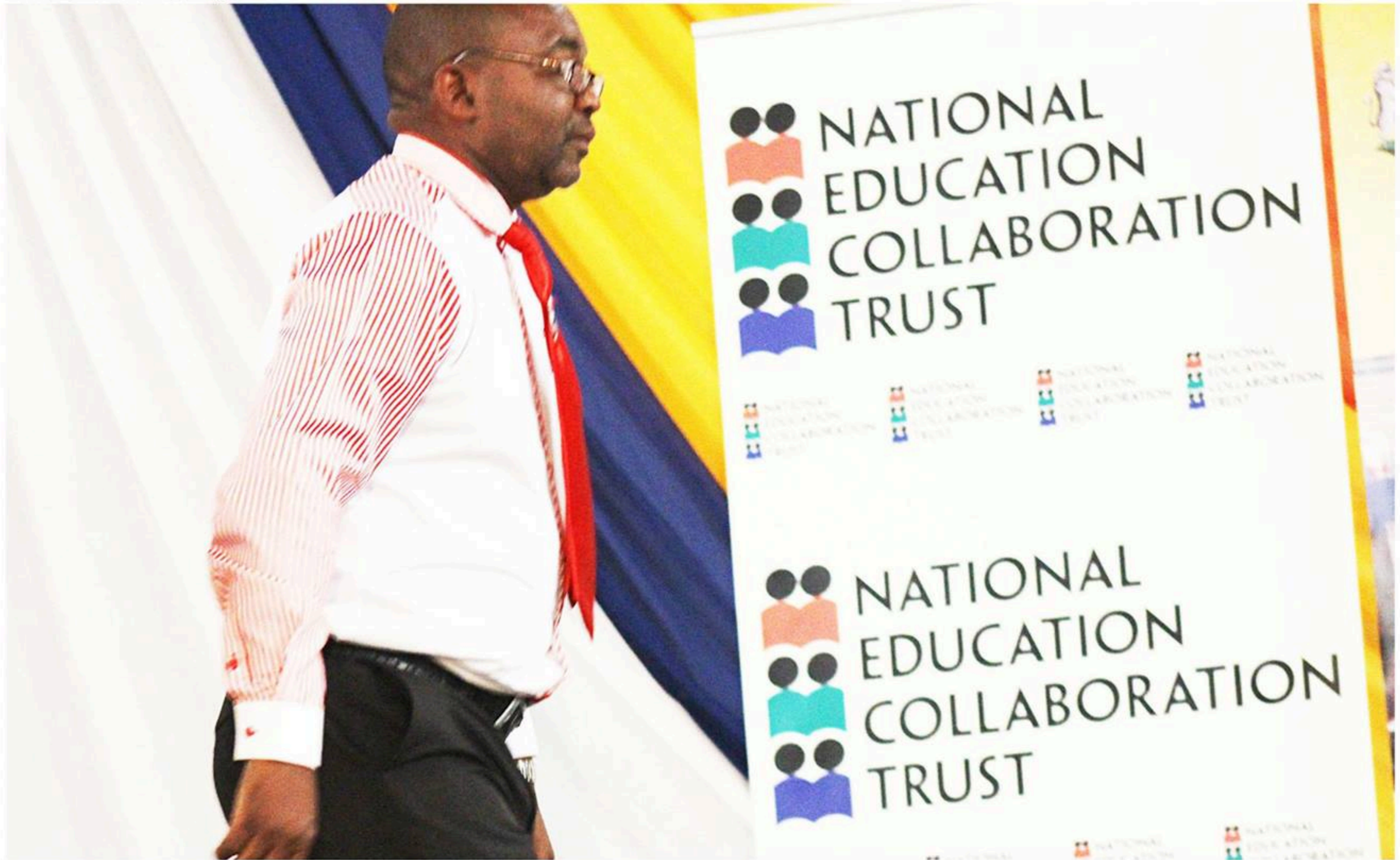
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MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

By Sadtu To The Launching OF National Education Collaboration Trust In Waretberg District

Photos: Nonhlanhla Kambule-Makgati



Chairperson of Western Region of Limpopo Province. (Pictured)

Our sincere and revolutionary greetings to:
 Teachers
 Parents
 Subject advisors
 District officials
 Circuit managers
 The two District Senior Managers
 NECT and Deloitte officials
 Our local chiefs
 Both district and local municipality councillors
 NECT CEO Mr Khoza
 The MEC Honourable Kgetjepe.
 We are the democratic teachers of South Africa and we call ourselves the SOUTH AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC TEACHERS UNION (SADTU).
 1. Ladies and gentlemen please note the following:
 Education is a societal matter. Education is a prerequisite for development.
 National Development plan.
 Freedom Charter
 The general aims of DBE and those captured by CAPS.
 Aims of Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign.
 2. All of the above are clearly linked to the following which are SADTU policies and principles
 SADTU founding theme: People's Education for People's Power.
 SADTU 2030 principles of which one of the principles which is "CREATING A LEARNING

NATION" and aims to achieve advancement and civilisation of nation through learning, extensive and teacher based research on the best possible teaching methods, continuous improvement of learning through the introduction of nation building Learning and Teaching Support Materials. Aims and objectives of SADTU as enshrined in its constitution. We will mention just two: "1. to encourage the development of the aesthetic aspects of learner's life and to help promote his/her educational, spiritual and physical development.
 2. To foster an spirit de corps among teachers and education workers in education and to promote and maintain high standards of ethical conduct, professional integrity and efficiency in the promotion and maintenance of standards of teaching and learning.
 We consider the aims and themes of NECT and National Education Framework without enumerating them but let us consider one which is PROFESSIONALISATION OF TEACHING and juxtapose it against challenges facing teachers
 Continuous change of curriculum policy without proper training and re-skilling of teachers we expect NECT to train teachers properly for them to be equal to

the task.
 Over regulation of teaching activities where teachers do not have freedom to be curriculum expert and designers. This deny them the opportunity to be true professionals. NECT and Deloitte should not fall into this trap. Please avoid excessive paper work we have had enough of this.
 Over assessment in the system such that there is no time for teaching. NECT should ensure that teachers have enough time for teaching. SADTU has learnt that the highest ranked education system in the whole world is that of Finland and there is virtually no formal assessment there.
 We want to warn NECT of the following perceptions, sentiments and opinions by media, the public and to some extent government that teachers are lazy, teachers are rapist, teachers are failing our kids etc. Please NECT and Deloitte do not fall into this trap. Support teachers. Avoid harassment of teachers when you get into schools, please support them and you will get ours.
 There is chronic shortage of curriculum advisors and to a certain extent that of teachers. We expect, as SADTU, NECT to assist in this regard. Please assist in ensuring that curriculum advisors are not only concerned with CASS moderation but they assist teachers

with actual teaching and learning activities and where it matters most, in class!
 Let us ensure that we take of teachers. Literature on Human Resource Management illustrates that an organisation that fails to take care of its human resource is doomed to fail. NECT should assist in raising job satisfaction of teachers. Let us find out why there is such a low job satisfaction among teachers. Let us find out why are teachers resigning in masses. Please avoid putting pressure on teachers as you will be going to schools. Support them.
 3. To you parents and SGB members we request you to observe your responsibilities as stipulated by South African Schools Act and one of them being TO SUPPORT TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS IN EXECUTING THEIR DUTIES. Please parents, take responsibility of your child's education. Do not just let your child go to school without knowing his/her progress. These are not "today's children, they are ours" and we can turn the situation around, we can guide them.
 4. We have had challenges with the project when it started because we were not brought on board. Just yesterday we have had a successful

meeting with Deloitte. We ironed out some issues which made us not to see eye-to-eye. We will continue to engage but please note that we are following a decision of the highest structure in the region which we cannot rescind now.
 5. CEO, Mr Khoza, please ensure that the funds contributed by South African business to this trust are used fruitfully for the upliftment of education. The is a demon in our country which is corruption. Please avoid that. Take good care of the funds.
 6. To you teachers we are saying , especially those in rural areas and townships without discriminating those who live in towns, you are teaching the children of the working class and the poorest of the poor thus despite the challenges let us soldier on.
 Amandla !!!!!!!
 By responding like that it shows that you have the power to change education.
 Thank you. You have our support as we are the signatories nationally.
 By MATSOMA M.J
 Chairperson of Western Region of Limpopo Province.

Kosa ya Dikhuro dance ensemble thrills at NECT Event

Photos: Nonhlanhla Kambule-Makgati



Group leader Chuene Mashishi

Proud teachers show off their young charges

Kgabetli Primary School traditional dancers rendered a moving musical item at the Mokopane Multi-purpose Centre yesterday to make the official launch of the National Education Collaboration Trust District Intervention Programme.

Their song "Tlokomela Meetsi" – conserve water, was in keeping with the water and Sanitation theme.

The dancers ranged from Grade 5 to 7 and electrified the stage with a drum ensemble, the girls a marvel to watch in a red and white outfit.

Their group leader Chuene Mashishi is not only beautiful but talented too. She leads the songs, models the moves for the group to follow. The patently proud school Principal Mofya Fefki and dance teacher Liza Phele accompanied the group.

Phele was on hand to collect the money throw on stage by an impressed audience, including educators. She was delighted: "I am proud of them. They are the best. In July, they won an award, both Provincial and National, representing Waterberg District under the theme "Water and Sanitation". I wrote a song on how to keep water, streams and rivers clean."

Nonhlanhla Kambule-Makgati



Kgabetli Primary School Dancers

