

## **Remarks by the MEC for Education Mr. Bonakele Majuba at the occasion of the Meeting with Stakeholders**

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Programme Director and Head: Education, **Mrs Lucy Moyane**

Executive Mayor of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, **Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo**

Chairpersons of School Governing Bodies

Presidents of the Representative Council of Learners

Members of Senior Management

District Director, **Ms. Lorraine Goba**

Members of Bohlabela District Management Teams

Representative from the Media

Principals

### **Sanibonani**

We are truly honored to be here in your company and thank you very much for honoring us with your presence. Thank you very much for gracing this meeting.

We wish to start by extending our sincere appreciation to every school and everyone who participated in the 2023 Rhandza XiKolo Xa Wena Campaign.

This campaign has been a great success in mobilizing communities to support our schools. Through your hard work, we have seen schools being cleaned, painted, and repaired. This has created a more stable and welcoming environment for learning and teaching.

I wish that it must be a daily occurrence where parents and communities takes keen interest into the affairs of schools and to make schools true centers for community development.

The other pillar of the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign is the School Cleanest School Programme. There are dates that have been provided in a circular that was signed by the HOD and on your programme.

I request that you equally take keen interest in it as well. When our schools are clean and habitable chances for our learners to succeed will be high.

The cleanest school will receive a number of tokens and support from a number of sponsors as well as a **R1000 000** prize money from the Department.

The support received through the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative needs to be maximally utilized to turn around our schools and make them more habitable and inviting.

The **13% allocation** for each school needs to be utilize for the intended purpose and I am requesting Principals and School governing bodies to assist us in this regard.

We trust that you are now aware that the recent reading assessment results indicate that reading for meaning among grade 4 learners is a course for concern.

This means that a lot needs to be done by everyone to ensure that we go back to basics and course our communities to embrace reading.

The truth is that we still have a long way to go in this regard and that is the reason that I have established a **Book Reading Club** to encourage children and communities to read for pleasure. We must inculcate a **Drop All and Read** Programme as this District.

As you know, **the final examinations** are just around the corner.

We wish to use this opportunity to urge parents to support their children by providing them with a favorable space to study and by helping them to stay focused.

We also urge communities to support our schools by keeping them free from any form of disruption.

Learning and Teaching, time on tasks must henceforth become the order of the day in every school in every village and township.

We wish to challenge our schools to aim for greatness in everything that a school does. We must denounce mediocrity and embrace excellence and outstanding performance in all our grades.

We should not settle for anything less, **100%** performance must be something that comes automatically and be the norm at all times in all our schools.

I also want to work together to encourage our learners to take and pass mathematics, Physical Science and Technology subjects.

These subjects are essential for success in the 21st century economy and they have a potential to open all door and opportunities for our learners. The Province has established the OR Tambo Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy to provide the requisite support to schools and capacitate teachers on these subjects.

It is historical that our communities view these subjects as being difficult and we must move away from that mentality.

In this District, we have Secondary Schools like the Acorns to Oaks, Makhosana Manzini , Magigwane where some learners are able to pass these subjects with **100% - 300 out of 300**. That must show us that it is possible to pass or excel in these subjects.

The province is also making the necessary inroads to institute focused schools. These schools will specialize in particular subjects, such as technical or technology. The intention is to create schools that are even better equipped to prepare our learners for the future.

The Department has introduced **Ubuhlebuzile eLearning programme** that saw the supply and distribution of tablets and laptops to learners and teachers respectively. We must work together to ensure that this programme is sustained by encouraging our children to benefit from it by using it for the intended purpose.

Two schools from this District including Acorns to Oaks Secondary School will pilot a full implementation of Ubuhlebuzile e learning programme . This means that all learners and their teachers from grade 8 to 12 will receive tablets and use them for learning and teaching.

This is the kind of support we are providing and I wish that we make this work for the learners of this Province. Finally, I want to remind you that the admission process for 2024 is already underway and it must be concluded by the end of this month.

I urge schools to work with parents to fast-track the admission process. This must be finalized before the end of August 2023.

Let there be **No Learner that will be Left Behind** including those without Documentation and those with disability. Schools needs to be alive to the fact that the economic conditions for our communities has changed for the worst. Parents are truly struggling to make ends meet as such schools needs to be very much receptive than ever before.

I know that we can achieve great things if we work together. Thank you for your commitment to education.

Together, we can make a difference for our learners.