

**Speaking Notes to be delivered by the MEC for Education,  
Mr. Bonakele Majuba at occasion of the School Support  
visit at Estrallita Special School on 11 April 2024.**

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Programme Director and Head: Education, **Ms. Lorraine Goba**  
Executive Mayor of Mashishing Local Municipality, **Cllr Freddah  
Nkadimeng**

Chairperson of the School Governing Body, **Mr Lukas Masilela**  
Members of Senior Management lead by the Chief Director, **Mr  
Elvis Siwela**

Members of the District Management Team  
Circuit Manager, Mr. **Gerald Mokoena**

Principal of Estrallita Special School, **Ms Hannell Swanepoel**  
and your management team.

Teachers

Representatives of labour Formations

**Sanibonani**

Thank you very much for welcoming us in this school.

It is proper that I congratulate **Mr Masilela** following his election  
into the school governing body.

We wish that you can work in harmony and in unison with the  
management team and stakeholders to take this school to  
greater heights

We thank you for availing your precious time to assist in the  
growth and development of this school.

We pledge our undivided support throughout your term of Office. Executive Mayor, Cllr Nkadimeng, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2024. we convened a meeting with all principals and chairpersons of Special Schools in Platorand Special School at Emakhazeni Local Municipality.

After the deliberations in that meeting I made a commitment that I need to visit all the 18 Special Schools in the Province before the National and Provincial Elections.

The intention is to leverage the plight of learners with Special Education needs and to ensure that their schools enjoys all the support from the Department and beyond.

I have since visited some Special schools since then, and will continue to do so as promised.

Today, we also intend to ignite a flame of hope and to express a shared determination to create conditions that are favourable for children who require mild and intensive care and support.

Nelson Mandela also said, ***"Every child is born with the ability to learn and progress."*** Let's unlock that potential.

We also said that Special Schools play an integral part in the education of our children as such they must not be seen as the step child of the Department.

They deserve to receive and enjoy the same support that main stream schools are benefiting from.

The support we offer to these schools must be seen as an investment into the future.

We therefore do not have any option but to prioritize Special Schools considering the kind of children they cater for.

Their vulnerability must be understood by all of us, as such every effort must be to ensure that the learners in this school are at all times safe and protected.

Our collective energy, expertise, and resources must be harmonized to make this vision a reality.

Together, we must unleash the transformative power to improve the support to our Special Schools.

Our view is that there is abundance of skills and academic prowess which must be nurtured from our Special Schools.

We continue to work together with our special schools and to harness our collective energy, expertise and resources to bring this vision to life.

I am here to receive a report that as things stand Estrallitta has turned a new page, it is enjoying stability and that everyone is focused towards a shared vision and that there is a unity of purpose that is emerging.

I am going to be very much pleased **Mr Masilela** to learn that your priority is to put learners in this school first.

My view is that it is possible to **bury the hatchet**, choose tranquillity, peace and “**werksaam** ” as it is said in Afrikaans.

I wish to take this time and thank everyone in and outside this school who is playing a role to reclaim the previous glory of this school.

We wish to see the children from this school in the field of play and making a mark in the world stage.

Yesterday, we successfully launched the Wednesday School Sport Day and my wish is to see learners from this school fully participating in sport, music and at the same time excelling in their trades

Nelson Mandela once said: ***“It always looks Impossible until it is done”***

It is in our hands to brighten the corner of each and every child in this school.

**I thank you.**