

**ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER: WATER AND SANITATION
MS PAMELA TSHWETE
MPUMALANGA PRIMARY SCHOOL MEDIA CLASSROOM HANDOVER
MOTHERWELL, PORT ELIZABETH, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE
28 NOVEMBER 2014**

Programme Director, MEC of Basic Education, Mr Mandla Makhuphula, Reverend Jack, Councillors, School Principal and Teachers, MTN Foundation, School Governing Body, Parents, Learners, Neighbouring Schools, Government Departments, Government Officials, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Molweni eBhayi. Molweni eMpumalanga.

Acting Principal I personally like the name of your school. This is how the whole Eastern Cape Province should be called. I think we need to take back our name and find a new name for Mpumalanga Province.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Pamela Tshwete (nee Zondeki) uMaMzangwa wase Peelton. Ndendele kooThangana eNcemerha. Ndiyintombi yalapha kweliPhondo.

Thank you educators and learners for making this day possible for all of us. Thank you for allowing the good heart of our sponsor MTN Foundation to come and reach this part of the country through your hard work.

Thank you parents also for supporting the endeavours of the school to move forward and improve the level of teaching in this school.

This school is fairly new and this shows that it is the product of the Motherwell community. When you moved to settle here in the 1980s, from eZwide, kwaZakhele and New Brighton you requested government to build you a school for your children.

This school is a community asset and this asset must be protected by all members of the community. It will not be correct like in other communities for example where communities are not happy with the level of service delivery they target and destroy the school.

It will also not be right where community gangs fight amongst themselves and they target innocent children in order to hurt their parents.

We must all work together to build this school in order to see quality education for our children, in order to produce leaders of tomorrow that will govern this country to eternity and create wealth of academic knowledge that will build this country socially, politically and economically.

Education is about building the future and education is a key to success. Our dreams can only be realised when we are educated and have the correct skills that are need both in the private and public sectors.

It through education that we can fight poverty, unemployment, diseases, crime, backwardness and other social injustices such as the abuse of children and women.

As the whole country marks the 16 Days of Activism, we want to see this school also participating in that campaign by sending messages to the surrounding community about no violence against children, women and elderly people.

As the Department of Water and Sanitation working with other government departments such as the Department of Basic Education, the Department of Arts and Culture, the Department of Human Settlements and the Department of Cooperative Governance

and Traditional Affairs we have identified water and sanitation as an area of focus.

The campaign we are now rolling out is about saving water, protection of the environment developing and sourcing skills that are needed in the management and protection of the eco - system.

Through the participation of schools in this programme we hope to reach out to many parents out there and organise all communities into brigades that will work with us to protect and conserve the water sources.

Through Baswa Le Meetse one of our flagship programmes in the Department which was launched in 2003 we aim to mobilise and generate interest amongst young people to participate in the education of their communities.

The plan is that, our children must take science and maths subjects so that when they reach university level, they take courses which qualify them in water and sanitation management technologies.

In making this a reality in 2013/2014 financial year for example 51 bursaries were given to deserving students and now in 2014/2015 financial year 50 bursaries have been awarded. Educators and parents must now ensure that most children follow science and maths subjects especially the girl child.

In the Baswa Le Meetse Awards the Department targets grade 4 to grade 6 learners in five categories, that is, Drama, Traditional Music, Poetry, Praise Singing and Poster.

The school entered for the drama category and won themselves position number 1 provincially and nationally. The school became eligible for the MTN Media Classroom which consists of 21 computers with internet connection, with scientific programmes loaded and training of five educators plus a R 6 000. cash prize.

We have now opened the Media Classroom and congratulations to the school for hard work and thank you very much to all those educators and learners who have provided leadership and made this possible.

Since the beginning of this project 50 Media Classrooms have been handed all over the country and this is the fifth one to be handed to an Eastern Cape school. This province deserves the best especially from the young people.

Drugs cannot be fashionable. Alcohol cannot be cool. Bullying result to gangsters. Dating result to early pregnancy. Parents must follow the school programme of their children. Work with your children towards a better future and a better world.

The connectivity the school now have through internet and other educational programmes must now help the school educators and learners to do their work better and communicate effectively with the parents. This new asset must facilitate acquisition dissemination of knowledge.

Learners will now research new information through Google and many other sites which preserve valuable information that leads to knowledge better learning and development.

Security of this asset is very critical if we want to improve the quality of our education and get the requisite skills so much needed in building our society. We need more sponsors such as MTN if we vandalise what we have now we will end the will from others to give.

Once again thank you so much to our sponsors MTN and many other partners who are here today. It is only when we work together that we can achieve more and with speed. **I thank you**