



INTERNET ARTICLE

Coordination and collaboration between municipalities, schools, the community and government is a recipe for success

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The Deputy Minister (DM) of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Pamela Tshwete says coordination and collaboration between the municipalities, the schools, communities, provincial governments and the department in the province and nationally presents a solid foundation “for us to move forward in the process of facilitating change in the lives of our people.”

Presenting her keynote address during the official hand over of the MTN Media Classroom at Solomondale Primary School in Polokwane Limpopo on Tuesday 2 October 2014, the DM said parents, teachers, learners and all stakeholders present should be happy about the development interactions among all key stakeholders. “We have visited your community today, accompanied by MTN, to hand over a media classroom to Solomondale Primary School.”

She acknowledged that Solomondale is a primary school located in one of the most rural provinces of South Africa, adding that in these provinces, schools lack basic infrastructure such as adequate classrooms conducive for teaching and learning.

More often than not, these schools lack Learner Support Material (LSM) for learning areas provided by the school or chosen by learners. These schools are sometimes without qualified educators. In some of these schools, parents are responsible for the school budget, as well as operation and maintenance at the school. “I want to congratulate parents and teachers of this school for the role they have played since its establishment in 1985 to date,” said the DM.

She added that: “As a nation, education is the most essential treasure we can give to our children in order to sustain an ecologically friendly and economically developing country. I want to congratulate you for being true to your call as parents and teachers, unlike parents and teachers in other communities where education is used to fight other battles that have nothing to do with the future of the children.”

“My heart is indeed filled with boundless joy as I today hand over this media classroom to your school. The most important thing is that, this media classroom is not just coming free but as a reward for the hard work the school has shown in the Baswa Le Meetse Project. The school has been participating in this project since 2000,” the Deputy Minister explained.

Other schools in the area have been involved in this project, but in 2012 Solomondale Primary School was selected as the ultimate national winners in the country.

The school has won this media classroom with prizes that include 20 computers, internet connectivity, science programmes for learners loaded in the 20 computers, training for five educators and R 6000.00 cash prize. “This media classroom must benefit the learners, the educators, the community and the local municipalities and government departments. The learners must all be exposed in computer usage and skills, they must be trained to conduct research in their learning areas and be able to communicate with their parents who reside



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outside this community. They are not going to write letters and post them but they must just send emails," added DM Tshwete,

She explained that educators through this facility must be enabled to do their work better, communicate with parents who have access to emails, receive feedback from parents, communicate with subject advisors and they must do research as part of improving their academic qualifications. "We must see teachers googling information than travelling to town in order to source information in the library. This media classroom must be a hub of community activities over weekends and during holidays. The five trained educators must train community members in computer skills at a nominal fee. These fees must be used for operation and maintenance of the facility. When computers are demystified, the elderly will find it easy to use ATM machines to draw their money," she said.

The DM said a municipality must be able to send messages to the school which the school principal will decode and further encode through children to all residents in the area. Ward Councillors may also convene their meetings through sending messages to the school principal, which will further be relayed to the children.

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