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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Challenges facing South Africa demand a shared common vision

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The Deputy Minister (DM) of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Ms Pamela Tshwete says challenges facing South Africa demand a shared common vision and new game changers.

Addressing the members of the audience during the handover of an MTN Media Classroom at Qumbu Primary School in Qumbu in the Eastern Cape recently, the DM added that collaboration was good because without this kind of partnerships challenges may appear difficult to overcome.

She first thanked MTN and the school - Qumbu Primary School – “for making this day possible. If MTN did not have this kind of a social responsibility programme we will not be here today and there will be no Media Classroom to hand over.”

This school also could have chosen not to participate in the departmental water conservation programmes. The school could have chosen to focus on an academic programme that produces individualistic personalities with no sense community involvement. “Secondly I would like to thank the semblance of leadership that is present here today. The Department of Basic Education, the O. R. Tambo Municipality, the Mhlontlo Municipality, the Provincial Leadership as represented by comrade Makuphula and all Community Structures present here,” the Deputy Minister pointed out.

The DM stressed that schools must work with local communities to provide information useful in changing the conditions under which we live. “Our schools must be a training ground for leaders of tomorrow. This means teachers must provide leadership and ensure that they guide the children and advise the parents in the most essential areas of training and education. We must make all our schools a hub of community activities and the training ground for the essential skills required such as engineers, doctors, architects, pilots, agriculturalists, accountants, pharmacists, water specialists and technicians,” added the DM.

She pointed out that the education system should enable the community to be self sufficient when it comes to skills and professionalism. “Through education we must determine our destinies and what we want to be in our future careers,” added the DM. The doors of government are now open to all those who wish to make a contribution in developing themselves and others. It is now the time where the government directed opportunities must be seized by the young learners so that tomorrow there will be citizens properly equipped to govern and administer this beautiful country,” the DM said.

Deputy Minister Tshwete added that parents must help children move away from drugs, alcohol abuse, bullying others, criminal element and blaming the system and demanding all the goods from others without working hard.

Turning to the main event of the day, the DM said: “We have now opened the Media Classroom and congratulations to the school for hard work and thank you very much too all those educators and learners who have provided leadership and made this possible. Since



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the beginning of this project in 2005, 55 Media Classrooms have been handed all over the country and this is the fifth one to be handed to an Eastern Cape school.”

She concluded that the connectivity the school now have through internet and other educational programmes must now help the school educators to do their work better, adding that the school Principal must be able to sent critical messages to the parents whenever there is a need to do so.

Ike Motsapi

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