

**INPUT BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR. MAHOLE SIMON MOFOKENG ON THE 5TH NELSON MANDELA DAY CAREER DEVELOPMENT FESTIVAL BY MINISTER B NZIMANDE, SEBOKENG FET COLLEGE, SEBOKENG CAMPUS**

**18 JULY 2014**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Minister of Higher Education Dr. Blade Nzimande

The President of COSATU Comrade Sdumo Dlamini

The MEC for Education in Gauteng Comrade Panyaza Lesufi

The Acting Mayor of ELM Cllr. Sello Pitso

The Speaker of Midvaal Cllr. Peters

The VC of VUT Ms. Irene Moutlwane

The Principal of Sedibeng and other Colleges Present here today

The CEO of different SETAs that are Exhibiting here today

The Media Houses present

Most Importantly our Learners

I greet you all

**Minister Ndzimande**, the entire leadership and the people of Sedibeng at large, I greet you on this beautiful day, the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, the day on which one of our own and the World's acclaimed Icon Tata Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela was born. The day that is

declared Mandela International Day in recognition and honor of human achievement in humility, dedication and selflessness service to the people for peace, reconciliation and freedom championed by Tata Mandela himself.

**Mr. Minister** I like to make a statement that whilst Christians Celebrate the birth of their Savior Jesus Christ on the 25<sup>th</sup> December every year and other religions celebrating the birth of their own Saviors on different dates, this son of the soil, the Icon of the World Nelson Mandela in the history of mankind is by now the only Savior whose birthday, the Mandela International Day is celebrated and recognized by all the people of the world irrespective of their religions. This is the greatest achievement for the people of our Continent, our country and the Africans in particular as our continent was regarded the most backward by the developed world particularly the Europeans and Americans.

Mr. Minister if I had powers to instruct those who enters extraordinary events into the Guinness's Book of Records I was going to instruct them to enter this Day, the 18<sup>th</sup> July, the International Mandela Day as the only birth date of an Icon that is recognized and celebrated by all in the world.

While celebrating the birth of Tata by dedicating the 67 minutes of taking action, inspiring change and making every day a Mandela Day, we do so educationally today.

## **THE NECESSITY OF BEING EDUCATED**

**Programme Director**, this career festival begun on Tuesday, leading to its closing today on Mandela Day. Education is essential for everyone. It is unquestionably beneficial for society as a whole.

Education is a life-long process to each person who needs to be reinforced throughout life. What you have learnt during the past three days of this festival has brought enlightenment to the people of Sedibeng with regard to career development. Comrade Minister we thank you for bringing this annual festival to Sedibeng.

In showing the importance of education Tata said the following words in his book Long Walk to Freedom: *Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farmworkers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.*

Tata Mandela further asserts that; *Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*

**Programme Director**, I'm quoting these words from Tata to indicate to the young people gathered here today; our learners that education is very important that's why even from his prison cells at Robben Island Tata continued with his studies under very difficult conditions.

For many of you here today conditions are conducive and favorable and must make maximum use of them for the betterment of yourself for the sake of your nation because as Tata said is only through education that you can change your world. South Africa needs educated people to move forward.

**Mr. Minister**, allow me also to quote the following words from Tata Madiba; *I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way lays defeat and death.*

I'm saying these words because I know there are those of you coming from very needy background; who are not sure after school if there will be a next meal for that afternoon or evening.

You must not allow those conditions to derail you from your set goals and objectives or make you lose focus from what you want to achieve in life through education. I say to you it is through dedication, hard work and commitment that you will achieve your dreams.

## **ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS**

The Sedibeng Region joins the world in calling for ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. We do so fully aware that no one but the people of Israel and Palestine can find a peaceful solution in this encounter.

As part of my input, **Programme Director**, allow me on behalf of the Sedibeng District Municipality to pay tribute to mme Nadine Gordimer who died in her sleep on 13 July 2014.

Her interest in racial and economic inequality in South Africa was shaped in part by her parents. Her father's experience as a refugee in tsarist Russia helped form Gordimer's political identity, but he was neither an activist nor sympathetic toward the experiences of black people under apartheid.

Opposite to her father, mme Gordimer saw activism by her mother, whose concern about the poverty and discrimination faced by black people in South Africa and led her to find a day care centre for black children. This shows that not all minority people subscribed to the ideology of apartheid.

Mme Gordimer also witnessed government repression first-hand during her teens; the police raided her family home, confiscating letters and diaries from a servant's room.

**May Her Soul Rest In Peace**

## **VAAL METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY**

**Minister**, the Sedibeng District Municipality has been declared a Metro as from 2016, this time is the municipality not a council. The declaration correlates with career development. Running a metropolitan requires skills development. Let us grab academic opportunities to build our region and South Africa as a whole.

I know there are those who are taking this decision to court to have it reversed but this is the future that our people in the Vaal want.

Our people want One Municipality in One Region, and they want One Mayor in One Municipality, as opposed to the current system where we have four Mayors.

## **CONCLUSION**

**Programme Director**, as I conclude, I would like us to remember that we are still celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> year of democracy and we should continue the legacy of Tata by making everyday a Mandela Day. As he would say, **'for to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.'** Happy Mandela Day.

I thank you.