

South 32 Mine Ribbon Cutting Speaker Notes

South 32 Mamathwan Complex

11th March 2021

To Mr. Barry Bezuidenhout

Ms. Noeleen Dube

The Staff of South 32

The acting HoD

The District Staff

The SGB and Principal of Hotazel Combined School

The Staff in the Ministry

Ladies and gentlemen,

The year 2020 was a very shocking year for us all. Not only did it present the obvious challenges of taking care of our health because of COVID-19. The year 2020 also exposed us as the education sector, it exposed out shortcomings to the core.

Not only are we dipping our heads in shame because of the Grade 12 results but we stand ready to show a measure of resilience and overcome

our challenges not only at a Grade 12 level but right across the schooling system and this cooperation becomes rather urgent.

We believe that that's what we are about here today. We are ready to support each other in our efforts to make society better through education.

Ladies and gentlemen, we received a presentation earlier, on the good work that South 32 is doing in the education sector once more, you can rest assured of our support and partnership.

We are also pleased for the privilege that you have afforded us. The privilege of being part of this handover. We are pleased that we will be cutting the ribbon to officially open the ablution facility, later on.

Ladies and gentlemen this effort on the part of South 32, is admirable as it not only contributes to the proper functioning of the school but responds to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of sanitation. But moreover, it restores the dignity of the learners. We also clap our hands that it is an ablution facility that also takes care of disabled learners. May the other partners also learn from your efforts, well done South 32.

We are also handing over new classes to the school and I cannot stop expressing our gratitude for this intervention. We have just come out of a situation where we were overwhelmed by learner admissions.

To us the increase in demand for classrooms means that our society sees the need and the importance of education. It also implies that the children want to get an education. And the need for these partnerships become more urgent.

Our Premier asserts that “*education is the greatest social equalizer*”. This means that our society realizes that it is only through education that we can bring about social justice, of making sure that the gap between rich and poor is diminished. It is only through education that we can give hope to every child in society. It is only through education where the confidence of our children can be improved.

We also make a clarion call on the private sector to talk to us as government so that we may consolidate our efforts and resources in order to maximise the efforts. We applaud the efforts of South 32 and we are looking forward to a more formal partnership.

In so saying we also need to appreciate the work that has been put in place to start the conversation as led by the HoD. We are looking forward to the outcomes of this process and I hope to sign a formal cooperation agreement with South 32.

To the principal and the community of the Hotazel Combined School, I'm sure you are happy to be beneficiaries of this process. We congratulate you on these improvements and we hope you will use them with the care that they were given.

In conclusion, I think we are a path to greater things and hope that the fruits of these efforts will extend far beyond the current school.

I thank you