



**Address by the Premier of the Northern Cape, Dr Zamani Saul, at the official
sod tuning ceremony for the New Petrusville Primary School**

Petrusville

9 November 2020

Programme Director

Honourable MEC's

Honourable Executive Mayor

Senior Government officials

Principal, educators, learners and SGB Members

Members of the Media

Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to join you this morning as we are about to put in place another milestone on this great path that we have embarked upon of changing the Northern Cape Province for the better. I truly hope that those in attendance and those who will later read and criticise this gathering as another empty electioneering gimmick, will remember that last year during our Mandela outreach in Petrusville; we committed to not refurbishing the existing school, but to build a new one altogether. So when we talk about bringing dignity to our people this is exactly what we are doing. No longer will our children be subjected to inhumane and unhealthy school infrastructure built before true democracy. From here on we also commit that never and never again shall any new infrastructure be built that causes potential harm to man and the environment.

As we are about to turn the sod for this state of the art school this morning, our focus for this development will not only be on building a modern infrastructure but also on social and economic development that supports economic growth, job creation, and enables us to address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

As this Sixth Administration we made a commitment to prioritise health and education. One way of improving the quality of our education will be the delivery of adequate infrastructure such as this modern school that is planned for this area. We will also continue to ensure that basic services at schools are upgraded so that they can contribute to the provision of quality education.

So, ladies and gentlemen, let it be known that the provision of Quality Basic Education has will continue to remain the central priority of this Government. The construction of this new Petrusville Primary School is important in the sense that it will assist our community to embark on a sustainable developmental path that will see the young people this area acquire valuable skills for the improvement of their lives at a school that can compete with the best, right here on your doorstep.

Programme Director

Upon completion, the new Petrusville Primary School will consist of amongst others 21 classrooms, 2 science laboratories, 2 ECD and foundation phase classrooms and play area, a modern administration building, a school hall, sports field, nutrition centre, ablution facilities and many more.

It is envisaged that this new Petrusville Primary School will be completed by 2022 and will be able accommodate 950 learners. I commit myself, that during my term in office, we will replace inappropriate structures such as asbestos schools as per the National Development Plan target of eradicating these inappropriate structures and create a conducive environment for quality learning and teaching.

Allow me also to lay emphasis on the fact that education is a societal issue. This means that we have a collective responsibility to ensure that our children receive basic education and training but also to guard and protect our institutions against any

form of theft, criminality and vandalism. Our schools represent a beacon of hope and never again will we as a Province witness the levels of vandalism and destruction that was inflicted during the lockdown period, especially in the Pixley ka Seme District.

I mentioned it earlier that this school will focus on social and economic development. We will therefore ensure that during the construction of this school there will be local beneficiation in the form of job creation, skills and business development. During the construction phase of this school, more than 120 local jobs will be created and we will continue to ensure that our local communities benefit from our infrastructure projects. The support provided by the Department of Education and all other stakeholders involved is a visible demonstration of Government's commitment to the people of our beautiful Province.

Let me conclude by stating that an investment in education is an investment in the future. As Government we will not spare any effort to ensure that we improve the quality of education of all our children. We therefore call on our communities to work with us to successfully achieve our aims and objectives in education for the benefit of your children. We will continue to improve the lives of our people by addressing poverty, unemployment and inequality through Education. We are undoing the injustices of the past by transforming the education system to one that is inclusive and accessible to all. We will not rest until every child has access to quality public education.

I stand proud here today to officiate at the official sod turning of this school. I therefore want to make the plea to the communities of Petrusville that once completed; let this school serve as an embodiment of progress and let us guard, preserve and utilise it like gold for the advancement of our communities.

My hope is that the future learners of this school will embrace the opportunities that this new Petrusville Primary School will provide and that they will become innovative and critical thinkers that will be in a position to develop and grow this Province further. These are the people that we will need to build a Modern, Growing and Successful Province with endless possibilities.

I thank you