



ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MEC OF TRANSPORT, SAFETY &  
LIAISON MR L. MOTLHAPING AT THE EVENT OF THE PROVINCIAL  
LAUNCH OF THE SCHOOL SAFETY PROTOCOL  
GAEKE PRIMARY SCHOOL MARUPING  
26 October 2018

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Honourable MEC Martha Bartlett  
District Mayor Cllr Sofia Mosikatsi  
Local Mayor Cllr Neo Masegela  
Kgosi P Toto  
SAPS Provincial Commissioner Lt Gen Shivuri  
NC Provincial Police Board Chair Mr Ephraim Homan  
HOD's of DTSL and Education Mr Moeketsi Dichaba and Mr Tshepo  
Pharasi and HOD of Social Development Ms Drinie Samson  
Representing the Education Labour Relations Council Ms Molopi  
Representing the Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign Mr Esau  
Members of School Governing Bodies and Community Police Forums  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is at a time such as this, that the ideal of 'Back to Basics' have us  
assemble in one space to commit our collective efforts and energies  
towards keeping our future safe.

It has been some time coming but here we are ... it is my profound honour to be part of a united effort to present to the community of the Northern Cape and the country at large the School Safety Protocol.

I was a teacher myself. I saw parents dropping their children at the gate of a place of learning – hopeful and seeing visions for their children of a life of opportunity and an escape from poverty. It may have been with teary eyes, but they relinquished the care of their own blood to education so they may, one day, become the kind of citizen whom a family and a community can be proud of.

I saw children coming in, some scared, some joyful, with such energy and zest for life. They must have, in their frame of understanding, got a sense that they are now part of something higher than the fulfilling of basic needs – it is, for us as a people, the first acceptance of a calling to become more, run faster and fly higher.

Education was the one sure thing our erstwhile leaders in the struggle for liberation KNEW has the greatest potential to set our people free – the liberation of the mind.

Getting reports of violence in schools, of teachers hurting children, of children hurting teachers and each other is such a scorching blight on this legacy. We can be sure that Tata Madiba and Ma Albertina Sisulu, whose centenaries we are celebrating this year, are not giving us nods of approval from their high places but stern, admonishing frowns.

The Northern Cape Department of Education, the South African Police Services and the Department of Transport, Safety and Liaisons are here today to celebrate the coming into fruition a partnership to promote schools that are safer and prevent the involvement of young people in crime.

This school based programme aims to implement interventions that are preventative, deter potential offenders as it empowers potential victims.

The Northern Cape Provincial Government is always looking for ways to encourage integrated and multi-disciplinary approaches that work at the space of need – here we would like to mobilize resources and skills to provide a broad network of services that protect our children and transform our schools into safe, caring and child friendly institutions.

The approach is inclusive in that it remembers and honours the role of parents and the broader community in this endeavour. It also honours the role of the learners themselves in co-creating their own safety at schools.

Life may have been simpler when we grew up, but now, our children face so many temptations and dangers. Even with a hundred eyes we can never be everywhere. For this reason, this protocol also aims to produce a learner that is resilient against offending behavior from the earliest possible opportunity.

We would like to introduce the South African Police Services to our children as people who have only their best interests and their well-being at heart. There is a lot of fear and mistrust out there - we need our children to look up to our officers for guidance and protection and embrace them into their understanding of security.

We need to provide a regulated framework to bind schools, police stations, children, school committees, school governing bodies and community policing structures in a common effort towards safety in institutions of learning. Each one of us needs to understand our roles and responsibilities and have the clarity of purpose to do what we are supposed to.

We need to address this culture of violence on an institutional and social level. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, this thing is much higher than just sending people to protect children.

What about our practices, values and belief systems predisposes us so towards violence? We need to address and change that which makes us think it is OK to mess with a girl child at school. What are we teaching our sons and daughters about being a woman or a man? What are we teaching our girls about boys and our boys about girls?

Our schools are microcosms of our society and it is here that all our maladaptive and unhealthy moralities play out in macabre detail.

Our children do not do as we say they do as we do. They become us when they are with each other, laughing, playing, interacting and learning. We are surprised at the levels of gender based violence, substance abuse and disrespect in our schools. We should not be surprised. We should own up to this charge. They are just being us.

So, ladies and gentlemen, going forward we would like to establish collaborative protocols in 556 schools in the province and link them directly to police stations. Schools need to have Safe School Committees with reporting systems on school based crime and violence.

The situation and environment is different at each school, so we need to develop context specific crime prevention programmes that will mobilize school communities to curb crime and violence where it happens.

The Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison will assess and monitor the implementation of the School Safety Protocol and make it a core part of our workplan deliverables.

To make this a success we shall maintain frequent and effective communication with each other and hold each other accountable to our respective roles.

I am very excited as I am daunted by the scope programme. The responsibility is great...but I am convinced this is something long overdue and necessary.

I would like to thank all parties in the process who has made this Protocol possible. I am looking forward to working with all of you to keep our children safely learning.

I thank you