

Official Opening of Kitlanyang Primary School
Thursday, 25 April 2019
Madibeng Village, John Taolo Gaetsewe District

Collective Leadership of the ANC led Alliance;
Representatives of our Teacher Unions;
Religious Leaders;
Senior Officials of Government;
Principals of neighbouring schools, Teachers, SGB members and learners;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentleman;
Most importantly, our community, the people of Madibeng;
Program Director

It is a great pleasure to be here amongst the people of Madibeng today, to officiate the opening of Kitlanyang Primary School. I thank you for being here to share this important moment with us.

The significance of this occasion extends far beyond the conceptualisation stage and the final realisation of a new school on these grounds. The aspirations for what this school that will be build here will achieve for its community, parents, educators and above all for its learners in the years ahead is the most important dimension.

I am sure that all of you here today will agree that we live in a time of rapid change. Change that is often not predictable, and not always positive. The best way to manage change, whether positive or negative, is to anticipate it and prepare for it. There is no greater form of preparation for change, than through education. I also believe that there is no better investment that an individual, parents, and the nation can make than an investment in education of the highest possible quality.

Education comes in many forms, and has been used for many purposes. An education for success in the modern world must be enabling and it must be outward looking.

Each one of us, as stakeholders has separate and distinct responsibilities:

- Educators are expected to be on time, on task and professionally behaved at all times;
- Learners must attend school punctually, do their work and reject anti-social behaviour;
- Parents must support their children – and maintain contact with the school. So also the teachers must engage with the parents;
- The optimal function of SGB's cannot be emphasised enough in the realisation that every school and every child is a national asset;

- The community must look after the school – and provide a safe environment for education to take place and;
- Most important, it is the responsibility of the Department of Education to provide an enabling environment for quality education to take place – classrooms, desks and chairs, learning materials as well as training and development for educators.

We won't succeed in Education, until all our stakeholders take these responsibilities seriously. This speaks to the community's inherent responsibility to protect and defend any public property against vandalism and being destroyed. These days communities choose to burn down schools, clinics, and other public properties. While some of the concerns raised could be legitimate and genuine, nothing can justify the destruction of any property, the one that you will need tomorrow. We should all be ashamed of ourselves as community members, when we stand-by and watch hooligans and criminal elements masquerading as "Concerned groups" burn down our schools.

We have gathered here today, for the official opening of Kitlanyang Primary School, to prepare our children to can compete globally with their peers.

I am confident that the school that will be built here will contribute immensely to changing the learning environment to one that is conducive for quality public education. I am also confident that this school will further enhance the overall learner performance in Madibeng.

There will be state of the art facilities that include:

- Administration Blocks,
- Modern Classrooms,
- Computer Room,
- Science Laboratory,
- Media Centre,
- Ablution facilities,
- School Hall and,
- Sport-field.

During the construction phase of the school more than 120 local jobs will be created and we will continue to ensure that our local communities benefits from our infrastructure projects. The support provided by the Department of Education and all other stakeholders involved is a visible demonstration of the government's commitment to the people of our beautiful country.

In conclusion, we firmly believe that Education is the cornerstone for economic development and therefor it will remain high on the agenda of this ANC led Government.

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.

We urge all our communities, parents and educators to work with us as we grow South Africa. The children are our future, and we will continue to invest in their future towards the realisation of their dreams and aspirations.

Lastly, I want to encourage all eligible voters to participate in our democracy and make your vote count by casting your vote on the 8th of May 2019. To vote is your democratic right that was obtained through many bloodshed sacrifices by our heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle. The ANC government ensures a better life for all. Remember that the power is in your hands and together let's grow South Africa.

I thank you!