Launch of the Cyberlabs

Welcoming Remarks: HOD Moira Marais

Kimberley Technical High School

Wednesday, 9 February 2022

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MEC for Education, Mr Zolile Monakali;

Members of the Executive Council;

Representatives of the Gamagara Development Trust and Edukite present;

Senior Managers and Departmental Officials present;

Educators and Learners from Kimberley Technical High School;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Distinguished guests;

Program Director

The world that awaits us is a world of huge technical change. It is frequently believed by the developing countries that the most essential prerequisite of building prosperous nations is technological access, skills and management. South Africa and the Northern Cape is no different.

ICT can provide a considerable benefit in supporting the economy to build a prosperous and successful nation. To this end, the Northern Cape has made an investment in the form of Cyberlabs. Cyberlabs are state of the art multi-purpose centres geared to improve teacher and learner appetite for, and skills of the 4th Industrial Revolution through play-based practical experiences in a controlled environment. It is a space where problem-solving and STEAM (Science,

Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) skills in general are strengthened and it is an ideal vehicle for exploiting techno-pedagogical prospects. By using technology in their learning, the students can be active learners. They will be aware of what information they need, why they need it, and how they can get that information.

Active learning allows learners to decide when they require particular information and whether they have already understood that information or not. They can explore information available in the internet, find information that they need, copy it, and go on to find more and more information. By using this learning system, the students also become self-managed in their learning process. E-learning is a vehicle to introduce learners to ICT. E-learning allows learners to get information faster everywhere, anytime. Technology also enables us to cross the demography limits. Rural learners can access information from urban areas, get information and share knowledge with other learners or teachers in the same area or even different countries. ICT allows all the human components of schools; the principals, administrators, teachers, and learners to get involved in the learning process and in the forming of learning communities.

Cyberlabs help to facilitate the transaction between producers and users by keeping learners updated and enhancing teachers' capacity and ability, by fostering a live contact between the teacher and the learner.

Cyberlabs are, undoubtedly a model to showcase 4IR technology. In addition, Cyber Labs are a direct response to the vision of a Modern, Growing, Successful Province.

With these few words, allow me to welcome you all to this auspicious occasion and are just excited as I am about this initiative.

I thank you!