

Acting MEC for Education, Ms Tiny Chotelo

Message of Support

Nelson Mandela Career Festival

Tuesday, 26 September 2017

3 SAI Military Base, Roodepan

---

Minister of Higher Education, Mr Blade Nzimande;

Acting Premier of the Northern Cape, Ms Bongiwé Mbinqo-Gigaba;

Mayors and Councillors present;

Director General;

Religious Leaders;

Entities, Stakeholders, Partners and Exhibitors in the Education Sector;

Representatives from all spheres of Government;

Principals, Educators and most important, our learners;

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentleman

Distinguished Guests

Program Director

Today, I am profoundly honoured to address this auspicious occasion, the Nelson Mandela Career Festival, organised specifically for the learners of the Northern Cape. You are our guest here today, our future leaders of the province and the country. Today, is evident of our Government's commitment to undo the injustices of the past and address poverty, unemployment and inequality through Education. It's commonly accepted that Education is the cornerstone for every growing economy and therefore we will continue to invest and remain high on the agenda of this Government.

Now-a-days, unlike our historic past, education has become more accessible to everyone and provides many opportunities our democratic government has ushered in since 1994. We have seen the implementation of huge efforts, plans and strategies by our Government to maintain the quality of education in South Africa.

We are heartened by the Minister's generous support towards education in the Northern Cape. Through your efforts Minister, you have shown leadership in championing the cause of South Africa's renewal and development. Indeed we are very grateful to host the Nelson Mandela Career Festival that will provide career guidance and assist us to produce the necessary skilled and labour workforce our Province needs now and for the future.

Nelson Mandela once said: "Education is the most powerful weapon one can use to change the world". It is only through Education that we can break the cycle of poverty and unemployment in our country.

It is therefore your responsibility as learners to make the very best of every opportunity life throws at you.

Education is very important to all of us. Our parents teach us the basics at home and then send us to school. Our home is the first education institute where we learn how to behave towards others, however school education is very necessary to be successful in the practical life.

Through education you learn and develop personality, discipline, mental skills, build your moral and path the way for your prosperous future. Today, the doors of learning are open to learners and the youth in the rest of the country who aspire to pursue any career. This is your chance and golden opportunity to bring about change in your life, in your household, in your community and in your society.

I also want to take this opportunity to wish all students, especially the Grade 12's good luck ahead of your final examinations. It is time to put into practice what you have learnt throughout the year for a better future. It is a time to remain focused and create sufficient time to concentrate on your study materials. Parents already know that this is a critical period for you and will give you the space to concentrate on your exams.

Our education sector has striven hard to be a confident, competent, achieving sector, one that provides young people with the tools to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by a growing and progressively transforming democratic South Africa.

Our message to young people is: you can succeed despite difficult circumstances, poor backgrounds and humble beginnings. Through sheer hard work, commitment and determination nothing can prevent you from achieving your full potential and your dreams.

In conclusion, I want to urge all learners to be responsible citizens and have great visions. We are living during the most exciting times of our lives and at a time when our country is blessed with endless possibilities and opportunities. We sincerely encourage you not to miss out on these opportunities, but grab them with both hands for the successful creation of a brighter and prosperous South Africa. South Africa needs you!

I thank you!