

NC Education Imbizo
MEC Martha Bartlett
Saturday, 25 February 2017

MEC of Social Development, Father Gift van Staden
Mayor and Councillors of the Dikgatlong Municipality;
Head of the Department, Mr GT Pharasi;
Representatives from Teacher Unions;
Representatives from SGB Associations;
Senior officials from all spheres of Government;
Representatives from SAPS;
Religious Leaders;
Most importantly, the community of Barkly West;
Our Educators, parents, learners and the society at large;
Programme Director;

Education is an apex priority of our Government, and indeed a right that is enshrined in our Constitution and features prominently in the National Development Plan of our beautiful country. Education is a key element in creating a better and more prosperous South Africa by 2030.

Our Government is increasing access to reading material by making workbooks and textbooks available to learners. Millions of workbooks are printed and distributed to schools across the country every year.

We have increased access to basic education, with 9 million learners benefitting from “no-fee” schools across the country. Education is an essential to roll back poverty and improve our living conditions.

Through Education, the poor are empowered to become significant participants in our economy. The chance of employment, economic growth and development increases for those with educational qualifications will definitely contribute to economic development.

Our Parents have an important role in their children education. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their children’s education at all times. You must show interest in your child’s school work and provide assistance when necessary. Parental supervision at home will ensure children are up to date with their homework and other school requirements. Household rules will help to promote a culture of learning and instil self-discipline in our children. We must ensure that our children are in school every day and do their homework.

Our Teachers are central to building a quality education system. Teachers often go beyond their call of duty as they are the secondary nurturers and counsellors of our children. We encourage our teacher to continue their

dedication and inspire our children. We are confident that our teachers will continue to work hard to ensure the best possible education for our learners. You have an important role in providing career guidance and cultivating a culture of excellence among the learners.

In conclusion, through Education we can develop the future leaders of our country, and equip us to deal with the demands and challenges of the 21st century. We must do all we can to protect and promote the education of our young people. Quality education will produce skilled professionals, innovators and contributors to the country's economic development.

It is for this very reason that we are gathered here today, to provide a platform for the community of Barkly West to engage the Provincial Government pertaining issues that directly relates to Education in our Province. Today, we are hosting the Northern Cape Education Imbizo, that will provide you with the opportunity to raise your concerns and we will then in return appraise you with the progress we have made and how we will address your concern. I appeal to you as the community, that when you raise your concern, to do so in an orderly manner and remember to respect the views and opinions of others. After all, we are a responsive, accountable and caring government for our people.

I thank you!