

# **Handing-over of MTN ICT Laboratories**

**Thursday, 13 October 2016**

**Douglas, Frances Baard District**

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**Mayor of Siyacuma Municipality, Ms Oliphant;**

**General Manager of the MTN Foundation, Ms Kusile  
Mtunzi-Hairwadzi and her team present;**

**Religious Leaders;**

**Head of Department, Mr Pharasi;**

**Senior Management of the Department of Education;**

**Principals, Teacher, SGB members and most  
importantly our learners;**

**Members of the media;**

**Community of Douglas**

It is truly a privilege to address the schooling community of Douglas at this joyous occasion. This day will stand out in the history of our schools as we heeded the call to provide quality education in all our schools across the Province.

Today is also evident of our Government's commitment to undo the injustices of the past and address poverty, unemployment and inequality through Education.

Almost every child in our beautiful country now has access to Education, whereas in the past it was not so accessible. We will not rest until every child is in school and receives quality education. Every child – regardless of gender, background, or circumstance – must have equal access to education. No society can afford any child to drop out, be left out or pushed out. Every child matters and every child must succeed.

Ladies and Gentleman,

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.

With the handing-over of this Computer Laboratories, sponsored by the MTN SA Foundation, is it Government's way of investing into the future of our youth.

As Government, alone we cannot adhere to the needs and outcry of our learners. Education is a societal matter which involves everyone to contribute collectively towards the realisation of the dreams and aspirations of our learners.

It is for this reason, that the Department of Education and the MTN SA Foundation formed a partnership to address the ICT challenges at some of our schools. The use of ICT is one of our 10 key priorities for the Department of Education and the first priority where Operation Phakisa is implemented.

These Computer Laboratories are equipped with all the necessary facilities to expose our learners from a very early age to the use of technology. We live in a modern world, where technology impacts on our life, work and how we do things. Access to Information Technology at home, work and at our schools means that Education can truly become a life-long activity.

Ladies and Gentleman

With the assistance of Information Technology now, it will make it easier to provide quality education.

The resources of learners are increased and learners are encouraged to use these computers in all aspects of their work. Our learners must use new technology to communicate ideas, describe projects and arrange information.

The MTN SA Foundation has sponsored four (4) Computer Laboratories to the following schools, namely Bongani HS, Bongani PS, Vaal-Oranje Primary and Gariep High School to the value of R2.19 million.

**Let's give MTN SA Foundation a round of applause!!**

Collectively, it is the responsibility of the Principal, together with the teachers, parents, community and learners to guard these ICT Labs against any forms of vandalism and theft. Let us use these facilities responsibly and keep it intact for many more years to come.

I want to encourage our teachers to be the best teachers you can be, our learners must be the best learners they can be and our parents, the best parents they can be. Nothing is more important.

The moral decay in our communities is having a detrimental effect on our society, especially our learners. We need to protect our children against any form of criminal activity, drug and alcohol abuse as well as teenage pregnancy. Parents must lead by example and be role-models to their children. Our children's future and better life should serve as motivation for us to rise above our circumstances. Our children need us now, more than ever.

In conclusion, I trust that every learner is well prepared for the upcoming examinations, especially the matriculants. Be positive, a prosperous future is awaiting you. Let us all commit here today, to Support the Class of 2016. This is your chance, your final and golden opportunity. Make it count. Your future is in your hands.

I thank you!!