



Welcoming address by the Mayor of Collins Chabane Local Municipality, Her Worship Cllr Bila Tintswalo Joyce, during the event of Handing Over of School Uniform by the MEC for Social Development on the 05th of February 2018 at Nyavani Assemblies of God.

Acknowledgements:

- **Programme Director;**
- **The MEC for Social Development, Mme Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana;**
- **The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Florence Radzilani;**
- **The MMCs and EXCO Members present here,**
- **Fellow Councillors;**
- **Traditional Leaders in our midst;**
- **Representatives from the Department of Social Development and other sector departments;**
- **Officials from our municipalities;**
- **Community based structures;**
- **Distinguished guests;**
- **Members of media;**
- **Ladies and gentlemen.**

Good morning!!!

I am honoured and privileged by this opportunity given to me, to welcome you all to this special event of handing over uniforms to young children who comes from poor families. This important event is organised by the Department of Social Development and is intended to uproot the remains of inequality in Collins Chabane Municipality, as well as bring dignity to the poor child.

Programme Director,

It is a known fact that the country is faced with three major challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. Our First Democratic President was very clear when he said, *'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'*

Tata Mandela said this because he was aware that education is the key to success because it opens doors for people of all backgrounds, and it expands the human mind with knowledge. The vast amount of knowledge gained through education prepares individuals to solve problems, teach others, function at a higher level and implement transformational ideas. Without education, one's chances for securing a good job and ascending to a higher economic and social status are often limited.

Programme Director,

We have often said that education is a fundamental right in terms of our constitution. Prompted by this reality we have over the years sought to make a contribution towards the education of our children particularly those from poor families.

During the first weeks of school every academic year, government, private institutions and people of influence, takes time to reach out to learners from various schools in a way of motivating them to go back to school. This includes handing out school uniforms and encouraging kids to re-engineer their focus on what is most important, and that is education.

It is for this reason that today we are led by the MEC for Social Development, Mme Makoma Mokaba-Phokwana, in handing over uniforms to these learners as a humble contribution towards the culture of learning and teaching.

As far back as 1955, our forebears assembled at Kliptown where they declared that *“The doors of learning and culture shall be opened.”*

We are getting disturbed to note that our province continues to perform badly in Matric results. It is high time that we should roll up our selves all of us as parents, learners and educators. We must be seen to be doing something to ensure that our children look at education as the solution of all their problems as leaders of the future.

As I welcome you **Ladies and Gentlemen**, let me call on everyone amongst us to make a contribution in taking back a learner to school. The MEC has come to set the pace and we must all emulate on her good deeds.

With those few words **Programme Director**, please feel warmly welcomed to Collins Chabane Municipality. A municipality that prioritizes education ahead of everything else.

I thank you!!