



**CLLR MAPHETLE MAPHETLE – EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF  
POTCHEFSTROOM  
2006 REGIONAL COLLOQUIUM  
RAASWATER LODGE  
THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2006  
09H00**

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Honourable BE Moloji – the Executive Mayor of the Southern District Municipality;

Mr HM Mveli – the Acting Superintendent General of the department in the province;

Dr SH Mvula – the Regional Manager;

Members of the department;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is really an honour for me – to be here and make my contribution in this important gathering. This tutorial came at the right time – the time when a National Policy Framework for Teacher Education and Development in South Africa was tabled. With its catching theme, “More teachers; Better teachers” – this document highlighted many aspects that I believe are more relevant to this meeting.

Amongst others – this policy framework seeks to provide an overall strategy for the successful recruitment, retention, and professional development of teachers to meet the social and economic needs of the country. Its objective is to achieve a community of competent teachers dedicated to providing education of high quality, with high levels of performance as well as ethical and professional standards of conduct.

Just last week on Thursday – the Mayoress of Potchefstroom and her team managed to gather matriculants at our local Banqueting Halls for a motivational session by Dr Eva Ngwenya-Seobi, a well known motivational speaker and medical practitioner from Johannesburg and Pastor Jerry Nemananzhe – a senior pastor and a motivational speaker from Klerksdorp.

As if they knew about this colloquium – they emphasized that learners should have the right perceptions, behavior, principles and mind-set if they want to achieve their goals in life. Dr Seobi went further and highlighted that they (learners) should **Dream** about what they want to be and achieve in life, **Decide** on how they will do that, be **Determined** in achieving their set goals and be **Disciplined** in their lives and way of reaching their goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen – with this year’s colloquium theme in mind,

“The age of hope in the best interest of the child” – one can never swerve from the principles as expressed in the Norms and Standards for Educators (2000), which require a teacher to be:

- A specialist in a particular learning area, subject or phase;
- A specialist in teaching and learning;
- A specialist in assessment;
- A curriculum developer;
- A leader, administrator and manager;
- A scholar and lifelong learner; and
- A professional who plays a community, citizenship and pastoral role.

Of course – we all hope and render our assistance to our beloved educators with the belief that they are the essential drivers of a good quality education system in our country. International evidence shows that the professional education and development of teachers work best when teachers themselves are integrally involved in it, reflecting on their own practice; when there is a strong school-based component; and when activities are well coordinated.

Programme Director – I hope that we all know that teachers are the largest single occupational group and profession in the country, numbering close to 390 000 in public and private schools. Their role has a strategic importance for the intellectual, moral and cultural preparation of our young people.

They work in extremely complex conditions, largely due to the pervasive legacies of apartheid, but also as a result of the new policies needed to bring about change in education.

Ladies and gentlemen, South Africa has the second most developed economy in Africa, with a highly evolved economic infrastructure, but it also has huge social inequalities. The most profound and enduring effects of these apartheid inequalities are to be found in education, including poor infrastructure and facilities for poor people, a lack of proper amenities and inadequate training for teachers.

As a former official of the department – I am pleased that most of our schools in the region are way ahead with development. This region, been the highest achiever in the province – still has some challenges that cannot be immediately done away with. Like any other region in the country – the Southern Region is faced with serious challenges of poverty, unemployment, HIV/AIDS and lack of basic services in developing areas of our cities and towns.

The kind words of Pastor Nemaranzhe are ringing in my head at this moment, especially when he said that learners need to seek and find God on their side. He further highlighted and emphasized that learners should decide to make friends with themselves because this will enable them to build healthy relationships with others.

These reminded me of my time as an educator – the time when I would sit with my family in the evening and still think about my day in the classroom. All those chubby faces and some hungry looking smiles that would always and at all times call me – “Meneer” even when times were hard.

No matter what happens, please remember that education remains one of the key avenues through which the state is involved in the economy. In preparing individuals for future engagement in the labour market, policy choices and decisions in the sphere of education play a critical role in determining the extent to which future economic and poverty-reduction plans can be realized.

Teaching remains one of the important fields in the development history of our country. Let us not loose hope and desert the classes – remember, real teachers are born and sharpened. Our commitment of bringing light and the necessary support to the young ones – should be a motivating factor for all of us to remain and make our contribution to society.

Let us strive to fight off sexual harassment from our schools. Let us instill discipline, uplift our learners and enforce diversity in the educational arena. After all – all of these, are to the best interest of the children, our future generation.

Welcome to hospitable City of Potchefstroom – enjoy your stay here and I hope that this gathering will meet its intended objectives.

I thank you.