

SPEECH BY HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEC, HONOURABLE VS SIWELA
AT THE HAND OVER OF HOUSES AND SCHOOL UNIFORM,
PUGISHE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND DWARSLOOP,
BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.
15 MAY 2015.

2014

Programme Director

Local Executive Mayor: Cllr R Khumalo (Bushbuckridge LM)

Council Speaker: Cllr TP Selowe

Councillors

HOD: Mr K Masange

Municipal Manager

Traditional Leadership

Department and Municipal Officials

Business Representative

Private Institutions

Members of the Media

Distinguished Community Members

Introduction

Programme Director; allow me to bring to light the importance of unity and togetherness to the awareness of our children and communities during the May month - as it is dubbed 'Africa Month'.

It is quite imperative for me and to remind and teach our children from their very young age about the importance of a united nation.

They should – at all times - not discriminate against anyone, especially their other African counterparts.

In one way or the other, many African countries have played a pivotal role in helping us to get our freedom in the country.

The recent xenophobic attacks that unfolded in some parts of the country recently could have had a negative impact on our reputation as a country – and we strongly condemn that.

We can beat the stereo-type thinking of attacking our fellow Africans by making sure that we follow our dreams by studying and accumulate the right qualifications that will get you proper and sustainable jobs.

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It is pleasing though those ugly scenes were not seen and did not take place here in Bushbuckridge, and the province at large.

Importance of Education

Program Director as you are equally aware and caring the interest of our children's best education and future at heart, the ANC-led government is revved-up to ensure that our children must study and receive the most unsurpassed education which will deliberately steer them into the future of their dreams.

It is only through education that our people can be well informed and not find themselves involved in such atrocious behaviour we have since realized.

Precisely put in Tata Mandela's words: - **“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”**.

It is our responsibility to encourage the culture of spirited learning and teaching in all our schools for the better performance of our schools and an improved conducive learning environment.

As government, we have noted in consideration the backlogs evolving in our local schools – hence we have taken a mandate to visit all our schools during their first days of re-opening to ensure that we monitor and address such challenges.

Upon our arrival to some of these schools in the Bohlabela Region in January this year we were dismayed at the challenges of infrastructure and sanitation the learners found themselves in.

These challenges posed serious health threats to the learners,

And an imminent intervention was required. I believe that our intervention to these schools will leave a lasting impression in the hearts of the kids that we have touched today.

We have undertaken to donate school uniforms to the learners at Pugishe Primary School and still working with the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality on how best we can help them with other challenges.

Women In Construction Programme

I would like to give recognition in consideration of the great work done by our women in construction in the province.

Last year we launched the Woman in Construction Project.

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This is a project that offers female contractors the opportunity to develop and empower women in the province mainly in the construction value-chain.

This is a project that will deliver **1,956** housing units in a financial year – befittingly managed and run by women.

We are very proud that these women have beaten the odds to prove that they are capable of doing the job.

Today there are a number of housing projects in the province that are a success and are solely run and managed by women, with a great potential of contributing creating more job opportunities to the province.

Bearing in mind that this field has been portrayed as a male only area of expertise, today we have seen many courageous women rising above all expectations.

The houses we handed over this morning were built and delivered by women contractors.

With their strength and dedication – they made things to happen.

With such a feat, we have great pride in them and hopefully many other women will draw inspiration from this and persuade their dreams.

“Wathint` abafazi, Wathint` Imbokodo”.

I Thank You.