

WELCOMING ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THABO MOFUTSANYANA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, DR B.E. MZANGWA, DURING MANDELA CAREER GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING FESTIVAL AT MALUTI FET COLLEGE, LERE LA TSHEPE CAMPUS, IN QWAQWA

18 July 2013

Programme Director

Minister of Higher Education and Training – Honourable Dr Blade Nzimande

Premier of the Free State Province – Honourable Ace Magashule

MEC for Education – Honourable Tate Makgoe

Executive Mayor of Maluti-a-Phofung - Honourable Sara Moleleki

Councillors, Traditional Leaders, Distinguished Guests

Officials, Educators, Learners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

What a great and special gift we have in Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, whom we affectionately and lovingly call Madiba! Today as we celebrate his birthday and emulate his selfless sacrifices for our country and society, we do so with our hands and eyes lifted up to the Almighty God in prayer for his speedy recovery and good health.

Programme Director, it is so much amazing that one man would touch so many a lives and bring all of us together united in one mind, with a shared vision and a common desire to make sacrifices and make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

The life of Tata Madiba is a testimony that he is indeed the greatest and foremost black President South Africa ever had and an icon, whose name shall forever reverberated throughout the histories of not only our country, but also of many a continent, countries, cities,

towns and villages. He has indeed become a global icon, who has touched many lives and demonstrated what it is to live for others. His sixty-seven (67) years of sacrifice bears a testimony.

Ladies and gentlemen, lessons we learn from Tata's life are best described by the words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow that "Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time." It is an indisputable fact that Tata has left footprints on the sands of time.

His life is also best described in the words of Cuban revolutionary leader, Ernesto Guevara de la Serna, popularly known as "Che", when he wrote about qualities of a leader saying, "Let me say at the risk of appearing ridiculous, that a true revolutionary is guided by feelings of love. It is impossible to think of an authentic revolutionary without these qualities. This is perhaps one of the greatest dramas of a leader; he must combine an impassioned spirit with a cold mind and make painful decisions without flinching a muscle.

"Our vanguard revolutionaries must idealise their love for the people, for the most sacred causes and make it one and indivisible. They cannot descend, with small doses of daily affection, to the places where ordinary men put their love into practice....

"Our love for the people must propel us into greater heights; we must, hand in hand with communities, march together as we seek common solutions to the challenges facing us. The challenge has been made. The battleground has been set.

Seremos como el Che: We will be like Che"

Programme Director, it is such a great honour for us in the district of Thabo Mofutsanyana that as we mark the sixty-seven minutes of Madiba's selfless sacrifices, the Minister of Higher of Education and

Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, with the support of the Free State Provincial Government under the leadership of Premier Ace Magashule, would grace our shores with this auspicious event of career guidance and counselling for our learners.

The event offers a great opportunity for our learners to be exposed to a variety of fields of study, careers and different personalities with different careers. This will propel them to study hard with aspirations of emulating these role models that are in their midst today.

The education of our children will remain on the uppermost on our government's list of priorities because it has long been proven that education is a key to success, and it is an inheritance that no one can steal away.

Programme Director, initiatives by our ANC - led government to ensure our kids get quality education are such a great encouragement. Also, initiatives by our Premier, Honourable Ace Magashule to churn out bursaries to well performing Free State learners every year make such a great contribution towards the improvement of the lives of our own.

As the District Council of Thabo Mofutsanyana, we have also taken a decision to also contribute towards the education of our children by also offering bursaries to well performing learners coming from poor family backgrounds.

It is our dream and desire to see all our children, even the poor of the poorest, getting decent education in order for them to be active participant in the economy of their own country as attractive employees, and also to participate as business owners and employers.

It is for this reason, Programme Director, that this year as Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality we have granted bursaries to thirty-two (32) qualifying undergraduate students and three postgraduate students. What brings more happiness is that seven (7) students, who have been receiving financial assistance from the municipality, have completed their studies in the fields of engineering, accounting, science and technology.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is of utmost important to remember that all these initiatives and programmes that we are pursuing as national, provincial and local government to ensure that our people are better off than yesterday are all the ideals that Madiba and all other forebearers of the African National Congress fought for. Let all of us make it our duty to ensure that we uphold these ideals and make sure that they indeed become reality. We can also do so by making sure that the people's government, led by the African National Congress, remains in power even next year, and even many more years to come.

To all learners here today and those who will be coming here in the next two days, we would like to say the future is in your hands. With all of these variety of career choices presented to you not only for now but even in the days, weeks and months to come, make use of this opportunity and believe you have what it takes to be successful in life.

Remember the words of Madiba when he said, “Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that a son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we

make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another,”

Ladies and gentlemen, as I welcome you today at this Mandela Career and Counselling Festival let me do so with the words of Humanitarian and United Nations Diplomat Eleanor Roosevelt as she said, “All human beings have failings, all human beings have needs and temptations and stresses. Men and women who live together through long years get to know one another's failings; but they also come to know what is worthy of respect and admiration in those they live with and in themselves. If at the end one can say, This man used to the limit the powers that God granted him; he was worthy of love and respect and of the sacrifices of many people, made in order that he might achieve what he deemed to be his task, then that life has been lived well and there are no regrets.”

You are all welcomed. Thank you.