

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY MEC FOR EDUCATION IN KWAZULU-NATAL KWAZI
MSHENGU ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF THE
EDUCATION CENTRE AT DURBAN GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, GLENWOOD ON 31
MAY 2019**

Programme director

Head of Department Dr EV Nzama

Members of Senior Management

Members of the District Management Team

Circuit Managers

Members of the School Governing Body

Parents

Principal

Educators

Learners

Representatives from the Media

The Community of Glenwood

Distinguished Guests

Sanibonani

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to address this gathering. We feel humbled and privileged indeed to be part of and to officiate in this august occasion.

What gives us contentment is that this occasion coincides with the establishment of the 06th administration of the democratic government.

The handing over of this school infrastructure is adding energy on our quest to ensure that the doors of learning and culture are open to all as espoused in the freedom charter as we are celebrating 25 years of democracy.

The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal has a desire and determination to improve the potential of every citizen by ensuring that their right to basic education is fulfilled.

There cannot be any better way to display that determination than what has been done here at Durban Girls' High school. Today and through this infrastructure our children will be able to excel in Mathematics and Physical Science and be able to demystify the myth that these subjects are difficult.

They will be able to make the prophets of doom turn in their graves, I mean those who did everything in their power to ensure that pupils especially girls are not exposed to these subjects because in their own narrow thinking a girl's place was in the kitchen.

Of additional significance, is that this noble gesture will help us to propel the vision that is clearly articulated in the National Development Plan which is the country vehicle for growth and development.

"This plan envisions a South Africa where everyone feels free yet bounded to other; where everyone embraces their full potential, a country where opportunity is determined not by birth, but ability, education and hard work."

This means that we must reciprocate by working around the clock to make our country what it should be; *"A Country full of possibilities"*

ADDRESSING LEARNERS

My children you need not doubt yourselves because in you lies our future and South Africa's prosperity. Look around you and make the best out of what is at your disposal. Take advantage of the opportunities that are availing themselves. Know that time waits

for no man and make hay while the sun shines. Know that you and only you are the custodian of your own fortune and that your future is in your hands.

ANC Government have already created an enabling environment for you to excel in everything you do. Be appreciative by focusing on your studies and by inculcating in you the desire to be the best amongst the best.

Those of you who are in grade 12 should always strive to be role models by doing what Durban Girls' High school can be proud of.

Now that you have these excellent resources, we can agree with you that you must continue getting 100% pass rate at the end of this academic year.

To achieve this though, you must stay focused at all times , respect your teachers and parents, attend your classes on time and free yourselves from anything that may divert your attention such as mischief, drugs, sex and other social ills.

PARENTS

I want to take this opportunity to request parents to make this school an institution of growth and development for this community. Please protect it jealously and support the hard working teachers and the principal.

Encourage fellow parents to attend school meetings and be involved in matters of discipline of these children. Don't be on the sidelines. Let's make sure that in the next 30 years this school will still be as beautiful as it is today.

TEACHERS

I wish to extend our deepest appreciation to teachers from this school. We have seen what you are capable of doing. I am aware that if it were not your hard work, we were not going to be telling this good story today.

Please continue to monitor our learners and never get discouraged in them because they are an investment for our country. Please unearth the talent and potential of each one of them and make them perform to the best of their abilities.

Thank you once more to the school principal, teachers, governing body, & the sponsors. Indeed, I am the happiest person in the country today because you have displayed that our learners matter most.

On that note I wish to thank everyone who made this possible.

Ngiyabonga.