

**SPEECH BY MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, HONOURABLE
MR.H.D.YAWA, MPL ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOD
TURNING CEREMONY AT THEA MORAFE PRIMARY SCHOOL,
JOUBERTON –FRIDAY 22 JULY 2005**

Programme Director

The Executive Mayor of the Klerksdorp City Council-Honourable
Councillor P.A. Nxamakele

Honourable Members of Parliament

Honourable Councillors

Senior Managers in Government Departments

Community leaders

Members of the Ward Committee

Members of the School Governing Bodies of Thea Morafe Primary
and Akofang Primary Schools

Parents

Educators

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Programme Director, in today's knowledge-intensive world, the
significance of education has become increasingly obvious
because education and training is vital in providing people with the
means to pursue productive and active lives.

Apartheid's racial education system was an important instrument in
perpetuating inequality, oppression and discrimination. It was a

gross denial of human rights. The resulting underdevelopment of human resources has been a significant obstacle to improved economic growth in the post-apartheid South Africa.

Apartheid tried to rob us of our humanity. By condemning every black child to a life of deprivation, the system sought to deprive us of our dignity.

As a people we have succeeded in ridding our country of the horrible scourge of apartheid and, in so doing; we have grasped the opportunity to nourish the dreams and aspirations of our children.

As government we believe that the elimination of school infrastructure backlogs is not only necessary on grounds of equity and justice. It is also extremely necessary on the grounds of efficiency

As a responsive and caring government we responded to the plight of this community and delivered in 2003 Chris Hani Secondary School built at a cost of R4,9 million.

In the same year we also delivered to this community and in this very ward Mofatlhosi Secondary School built at a cost of R 3,1 million.

Today we are here once again to respond to the plight of our children and the community of Jouberton by providing yet another facility to alleviate “the learners under trees” phenomenon.

In addition to this project, my department is also handing over today three sites to contractors for the commencement of Atamelang Primary School in Kanana, Mampho Secondary School in Migdol and Reabetswe Senior Secondary School in Schweitzer-Reneke.

Two weeks ago we also handed sites to contractors for the construction of Greenspark Primary in Fochville and Keotshepile Secondary School in Potchefstroom.

Programme Director the pace of delivery has gained momentum. We have appointed and handed over sites to contractors for the renovation of 44 schools and will be spending R30million allocated for this purpose.

Programme Director seven of the schools to be renovated are in the Southern Region and two of them are located in Jouberton, namely Tiang Secondary School and Kakatlela Primary School. Over R2million will be spend on the renovation of these two schools.

In three weeks time we will be handing over the last three schools for the completion of the commencement of the thirteen schools that constitute the R80,1 million School Building Programme that

we are executing on behalf of the department of education for this financial year.

On Tuesday last week my department handed over this site to Nerge Construction to setup site for the construction of the First Phase of Thea Morafe Primary School.

This phase is to be build at the cost of R6, 9 million and consists of 12 classrooms, an administration block, two Head of Department's offices, 1 Special Function Room, 1 Special Room and 14 toilets.

As a community you believed in us as your government and exercised patience and restraint. We are grateful for the confidence you have in us to redress skewed infrastructure imbalances of the past and to provide access to services.

We wish to urge you to take ownership of this project and support the contractor to ensure the delivery of the project within the 14 months allocated for its completion.

From the professional team and the contractor we expect nothing less than the delivery of this project on time, on budget and to a higher standard of quality.

History has placed an enormous responsibility on the shoulders of all of us to help reverse the legacy of our ugly past.

The partnership we have established requires us to renew our commitment and resolve to act together to overcome the legacy of deprivation. It requires us to unite and to act together for the realisation of the vision of the Freedom Charter.

As a people we do have the capacity to create a South Africa that truly belongs to all who live in it.

I humbly wish to invite the Executive Mayor of the City Council of Klerksdorp, the Honourable Councillor Nxamakele to join me in turning the sod for the commencement of the construction of Thea Morafe Primary School.

Ke a leboga.