

**SPEECH BY MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, HONOURABLE
MR.H.D.YAWA, MPL ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER
CEREMONY AT IMFUNDO SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, KOKOSI -
FRIDAY 08 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Programme Director

The Executive Mayor of the Merafong Local Municipality Honourable
Councillor Desmond van Rooyen

Honourable Councillors

Senior Managers in Government Departments

Community leaders

Members of the Ward Committee

Members of the School Governing Bodies of Infundo School

Parents

Educators

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

One of our struggle heroes and the first President of the ANC Youth League, Anton Muziwakhe Lembede once said, “We are not called to peace, comfort and enjoyment, but to hard work, struggle and sweat. We need young men and women of high moral stamina and integrity; of courage and vision. In short, we need warriors. This means that we have to develop a new type of youth...of stoical discipline, trained to endure suffering and difficulties. It is only this

type of youth that will achieve the national liberation of the African people.”

Programme Directors, When Comrade Lembede said this instructive words, life was very difficult for the oppressed masses of our people who were considered third class citizens in the country of their birth. Under the dehumanising and brutal apartheid system, education for the African majority was meant to prepare us to serve our oppressors.

Under those circumstances and against all odds, Comrade Lembede started with his formal education at the age of thirteen. As a determined and disciplined young person he managed against all odds to become a teacher and studied partime with the University of South Africa (UNISA) obtaining BA and LLB degrees over a six-year period.

I presume that most of us if not all, are aware about the history of our country prior 1994 as it is well documented. Today we live in a democratic country but the words of Lembede are more relevant to us than ever before.

We are gathered today in Kokosi, to witness the delivery of government’s commitment to provide proper learning facilities for our learners and to phase out the "learners under trees" phenomenon.

This day represents another step towards the realisation of the vision of the Freedom Charter that, “ The doors of Learning shall be open to all”. Indeed unlike in the past, where quality education was meant only for a certain race, the school we are handing over today simply says things have changed and for good. Every South African child now has the constitutional right to education irrespective of colour, race, gender and religion.

This celebration of the age of hope for the community of Kokosi is also a celebration of the people’s contract for the people of Merafong. It’s a celebration of partnership between government and communities for the confidence they have in the ANC government to eradicate the apartheid legacy of inequalities, inherited infrastructure backlogs and imbalances in infrastructure provision.

This R7, 9 million school building project that we executed for our client, the department of education consists of an administration block, a science laboratory, 18 classrooms and two blocks of toilets.

On behalf of the provincial government we wish to congratulate the Professional team led by Neren Mistry Architects who were Principal Agents on this project, Paresh Chiba Quantity Surveyors who were Structural and Civil engineers, MDC Consulting Engineers and Infuturum Consulting Engineers who were Mechanical and

Electrical engineers respectively for delivering this school on behalf of my department and the department of Education.

I also wish to congratulate our partners in service delivery, that is the two contractors who were involved in the Joint Venture for the execution of the contract, Black Hawk and BT Projects for a job well done.

Programme Director, ASGISA has identified shortage of skills as one of the shortcomings in the Construction and Infrastructure sector. This includes professional skills such as engineers and scientists, project managers, and skilled technical employees such as artisans and IT technicians. In order to address this, government has fasttracked the Maths and Science (Dinaledi) programme for 529 high schools to double Maths and science high school graduates to 50 000 by 2008.

Last month during the National Construction Week, I had the opportunity to visit a few schools in our province and host learners for project site visits as part of the construction awareness campaign to promote the profile and image of the construction sector among grade 10 Maths and Science learners.

As a department we were Asgisarising our sector as we were urging learners to make the build and construction their career of choice and explained to them that construction sector is an exciting

industry with a guaranteed future. I also wish to take this opportunity to call on learners in the maths and science stream to consider following rewarding careers in the construction sector.

Imfuno Secondary School should also produce candidates for fields of study in civil, structural and mechanical engineering, architecture and quantity surveying.

As Comrade Lembede said, we need young men and women of high moral stamina, integrity, courage and vision. We need youth that is able to resist the temptation to be involved in crime, that resist the temptation to do drugs. Most of our schools are under threat from criminals and drug dealers who are targeting our youth for addiction and destruction.

Let's stop the scourge of drug abuse by ensuring that this does not happen in this school by exercising zero tolerance to criminal activities in our schools.

I urge learners to follow the spirit of Lembede by being young men and women of high moral stamina, integrity, courage and vision. Our country needs warriors who can abstain from drugs and alcohol. Drugs kill and alcohol destroys. I wish to appeal to the community to ensure that this facility is protected at all times and becomes the centre of community life.

I understand that late last year izinyoka stole electric cable in this school. Let's make sure that these things do not repeat themselves

by reporting any criminal activity to the police. We must know that as long as we hide criminals in our homes and use drugs, we are playing with our future and that of the country.

It is my honour to hand over keys for the facility to the Executive Mayor of Merafong Local Municipality, Honourable Councillor Desmond Van Rooyen to officially open the school on behalf of my colleague, the Honourable MEC for Education, Reverend O.J.Tselapedi.

Ke a leboga.