

**SPEECH BY HER WORSHIP MAYOR OF LEPELLE-NKUMPI MUNICIPALITY HER  
WORSHIP COUNCILLOR MOKGAETSI RAMOKOLO AT THE HANDING OVER  
CEREMONY OF SHOES TO SCHEIDING, MOLEKE, MOSHABI PRIMARY SCHOOLS  
AND MOGAPUTJI SECONDARY SCHOOL, GA-MATHABATHA ON THURSDAY  
13TH JUNE 2019**

Programme Director;

Kgoshi Mathabatha;

Fellow Councillors;

Representatives from MaxProf;

Representatives from Department of Education;

School Principals;

Members of the School Governing Bodies;

Our Educators;

Parents and Learners;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Good Morning. Thobela! Re a Lotsha!

We would like to thank the principals, the educators as well as the school governing bodies and parents for allowing us this opportunity to share this day with you and possibly make a difference in some of the people's lives.

This Mayoral Project Launch takes place exactly two days before June 16 where all South Africans will be commemorating the 1976 Soweto uprising and paying tribute to learners who stood up against the apartheid government. June 16 serves as a reminder that young people in the country were at the forefront of our struggle.

This day is significance because it is taking place during Youth Month. As we are all aware, this year's Youth Month coincides with the commemoration of 25 years of Freedom and Democracy. It is also significance as it comes less than a

month since President Cyril Ramaphosa was sworn in as the President of South Africa.

Ladies and gentlemen, when the ANC-led government led by President Mandela took office in 2014 it made education an apex priority amongst others. By making education a priority it was a clear message that education is not the responsibility of government alone. It is a societal issue.

Every sector in a society has a role to play to ensure that South Africa develops and produces the type of citizens required by a modern society, which are unable to meet the demands of a knowledge economy in the fourth industrial revolution.

As we celebrate 25 years of freedom and 64 years of Freedom Charter, we reiterate the clause of the Freedom Charter which states that **“The doors of learning and shall be open to all.”**

The Motto of our ANC-led government is **“working together we can open the doors of learning and culture as we build the economy of Lepelle-Nkumpi”**. This motto is true than ever before as we continue to say no single person can achieve change in society alone.

As Lepelle-Nkumpi alone, we cannot change lives of the people of this Municipality in general and the teaching environment of our schools in particular.

It is only through partnership and collaboration like this one with MaxProf, that together we can better the lives of Batho ba Lepelle-Nkumpi.

The main reason why we are here today is because the Municipality and Government as a whole want to support MaxProf through the Mayor’s Project Launch when we handover shoes to assist kids who walk long distance barefoot to school.

Our view as the Municipality is that MaxProf wants to restore some dignity in our children who are faced with embarrassment of not having the proper school attire and that also brace the cold winter days without shoes.

Education as we know is one of the first steps that is assisting our people to be out of poverty and therefore as Municipality we are making an emphasis that all learners must attend school and matriculate.

We are conscious of the fact that whilst you are attending school, it is expected that you must be taught, and it becomes difficult to do this if you are attending without proper attire and hungry.

We are pleased to have good Samaritans like MaxProf bao ba tsebago leshoko by being able to handover this shoes to you. For this reason, I can proudly say we making an impact in your lives.

We are aware that what MaxProf is doing based on our historical background is a drop in the ocean because she cannot reach everybody, however, we trust that she have made changes in the lives of those who are going to reach more, especially the most needy.

We do not want you to attend school with torn, old clothing and make it difficult for you to feel confident both socially and academically amongst your peers. We want to unfold your full potential in order to ensure that nothing hold you back from achieving your dreams.

As we handover this shoes, we wish to encourage parents to take part in education of their children and work very closely with educators in moulding our future leaders to become better citizen demanding by modern society.

To all beneficiaries, we humble ourselves as we handover these shoes and enable you to reclaim our future as we change the face of our community. Allow me to thank MaxProf for making sure that this event becomes a successes and I wish to urge them to continue supporting poor and rural communities.

Walking barefoot to school should stay in the past and never come back. Today we are here to give away pairs of school shoes to some of you who are not lucky enough to afford such. Put your feet in and walk tall. Concentrate on your education and do your best. One renowned author once said “a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

Let me end by appealing to our parents that when we want to raise issues of with government we should do so by making use of the channels and platforms

that are available to us, ranging from public participation programmes to engage with provincial and municipal leadership. We should however not compromise the interest of children and use it to bargain for community issues.

We call upon all communities to safeguard the rights of our children who are the leaders of tomorrow and not allow any person to reverse, and undermine our historical achievements. Everyone, including the non-governmental organisations should play their part to ensure that our children are not prevented from going to schools.

We can make a difference by working together to achieve prosperity, social progress and grow our economy in our municipality.

We wish you great success and a very pleasant day.

**MOTHO KE MOTHO KA BATHO**

**I THANK YOU!!**

**KE A LEBOGA!**