

**ADDRESS BY HIS WORSHIP CLLR MORRIS MATABOGE
THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF WATERBERG DISTRICT
HANDING OVER OF LEARNING MATERIAL CEREMONY**

BATHOPELE SECONDARY SCHOOL

7TH SEPTEMBER 2018.

Programme Director, MMC Hlungwane

Mayor of BelaBela Cllr Ngobeni,

Speaker of the District, Cllr Lamola,

District Chief Whip Cllr Tsebe,

All councillors present,

Representative from UNISA,

Members of the School Governing Body,

Principal of the School Mr Sibanda,

All teachers present,

Members of the Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Thobela!

Let me from the onset appreciate your presence to this august gathering in our endeavour to promote the culture of reading to our learners in Batho-Pele School.

Programme Director, during the “ **Back to School Campaign**” in January this year, I took a decision on behalf of the Waterberg District Council to adopt this school because of the performance of Grade 12 learners who achieved 100% pass rate during the 2017 Matric results.

We are gathered here today to support the school in whatever way we can as we regard education as a societal issue that needs us to work together to create a better future for our children.

Ladies and gentlemen, in 2012, in partnership with UNISA, we came up with **“Adopt a School Library Campaign”** to distribute books to school libraries across the district in order to promote the culture of reading amongst our learners. Since then, more than 15 000 books obtained from UNISA has already been distributed to various schools within the district.

We therefore, take this opportunity to thank UNISA for being able to maintain this long lasting relationship and partnership. As I said before, education is a societal issue, hence our contribution to education.

We care about the future of our children even if education is not our core function. By working together with various stakeholders we can improve the quality of learning and teaching in our schools.

Ladies and gentlemen, school libraries make a difference to learners` achievement and have a positive impact on learners and on learning. We are in full belief that libraries will always exist as places for learners to find information, resources, services and instruction.

But these libraries must be equipped with books to achieve the intended objective. The books must be taken care of by the school to make sure that generations to come are able to read. Books have a longer lifespan if they are taken care of.

Programme Director, we are here today to donate books to this school. It is upon the school to make sure that the school library operate as it should for the benefit of our children. It is only school libraries that are well equipped that can bring back the culture of reading amongst our learners.

Programme Director, on the 31st August 2018, the District Municipality closed the Women Month celebrations by organising Women in Sport event wherein women across the district and beyond, participated in a 5 km fun walk and indigenous games.

The participants contributed approximately 400 sanitary towels as part of their support and pledge to female learners of this particular school.

We are pleased that we shall be distributing those towels to each and every girl child today. We also take this opportunity to thank all the women who participated in the event and the important contribution they made.

Our democratic government led by glorious movement, the African National Congress (ANC) has adopted **“Thuma Mina Campaign”** so that everyone of us should voluntarily assist our communities in whatever way we can, especially our disadvantaged members of the community.

Programme Director, today is not a day of speeches, but to thank the school for the job well done in the 2017 Matric results. We are very confident that the school shall keep on doing the best in maintaining the 100% this year and beyond.

In conclusion Programme Director, let me thank the School Governing Body, teachers and the Principal for working together to make sure that the school continue to make us proud.

We will forever, support the school in kind with the little that we are able to mobilise.

Please cherish and treasure this gift because it belongs to you. Make good use of it, we expect to have leaders of tomorrow out of this school.

The former President Nelson Mandela once said: **I quote “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.** Unquote,

Let`s please join hands in moving our education system and South Africa Forward.

I THANK YOU!!!