



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

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Office of the Executive Mayor

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR JULIA LATA MATHEBE ON THE OCCASION OF “TAKE A GIRL CHILD TO WORK”, HELD ON THE 23RD OF JUNE 2022, AT MOHLABETSI SECONDARY SCHOOL, DENNILTON.

Programme director

MMC present

Chairperson of the SGB

The principal of Mohlabetsi Sec School

The teachers and staff

And our beautiful learners

Thobela

Good morning

Programme director, allow me to express gratitude from my office for organising this special occasion, and in the same breath thank the management of Mohlabetsi Secondary School for their warm welcome into

their school. We really appreciate the opportunity given to us to come and spend the day in the company of the future of our country – that of course being our learners.

We are here today, on an initiative called **“TAKE A GIRL CHILD TO WORK”**.

The Take a Girl Child To Work initiative has been in existence since 2003, and it is celebrated annually. This year it is an honour to us to be celebrating this great initiative right here, at Mohlabetsi Secondary School.

This call of action by Cell C and Government through the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is to advance the girl – child. The campaign is in line with Goal 3 of the Millenium Development Goals to promote gender equality and empowerment of women. Since its inception the initiative has assisted the girl – child to make informed decisions on their future career.

Programme director,

The goal of the *Take a Girl Child to Work Day* initiative is to deepen the thinking of the girl child with regard to their infinite roles in society, enhance her self – esteem, inspire and motivate her to reach her full potential and through exposure to diverse careers and positive role models assist her to prepare for the world of work.

Additionally, we believe that when you educate a girl child, you educate the whole community. Hence, as Sekhukhune District Municipality believes that the impact will be far – reaching, as benefits will be shared as she passes them onto her children, her community and her country. Intergenerational

knowledge passed down from one generation to the other in order to benefit society and elevate the socio economic status of our girl child in society.

Programme director,

I am told by my team that, starting from next year, this campaign will also include the boy child. This new development to include the boy child is warmly welcomed.

The boy child has been neglected so much and we are now as a society experiencing the after effects of those neglects. It is imperative that we must talk to our boy children at an early age to make sure that they grow – up to become responsible men and contribute positively to our society. I am delighted to witness that today, amongst here we have boy children. Let it be known that today's campaign is also about you. As young as you are, we also in the same spirit encourage and inspire you to focus on your schooling, to stay away from drugs and to at all times protect the girl child in your lives.

Programme director,

Boys need male role models to help them grow and develop. They need men around to show them different ways of being male. Today, we are starting here at Mohlabetse Secondary School to groom responsible men. Each one of you boy children present here today should take a silent pledge – that from today onwards we commit

ourselves to being responsible men in the future. We pledge to contribute positively not only in our communities but in society at large.

Programme director,

Before I conclude, it would be dishonest of me not to touch on the performance of the school in terms of matric pass rate. Notwithstanding the challenges faced by the school, but out of 23 learners that sat for their matric only 4 passed!!! This results are highly disappointing to say the least.

Principal we need to do better!!

let today, and this occasion be the start of a long life relationship that will also help alleviate the entire results of the school. We owe it to ourselves to work together to improve the lives of our learners, so that they can have a brighter future and in turn change our society that reflects their aspirations.

Programme director,

Allow me to conclude by saying that as Sekhukhune District Municipality, we did not come here empty handed. We have brought some necessities for our learners. We know and appreciate the struggles of our girl children, hence we brought with us sanitary towels. Research shows that on average a girl child loses 10 – 20 days of schooling days by not being able to afford sanitary towels.

Sometimes they drop out of school completely. It cant be that as leaders in society we are unable to intervene in this case. Hence we are here today to donate to the school the little that we have.

Programme director, with these few words said, I would like to close with this quote from **Walt Disney – “If you can dream it, you can do it.”**

I thank you