

ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR OF ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY CLLR JULIA LATA MATHEBE ON THE OCCASION OF SOD-TURNING OF SEKHUKHUNE TVET COLLEGE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE IN ELIAS MOTSOLEDI ACQUAVILLE SECTION, 21 OCTOBER 2021.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR;

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

DR. BLADE NZIMANDE;

THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, MR CHUPU STAN MATHABATHA;

LIMPOPO MEC FOR EDUCATION, MS POLLY BOSHIELO;

EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY,
CLLR KEAMOTSENG STANLEY RAMAILA;

THE SPEAKER OF COUNCIL CLLR DAVID TLADI;

ACTING COO OF W&R SETA MR SIPHO SHOBA;

CEO OF SEKHUKHUNE TVET COLLEGE MR. TEBOGO KEKANA;

COLLEGE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON PROF. KANJERE MM;

BOARD CHAIRPERSON OF W&R SETA BOARD MR REGGIE SIBIYA;

OUR STUDENTS;

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA;

It is a great **honour** and **privilege** to **welcome** you all into this eventful occasion - the Construction of Sekhukhune TVET College Skills Development Centre Sod-Turning Ceremony.

We have no doubts in our minds that the Construction of Sekhukhune TVET College Skills Development Centre will contribute meaningfully towards the development of the community of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and the surrounding areas of Sekhukhune. In particular, it will benefit the young people who do not only make up the significant proportion of our population statistically.

The Construction of Sekhukhune TVET College Skills Development Centre illustrates that we understood absolutely well, the teachings of the longest serving President of the African National Congress (ANC) Oliver Regionald Tambo when he said [and I quote]:

“Children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future” [Closed quote].

These profound teachings by OR Tambo made us as government to prioritise education as an important population issue.

To this, we are living up to the commitments and the promise we have made in the **Freedom Charter** in **1955** that:

“The Doors of Learning and Culture Shall be Opened!”

“The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life;

“All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands;

“The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace;

“Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children; Higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit;

“Adult illiteracy shall be ended by a mass state education plan;

“Teachers shall have all the rights of other citizens;

“The colour bar in cultural life, in sport and in education shall be abolished”.

This Sod-Turning of Sekhukhune TVET College Skills Development Centre by our Minister Dr. Blade Nzimande is a living testimony of the commitment of our government to realise the **Freedom Charter**.

This event does not only have **historic significance** but also it has **contemporary significance** in the arena of **skill revolution** in general and in particular the **Fourth (4th) Industrial Revolution**.

In education, we believe. We believe that education is capable of providing a long term solution to our triple challenges of **poverty, inequality and unemployment**.

To this, the former ANC and State President Nelson Mandela had the following to say [and I quote]:

“Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another” [unquote].

In **conclusion**, ladies and gentlemen, our Municipality pledges its **unconditional support** to the Constriction of Sekhukhune Skills Development Centre.

We are proud to be associated with this state-of-the-art initiative project which contributes to our efforts of encouraging and developing the next generation of scientists, engineers, artisans and the like.

Welcome Minister Dr. Blade Nzimande!

Welcome everyone!

I welcome you all!

Thank you!