

EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S REMARKS DURING THE SOD TURNING EVENT OF THE SEKHUKHUNE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE IN GROBLERSDAL BY HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTER BLADE NZIMANDE

DATE: THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021

Honourable Minister and Honourable Premier, we the people of Sekhukhune are immensely delighted today.

We are proud people on this occasion which marks the new dawn in our lives.

We are witnessing the plantation of a seed that will soon germinate into a tree that shall bear a fruit that shall feed the nation and generations to come.

Today's occasion attest to the fact that the future of our children is anchored to a solid foundation.

In our district, one that is predominantly rural and disadvantaged, the significance of this educational facility cannot be overemphasised.

It renews the hopes of youngsters who are languishing in the morass of hopelessness.

It revives the aspirations of young people who had thought the circumstances of their families had condemned them into a future of no opportunities.

This is indeed the new beginning.

Honourable Minister and Honourable Premier, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa recently described unemployment in our country as a crisis.

He pointed out that we cannot afford endless delays in addressing this problem because of bureaucratic red-tape, outdated recruitment processes, lack of capacity and planning, or programmes that are short-lived or unsustainable.

We are therefore confident that this progressive initiative will train a new cadre of graduates that will be ready to take up existing opportunities, but importantly, create opportunities for themselves.

Honourable minister, it is an open secret that our district is endowed with mineral resources. While we acknowledge that mining operations absorb labour, particularly blue-collar workers from mining communities, we believe that it is about time we take things a bit higher in this regard.

An institution of higher education with a specific focus on mining and related new technology, located right in this district, is long overdue.

We believe that a mining academy will propel forward this democratic government's developmental agenda and assist to reposition Sekhukhune district as a leader of socio-economic development.

An army of young people who leave the district going to other areas to access higher education, confirms that there is an appetite for education among young people.

Lastly, on behalf of the people of the mighty Sekhukhune, this bastion of resistance to colonial encroachment and apartheid repression, we want to express our gratitude to our government, under the stewardship of His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa for this development.

We are confident that our forebears, the likes of Elias Motswaledi, Flag Boshielo, Harry Gwala, Chris Hani, Ruth First, Madiba and countless heroes and heroines who relentlessly fought for the liberation of this beautiful country of ours, are smiling on us over this.

Thank you very much.