



**SPEECH BY CHAIRPERSON OF IDT BOARD OF
TRUSTEES, MRS PUMLA RADEBE AT THE HANDOVER OF
KLAPMUTS PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THE WESTERN CAPE**

DATE: 27 SEPTEMBER 2011

VENUE: KLAPMUTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Programme Director,

Honourable MEC of Education, Mr Donald Grant

Your Worship, the Mayor of Stellenbosch Municipality, Cllr Conrad
Sidego

Officials from the Department of Education, Municipality and the IDT

Principal of the School, Mr Ronald Frans

Members of the School Governing body,

Fellow Board members, IDT Board of Trustees

The Chief Executive Officer Ms Nwedamutswu and staff of IDT in
particular The Regional General Manager of the IDT Western Cape
Province Dr Gumede

Learners in the school,

Members of Media present,

Community at large

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning. Goie more, Molweni

UTata Dalibunga Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela once said that “*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world*”. Much has been done by the national and provincial governments to prioritise this important weapon. However these gains are often undermined by pockets of inferior quality of learning and teaching as well as infrastructure. These facts were noted by the *Education for All 2000 Assessment* which was presented to the United Nations as part of the follow up to the 1990 World Conference on Education for All. The report notes that the physical environment in many of our schools is not conducive to quality teaching and learning as:

- About 25 percent of primary and combined schools had no access to water within a walking distance,
- Nearly half of primary and combined schools utilise pit latrines,
- The majority of schools (56.2percent) have no electricity or have poor lighting conditions, and
- About 5percent of schools have decrepit and dilapidated buildings that are unsafe and unsuitable for teaching and learning.

Honourable Minister;

It is these shocking and unacceptable figures that prompted the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and the Department of Basic Education to act with speed and urgency. We have no excuse left for defaulting on a Constitutional obligation which is undeniably at the centre of improving the quality and welfare of the lives of our people.

Klapmuts Primary School is a microcosm of our larger partnership with the Department of Education to totally eradicate mud and inappropriate schools, which we have been implementing since 2008. We were motivated not just by the expressed need of the school, but also by the aspirations of the 1 300 learners, 32 educators and the surrounding communities. These aspirations prompted us to contribute R5 million towards the construction of the school. This complemented the R22 million set aside by the Department Education to build 32 classrooms, 2 ablution blocks, a modern computer centre, a library, a kitchen, an early learning centre, sports grounds, and assembly area. All this we pursued because we firmly believe (as does Premier Helen Zille) that *“every child should be afforded the opportunity to shape her own destiny and live a life she values”*.

Distinguished guests;

Unfortunately our full master plan could not be implemented owing to resource limitations. Consequently, we could only complete 28 classrooms, the ablution blocks, state of the art computer centre and library. We will require an additional R13million to fully implement the school’s master plan. I therefore appeal to our private sector and donor partners as well as the broader public to dig deep within there hearts

(and pockets) to make this bigger dream a reality. Every little act of compassion makes a huge difference in the life of a child.

In making your contribution, no matter the size and extent, you will be contributing towards ensuring that the fully connected computer centre is also accessed by the broader and surrounding communities, after schooling hours. By ensuring such access, we would be contributing towards the aspirations of these communities who have set themselves the goal of ensuring that each and every community member has an e-mail address and is connected to the informative and revolutionary World Wide Web. By lending your hand to this integrated development you will be adding impetus towards ensuring that all the children attending this school are fed daily through the planned school garden and kitchen. Through your generous support we will ensure that the prevailing illiteracy rates in and outside the school are reduced by ensuring access to the schools library. Your act, small as you may think it maybe, will be a guiding light to this beacon of hope.

Ladies and gentlemen;

The IDT is in the business of seeking beacons of hope and inspirations. Where many see *have-nots*, we see *minders of destiny* with enormous assets and capacities. Where many see school buildings we see community assets which can drive development.

This school is testimony to the IDT way. We see social infrastructure not just as the bricks and mortar, but as all the necessary measures,

facilities and networks required by communities to receive, manage and sustain their own development, our intervention has gone beyond the physical. We have spent time planning and implementing the project with the school governing body and community organisations because we know that only strong communities with a voice are able to sustain development. We have paid attention to the school design by harnessing the experience and aspirations of the learners and educators, we know that they are the only carriers of their own destinies and the future of this community.

We have designed the school in the most ergonomically and environmentally friendly manner because we are conscious that our actions today must have a little negative effect to future generations.

In summary this is one of our most environmentally sustainable projects we have been privileged to implement to date. It is therefore our firm belief that this school makes a significant contribution to the community's existing inventory of assets..

Some of these community assets include heritage and culture. We have no doubt that this project facilitated by the University of Stellenbosch will enhance cohesion in the Klapmuts community and is bound to unearth further. The IDT engaged other partners to facilitate the establishment of a communal food garden. This food garden will ensure that learners get healthy and nutritious food in their school kitchen.

It is important to ensure that learners have healthy bodies and minds as this will prepare them for qualitative intellectual engagement. The food garden in the school will also go a long way in providing much needed education in Agriculture for the learners.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Honoured guest;

The surrounding community participated in and benefited extensively from this programme. As I said earlier, for the IDT it is not only about the infrastructure, but it is also about empowerment of various people in the community. Women, youth and people living with disabilities were empowered with various skills which will enable them to gain access to better job opportunities calling for such skills. Some of the community members were trained on construction and related activities, enabling the employment of 40 people in this project.

I am sure the skills that they attained will give them an advantage in getting jobs in other construction projects.

Today marks yet another milestone for the provincial government as well as the learners, educators and parents of Klapmuts Primary School. I wish to congratulate the Klapmuts community and the learners for being the architects of their own destinies.

I wish to specifically mention the contributions of Mr Ronald Frans, the School Principal. We salute you Sir, you have selflessly commitment

your life to improving the life of the African child. We have learnt that through your leadership Klapmuts Primary school have established one of the best orchestras in the country. We have also learnt that you are one of the longest serving teachers in the school. I have also reliably being informed that you taught with the current coach of Amabhokobhoko Mr Peter De Villiers. Amabhokobhoko has made the nation so proud by their performance in the world cup and through you this community has a direct link to our national team.

We also know that the good work in this school is also testimony to the dedication and commitment of the teaching staff in this school. We salute all the teachers in this school for their hard work and putting the children of this community first. You are indeed patriots of this country who are committed to nation building. I trust that as you take ownership of this new building you will be inspired to take your profession to the new level and yield results never before recorded in this Region.

As I conclude I wish to urge the community to continue looking after the school premises and the facilities in the school. I have every confidence that this community will preserve this new asset with which it is been entrusted today with the same diligence that you have taken care of the other many assets in this Klapmuts community.

We also urge all the learners in this school to put an extra effort into their work. You have no excuse for not getting good results. Everything has been provided for you in the school, all you need to do is to do well in

your academic work. You also have opportunities to develop in all aspect of your lives now, that is, academically, socially and culturally. Most of all, adhere to school rules and respect the legitimacy and authority of teachers.

To paraphrase Minister Donald Grant, during the opening of Westlake Primary during August: *“We can only hope that these new classrooms are transformed into hubs of teaching and learning, where learners and educators are safe and secure, and where quality learning is taking place”*.

The IDT is proud to be associated with this milestone the handing over of Klapmuts Primary school to the Department of Education and the community of Klapmuts. We pledge to remain part of this community in the its endeavours to enhance community and human development in Klapmuts

I thank you.