



**HONOURABLE JEFF RADEBE, MP MINISTER OF ENERGY
KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE SCHOOL ENERGY DAY EVENT AND HAND
OVER OF SCHOOL SHOES HELD AT MAKHADO MULTI-PURPOSE
CENTRE, MAKHADO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

16 JANUARY, 2019

Programme Director: Cllr Lindiwe Mogale, Speaker of Makhado
Local Municipality

His Majesty Toni Ramabulana, the King of Vhavenda

Hon Maaria Ishmael Kgetjepe, MEC of Education in Limpopo

Cllr Samuel Munyai, Mayor of Makhado Local Municipality

Cllr Mavhungu Luruli Ramakhanya, Executive Mayor of Vhembe
District Municipality

Councillors,

Mr S Makhanya, Acting CEO of CEF

School Principals,

Educators,

School Governing Bodies

Senior Government officials,

Distinguished learners present,
Energy companies,
State Owned companies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning

It is with a sense of gratitude to all involved in convening this occasion that we meet here today as the 2019 academic year kicks off in earnest. Energy is the engine for economic development of any country including our own country, the Republic of South Africa.

As a country we are investing a lot of resources in the energy sector so that we can generate sufficient energy to meet both our needs and those of export demand opportunities. As many of you would know, President Ramaphosa has set out mobilising a target of over 100 Billion in US dollars as investment in South Africa over the next few years to enable more economic growth and therefore higher levels of employment. As the energy sector we have heeded that call particularly on investment in renewable energy.

As the Department of Energy we have a mandate to ensure that South Africa has sustainable provision of energy to drive our radical socio-economic development agenda. Some of you would know that this radical socio-economic transformation agenda is driven through

the National Development Plan whose vision is to eliminate the trio challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The investments in the energy sector that we are talking about require experts to provide skilled and technical labour. This is what brought us here to talk to you about career and business opportunities in the energy sector. I hope this will contribute in broadening the career scope of the youth of this area from whom, as it is with the youth everywhere in our country, we expect future leaders in the energy sector. Already officials from the Department of Energy and energy entities have spoken to you about opportunities in the energy sector.

The School Energy Day is therefore our programme to enable effective platform to engage young South Africans on career opportunities in the energy sector. Through bursaries, human capital programmes and dissemination of general energy information, it is our resolve that we must empower the youth to take over the reign of leading our country into greater heights than past generations ever did.

South Africa has a shortage of technical skills particularly with regard to engineers, artisans, project managers, environmentalists, technologist and other skills that remain scarce in the economy. That is why my counterpart the Minister of Higher Education Ms Naledi

Pandor has emphasised during this back to school campaign the importance of technical school training such as through TVET colleges.

Our involvement in the education and training of our youth is also guided by the South African National Development Plan which seeks to improve the quality of education, training and innovation by 2030. We are proud to kick start the **2019 Go-Back to School Campaign** in a district that has shown a remarkable and consistent matric results for the 2018 calendar year. This programme will continue in other provinces.

In recognition of the dire financial constraints that learners, particularly in the rural areas are faced with, the Central Energy Fund has further committed itself to roll-out a bursary scheme for the 2019 academic year and beyond. Through this intervention CEF intend to empower learners in these provinces. This bursary scheme will be split into two categories that being the High School bursary and the Tertiary Institution Bursary.

I would like to encourage different stakeholders present here to continue supporting our learners through different interventions so that the class of 2019 improves from those who wrote Grade 12 in 2018 in this region and indeed everywhere in our country. As Government we have committed ourselves to ensure that no learner or student can be excluded from access to education on account of affordability.

We are encouraged by the fact that the National Matric Results increased from 75, 1% in 2017 to 78,2% in 2018. This is effective increase of 3, 1%. Although Limpopo province came last with regards to 2018 matric results, it improved from 67,4% in 2017 to 69,4% in 2018. We are here today to join hands to encourage both this region and the province as a whole to do even much better this year and in the coming years.

Today we are at this jurisdiction of Nzhelele West Circuit of Department of Education which had 241 of learners who qualified to study bachelor degrees in universities. I congratulate all the learners who have successfully completed Matric and will be going for various training programmes. Let me take this opportunity to wish them the best in their career choices.

Some of you are aware of the 4th Industrial Revolution, which according to the World Economic Forum, over 65% of learners entering the school system today will be in jobs that do not exist today. This calls for IT focused career development as this is the new trajectory of global economic development.

I am very pleased to note that Patrick Ramaano Secondary School which is with us today had 101 learners who qualified to study bachelor degrees. The same school had learners who participated in the Department of Energy Learners Focus Week programme last year in Durban. The learners Mr. Rotenda Mantsha and Ms Mutshidzi

Ganyani worked hard and were successful candidates who were awarded bursaries. The two learners are now in Grade 12 and their bursaries are waiting for them next year. This is a successful story from the two learners who come from this Municipality.

Despite financial constraints, as government we will continue to ensure that we invest in the education of our young people. That is why education remains the highest recipient of budget allocation across all departments since 1994 when we attained our political freedom and democracy. This is because we were inspired by both OR Tambo and former President Nelson Mandela who emphasised the importance of investing in the youth by variously declaring that the single most important investment any country can make is the development of its people.

We understand that learners still go through some challenges such as lack of proper school shoes. It is partly for this reason that we are here today to make our contribution by donating 300 pairs of school shoes to needy learners. These shoes will go a long way and give dignity and comfort to our learners.

The Presidential Job Summit which was held in 2018 reflected on the issue of youth unemployment. I urge you to take your studies very seriously so that you carve a career path and ensure that you have technical skills much needed in our economy, now and in the future.

But most importantly, our education system must produce graduates who can create jobs through entrepreneurship rather than seek employment. As government we will continue to support entrepreneurship through agencies such as the NYDA, the National Empowerment Fund and so forth.

The Independent Electoral Commission has given another opportunity for those who are not registered to vote. I would like to encourage those who are not yet registered to vote to visit the voting stations on the 26th and 27th of January 2019. But I must also emphasise that registering to vote can be done even outside those designated days, that is to say everyday.

I thank all our learners, presenters, educators, partners and exhibitors who heeded our call and supported us in making today a success. I also congratulate all of you who received a new pair of school shoes and thank the Central Energy Fund, our partner in the back to school campaign. CEF you have provided dignity and pride to our children.

I thank you all!