

**MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, MR J.L (JABU) MAHLANGU, MPL DURING A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE MS MARGARET SITIBA OF TIKHUNI SECONDARY SCHOOL AT MZINTI, NKOMAZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.**

**Thursday, 05 August 2010**

The Principal of *Tikhuni* Secondary School, Mrs C.S Khoza;

The bereaved family of the late Ms Margaret Sitiba;

Members of the School Governing Body present;

Educators and learners;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

*San'bonani!*

Poet, Edwin Leibfreed's "The Song of the Soul" says:

*For death is but a passing phase of Life;*

*A change of dress, a disrobing;*

*A birth into the unborn again;*

*A commencing where we ended;*

*A starting where we stopped to rest;*

*A crossroad of Eternity;*

*A giving up of something, to possess all things.*

*The end of the unreal, the beginning of the real.*

We converge yet again, for the third time in a space of a month, even though this time, it is not under a jovial mood. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, we converged here at the school, to pay homage to *tat' u*Nelson Mandela, during the celebration of the Nelson Mandela International Day.

Little did we know that we will converge once again under trying circumstances, to mourn the passing away of our beloved educator, *sis Margaret Sitiba*. On July 30, we converged yet again to bid farewell to our grade 12 learners, and since death does not give a notice when it will visit us, we never knew that the next time we meet, we would meet to bid farewell to one of our own.

Today's farewell ceremony is not a pleasant one, since our beloved *sis Margaret* will never return to the school nor our community. However like German writer Bertolt Brecht puts it, we must *not fear death so much, but rather the inadequate life* lived and the inadequate contribution a person has made during her lifetime. I believe that our beloved departed *sis Margaret* never feared death herself, but feared passing-on without making a valuable contribution to her community.

As educators, you provide a selfless essential service which lays a firm foundation for the future of our communities, our province and our country. Your contribution remains priceless and immeasurable, hence we believe that *sis Margaret* departed from this world with a clear conscience – that she has contributed adequately towards shaping the future of the learners of this school. She feared no death because she has contributed immensely in bettering the lives of others, hence when her name was called, she responded without doubt.

As the family of the late *sis Margaret*, her colleagues, learners and friends, we must not mourn her passing-on, but rather celebrate her life, for she has lived her life adequately.

Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, may looking back in memory help comfort you tomorrow. May the positive and invaluable contribution made by the late *sis Margaret* offer you comfort because she has lived her life adequately.

I leave you with the comforting words from an Irish Blessing, which says and I quote:

*“May you see God's light on the path ahead, when the road you walk is dark. May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark. When times are hard, may hardness never turn your heart to stone! May you always remember when the shadows fall – (that) you do not walk alone!”*

To the bereaved family of *sis* Margaret Sitiba, her colleagues and learners at the school, *alwehlanga, olungehlanga!*

On behalf of the Patron of the school, MEC J.L Mahlangu, who had wished to be with you this afternoon, but could not make it due to engagements which were confirmed some time ago, I would like to express our heartfelt condolences on the untimely passing away of *sis* Margaret Sitiba.

*May the soul of your beloved and departed daughter, rest in eternal peace!*

*Siyabonga!*