

## **MEC & MAYOR HANDOVER UNIFORMS TO THE NEEDY**

**MOSHATE:** About 144 pupils from 10 Primary schools in Moshate Village, Mogalakwena Local Municipality received uniforms from Limpopo's Social Development MEC, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale and Mogalakwena Local Municipality Mayor, Malesela Frans Mokwele at Aletuke Day Care.

This is the department's continuous project in which MEC Rakgoale and Mayor's across the province hand over uniforms to vulnerable children. The school uniform donations include school bags/back packs, pack of underwear's and sanitary towels.

In his welcomes address Mayor Mokwele noted that the Province recorded a decline of Matric pass rate. However what gives government hope is that the Province has made an improvement of 29.1% for Bachelors and Diploma passes from 18558 to 18588. The achievement is commendable considering the fact that the education sector had to face this pandemic.

"To the parents I would like to thank you for providing support to government during these difficult times, your contribution and your efforts for the creation of conducive environment for education to thrive is highly appreciated. To educators and administration of the schools we would like to thank you for being brave by facing this pandemic. Your commitment to the education sector is highly appreciated. To the Department of Education in Waterberg District thanks for the administrative support provided to our schools please continue to do a good work," said Mayor Mokwele.

Speaking to the attendees MEC Rakgoale indicated that education is one of the first priorities of the current government, so the department embarks on this venture in support of families that cannot afford to buy school uniforms.

"We learned that our matric pass rate for the Province is 68.1% and that the total pass rate for 2020 in South Africa, is 76.2%. Before we start criticizing, let us imagine for a moment under what extremely challenging circumstances, the class of 2020 had to conclude their matriculation exams. The arrival of the global pandemic of COVID-19 in March of 2020, severely disrupted our way of life and everything we knew and were sure of," said MEC Rakgoale.

"I am extremely proud of what our children have achieved under the most abnormal circumstances we have experienced in this country. The handing over of the school uniform happens in the month of February - a month that marks 30 years after the release of the freedom fighter and ANC stalwart Tata Nelson Mandela. The former statesman had a very special space in his heart for children, hence he once said and I quote: "Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation. They will be the leaders of our country, the creators of our national wealth who care for and protect our people," added MEC Rakgoale.

The programme this year is targeting 1372 learners provincially. Social workers conducted assessments on identified children who are orphaned and vulnerable in the five districts of the Province.

This year, the department's intervention comes in handy as a majority of families have taken a further knock due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy.

A parent whose children were given school uniforms said, "I really appreciate this. We do not have the money to buy school uniforms. My kids will from today on look beautiful when they go to school. We really appreciate this gesture by our leaders who are deployed by the ruling party, African National Congress.