



**ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MOGALE CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
CLLR DANNY THUPANE AT THE HARMONY GOLD MINE & GDE-GAUTENG WEST
DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL SHOES, SOLAR BACKPACKS AND SANITARY TOWELS
AT MASHUDU PRIMARY SCHOOL, RIETVALLEI ON THE 9th MAY 2023**

Thank you Programme Director,
Acting Director of the Gauteng West District Dept of Education,
Mr Vusumzi Rajuile and your team,
The principal and staff,
Honourable councillors here present,
Leaders of society across various sectors,
People of Mogale City,

The Government of Local Unity in Mogale City wants to extend a hand of appreciation to Harmony for this generous gesture of distributing essentials to needy learners in our city.

Firstly, we get encouraged when business joins forces with government in tackling the challenges that our people face on a daily basis. It always touches us when business looks beyond profit to tackle socio-economic aspects of the lives it sells its goods and services to. Indeed, many of the challenges that face the people of our country in general, and our city in particular, cannot be resolved by government alone. A partnership of this nature will go a long way in helping us alleviate the plight of the people of our city.

The fact that you have also chosen to focus on the girl child is also commendable. We cannot overemphasize the need to protect our girl child especially at this stage of their growth. It is when they are trying to understand their bodies that they become vulnerable and are soon tricked into things they are not ready for. We all know the alarming numbers of teenage pregnancies; the loss of valuable time when teenagers have to leave school to tend to the demands of raising babies.

We celebrate those young girls who are able to return to the schooling system after giving birth and completing their studies. Many fall by the wayside, embarrassed to come back to study with children younger than they are. We all know how that limits their ability to take advantage of opportunities that may arise along the way because of lack of education. It is for these reasons that many turn to drugs, prostitution, and other vices.

We therefore want to say to Harmony, your efforts are commendable. You have also identified load shedding as one of the drawbacks to effective learning and came up with solutions. The whole country is reeling from loadshedding, and we cannot wait for it to be resolved at national level. Harmony shows that there are no limits to creativity and drive. Harmony also shows how we should remain resilient even during the darkest of our days. Program Director, the pun is intended.



We can only hope that there will be more companies that can match Harmony's gesture and help. There is no doubt that the need for these essentials will always be greater than the supply.



Lastly, it is our wish that the children we see and attach value to these gifts. We pray that these gifts do not make them feel that their destiny is to be perpetual beggars. They should understand that this is just a passing phase. With determination, they will be able to achieve more in future.

With these few words, we want to say thank you to all those who made this a success and may God continue to bless the hand that gives!

