



**WELCOMING ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MOGALE CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, CLLR DANNY THUPANE AT THE LAUNCH OF THE MATHS, SCIENCE & ICT SCHOOL OF SPECIALISATION AT MANDISA SHICEKA SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL ON THE 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023**

Thank you Programme Director,

MEC for Education and Youth Development, Matome Chiloane,

Heads of government departments represented here, including the Acting Director of GED Gauteng West Mr Vusumzi Rajuile and your team,

The principal, staff of Mandisa Shiceka and members of the SGB,

Honourable councillors here present,

Leaders of society across various sectors,

People of Mogale City,

The Government of Local Unity in Mogale City wishes to express gratitude to the MEC for extending an invite to us on a day that we will witness a great milestone in the Golden Province.

We are humbled because this is a first for our city and region. Indeed, in the words of those who believe, We Are The Chosen Ones.

MEC, you will know that this is the City of Human Origin. It is where life for all humanity in the world began. We want to keep encouraging our schools to visit the Cradle of Humankind and to learn about human evolution. There is a lot to discover.

In that area, those who care to know will learn that there is an old mine called the Kromdraai Gold Mine. It is one of the oldest gold mines in South Africa. What is unique about it is that gold was discovered there in 1881.

Let us take the point further. In Johannesburg, gold was discovered in 1886 – which was five years later than our mine in Kromdraai. The difference is: Johannesburg had the largest gold deposits than we would have in the West Rand. But the truth of the matter is that we were the first!

So, we are not only a place where all of humanity traces her origins, but we are also the cradle of South Africa's wealth and prosperity. Gold led to the greatest economic explosion and industrial revolution on the African continent. Gold also became the bedrock of one of the most discriminatory, exploitative, and oppressive systems in the world next to Hitler's Nazism – the apartheid system.



Today it is reported that mining contributes about four hundred and ninety seven billion rands to the Gross Domestic Product or 7.53% to the economy. South Africa exports about eight hundred and seventy-eight billion rands' worth of minerals in a year.

MEC, this initiative is long overdue. If the West Rand had started in 1881 to ensure that it creates centres of mining excellence, our story could have turned out differently. We could have been leaders in this sector. In fact, we could have also established a university in our area ahead of Wits University.

History tells us that Wits started as a School of Mining in Kimberley around 1896 after the discovery of diamonds and was transferred to Johannesburg in 1904 and it was then called the Transvaal Technical Institute. As they say, the rest is history!

We cannot lament too much, MEC. That time has passed. Our country will still produce a lot of minerals for the foreseeable future. All that is required are the requisite skills to meet the changing needs of the mining industry. Mining is not as it was fifty years ago or even fifteen years ago; it requires innovation so that mining companies can realise profits.

Therefore, the Golden Province takes the teachings of our forefathers to heart when we say, "*Lore lo ojwa lo sale metsi!*" It is better to prepare our children at an early age in order to be able to tackle the challenges of the future. Mandisa Shiceka is the place where our children will be taught to respect themselves and others, their country, and its mineral endowments so that they can with skills, humility and courage guard all of that jealously into the future. The future is after all theirs.

We in the Government of Local Unity want to appreciate this noble effort and vision. We encourage our learners to make use of this opportunity. For as long as Africa remains so rich, Africans must take charge of her riches and Africans must never in the future let their riches be produced by many and benefit a few. We can only do that when we have the required skills. This is only the beginning and we hope for more.

With these few words, I wish to welcome you to the City of Human Origin with the oldest mine and the first School of Mining Specialisation in the Basic Education Phase.

I THANK YOU!