

Speech by Acting KZN Education MEC Neliswa Nkonyeni on the occasion of the passing of the Torch of Peace at Mafu High School at Bergville

30 January 2008

Programme Director, Dr Cassius Lubisi
Honourable MEC for Education in Guateng, Colleague, Dadewethu
Mrs Angie Motshega –Viva Mbokodo!
Amakhosi kanye neziNduna
Amakhansela
Representatives from the South African Police Services
Abahloli
Thishanhloko kanye nabafundi
Malunga omphakathi ahloniphikile
All protocol observed

As the Province of KwaZulu Natal, a place that really long and care for peace, we wish to accept this Torch of Peace by quoting from the **Peace on Earth Movement** that declares:

'Peace on earth will not come in a magical moment.

Peace is a process and a way of life.

It is a frame of mind, and it begins with each of us -- how

we live our lives --how we act, the way we treat our families, our friends and our neighbours, and how we work out our problems'

Ungqongqoshe wezeMfundo kuzwelonke u Minister Naledi Pandor ugcizelele ukuthi lomkhankaso walonyaka ka 2008 usingathwe ngaphansi kwesihloko esithi: '*EDUCATION LIGHTING THE TORCH TO CREATE SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS.*'

Abafundi bethu kuhle bazi namhlanje ukuthi ukubaswa kanye nokudluliswa kwale **Peace Torch** kwaqala ngonyaka ka 1996 nanokuthi manje sekuphenduke kwaba isigameko esenzeka emazweni amaningi omhlaba, kuhanjwa kuqgugquzelelwa uxolo, uthando kanye nokuthula.

Ngomhlaka February 6 leli Torch kulindeleke ukuthi silidlulisele esifundeni sase Western Cape ku MEC **Cameroon Dugmore**, nalapho kuzobe kubhekwa izigameko zodlame ezikhungweni zemfundo.

Thina ke njengabahlali balesifunda siyazazi izimanga; imikhuba kanye nenhlupheko esibe nayo ngesikhathi lendawo yethu igubezelwe izigameko zodlame. Le Peace Torch ibaluleke kakhulu kithina ukuze abantwana bethu kanye nezizukulwane zizokhula zazi ukuthi udlame lwanoma uluphi uhlobo alusafuneki.

Kulezwe lethu njalo ngasekupheleni konyaka siqalisa umkhankaso owaziwa ngelokuthi **Campaign for Non-Violence Against Women, Children and the Disabled** lapho sithi khona: PHANSI NGAMABHOKLOLO EMAKHAYA!

Namhlanje njengoba sisaxwayisa ngezinhlobo ezahlukene zodlame sithi nansi iTorch of Peace esihlose ngayo ukukhanyisa izindawo ezike zasibekelwa ifu elimnyama.

Loku asikwenzi ngoba sifuna ukuvusa amagxeba asepholile kodwa kusiyidingo sokuthi sikwazi ukubuyisa amalunga omphakathi kanye nemindeni eyahlukumezeka ngalomshophi owenzeka kulesikole i **Mafu High School** kulonyaka odlulile; izingane zilimazana kuphuma umphefumulo.

Ziningi izigameko ezenzekayo ezingamukeleki ezenzeka ezikoleni kanye nakwezinye izikhungo zomphakathi njengezibhedlela kanye nasemasontweni. Okunqamile nokufanele sikhuleme ngakho ukuthi lezigameko zenziwa abantu abahlala kuyo lemiphakathi ehlukumezekayo; *in most cases the perpetrators come from the very communities they are targeting.*

Ngikhuluma nje, ekuqaleni kwalelisonto, izingane zabafana ezintathu, e **Port Shepstone High Court** zigwethshwe uxhaxha lweminyaka ngokudlwengula amavolontiya ebesuka emazweni aseNtshonalanga ne Africa nabezoletha usizo kuzintandane kanye nama Hospice asezindaweni zabantu. Nazo lezingane bezizoluthola lolusizo!

Kanti ke ngolwesiBili kwenye i High School yaKwaMashu kufike izigelekeqe ezintathu zasabisa aboThisha kanye nabafundi zibabamba inkunzi. Namhlanje sekutholakele ukuthi esinye salemigulukudu besifunda khona kule High School.

Our visit with MEC Motsega today must serve as a reminder to all that Public Schools should

- be free of violence which means no one is allowed to carry or store dangerous weapons or objects in school premises
- be alcohol and drug free zones which means that no one is allowed to enter the school premises in possession of or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- be institutions where no one is allowed to cause disturbance, behave violently, directly or indirectly harm another person.

We appeal to both the learners and the community at large to work with us as we break the shackles of Apartheid. Please work with us to ensure that safe and secure education is accessible to all especially the poor.

The consequences of unsafe schools have not been recorded to date but we all know that in threatening environment teachers opt for redeployment and move.

We also know that criminal and violent behaviour leaves the school community traumatised and that whatever assistance the Department gives is only on a short- term basis and limited to those incidents that get reported.

In unsafe schools, teaching and learning is negatively affected.

As a members of the community let us ensure that every school has a School Safety Committee.

As a Department we are working to ensure that schools in high risk areas are fenced and that those in **Quintiles 1 & 2** are being provided with security guards.

In the Life Orientation curriculum we want topics on life–skills that deal with conflict and anger management to be emphasised.

Our Educators are now being trained as lay counsellors

We have also developed an inter–departmental strategy which involves, Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Municipalities, SAPS and Business Against Crime as a means to promote safe and friendly schools.

As a Province we are taking this matter very serious hence the Department of Education has organised to have a School Safety Summit from 28–29 February.

Today here at Mafu High we want to stress that school safety is everybody’s business.

By accepting and lighting this Torch of Peace we all need to commit to being instruments of peace in our communities and in our schools.

We are saying, let this Torch of Peace function to light up those areas over which a dark cloud fell in the past.

To all of you present at Mafu High School, we are not here to open old wounds but to commensurate with the family, friends and the community of the student who passed away last year.

Let us also make an undertaking to MEC Angie Motshega that we will until February 6 when we pass this Torch over to Western Cape, circulate it to other school that have or are experiencing incidents of violence.

We cannot leave the podium without asking all of you to assist in creating an AIDS free generation. This as we know may only be accomplished if we **ABSTAIN, BECOME FAITHFUL TO OUR PARTNERS WHO ARE FAITHFUL TO US AND BY CONDOMISING.**

We wish you a productive year in your studies.

Lastly I hope I am speaking for all of us if I say we commit to abide by the aspirations and desires of the **Peace on Earth Movement** as they pronounced:

‘The remnants of hatred, resentment, jealousy and bitterness must be cleared before the planet can evolve to the realm of global peace!’

I thank you!