



Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Official Handover of a Mobile Science Laboratory on the 05th November 2010, in Sebokeng in Sedibeng

Programme Director Mr Jimmy Sithole, Deputy Chief Education Specialist, Policy and Planning;

Deputy Minister Mr Derek Hannekom: Department of Science and Technology;

Director, Mr Jerry Bhagaloo, of Gauteng Department of Education D8;

Mr Funani Mojono General Manager: ArcelorMittal, Coke and Chemicals;

Ms Maggie Mopedi: Corporate Responsibility Manager: ArcelorMittal;

Mr Thami Mphokela: Science Centre Manager;

Principals and Educators here present;

Parents, Guardians and Learners;

Distinguished Guests;

Programme Director, allow me to greet this august occasion to pass our regards to our benefactor, ArcelorMittal on this grand gesture. We have said it many times and will not stop to say that, "The continued growth and

development of **ArcelorMittal** and the **Steel industry** in our **Region**, is inextricably bound to the continued growth and development of **Sedibeng**". It is this essential twinning like Siamese twins that will see the mutual growth of all of us.

We have long been groaning uncomfortably at the prospect of our students and schools in the **Region** not having facilities such as libraries and laboratories. I know the pain of having to undergo learning in chemistry without a laboratory.

I was only able to see or enter a laboratory only at tertiary level. This was so fascinating that I had no choice but to complete my chemical engineering studies.

I can only but marvel at the prospect of township students, who upon being let loose in this laboratory will be charmed for life into the sciences in the manner that I was.

Earlier this year, we had the occasion to launch the campaign of **Making Schools Work** on the **22nd January**, I am sure that the schools are now working as planned, by that I mean all the schools in the **District**.

My conviction stems out of the fact that unlike last year, when the students in the area made headlines for all the wrong reasons. When

there were videos of them engaging in unsavory acts in public places, this year we did not have any such incidents.

Programme Director, fast on the heels of the launch of that campaign in **January**, in fact three days later, we met again at this very hall on a wet Sunday morning, on the **26th of January** to do an analysis of the **Matriculation Results** for the entire **District**.

I remember looking at you and to you in pride, as the **Department**, taking the blame for the bad results and failure of students and learners who were engaged in all funny activities, save for learning.

Programme Director, I remember vividly how you pledged to do better this year in the face of serious onslaught by various stakeholders. Your courage in the face of adversity left a lasting impression on me.

It is for that reason therefore when I was invited to attend today at this august occasion, I did not hesitate. I believe that this gift from **ArcelorMittal** will go a long way in making that pledge a reality.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to welcome the **Deputy Minister of the Department of Science and Technology Mr Derek Hanekom** to this occasion. I welcome the officials from the **Department of Education** and

the representatives of ArcelorMittal to this historical occasion. With the powers vested in me, I declare this **Handover** officially open.

I Thank You.