



**Address Cllr Ntombifuthi Maluleka on the occasion of  
the Launch of the Digital Classroom at JL Dube High  
School in KwaMashu**

**11 October 2016 – 10h00  
Dr JL Dube High School**

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- Programme Director,
  - Fellow Councillors,
  - KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education HOD, Dr Nzama,
  - Executive Head of the Vodacom Corporative Social Investment Projects, Mr Mtobeli Thengimfene,
  - Principal of Dr JL Dube High School,
  - Representatives of Vodacom South Africa,
  - Members of the School Management Team,
  - Members of the School Governing Body,
  - Stakeholders and partners,
  - Speakers in different topics,
  - Educators and learners,
  - Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
  - Ladies and gentlemen,
  - All protocol observed,

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great joy and indeed an honour to be part of this digital revolution as we launch a digital classroom, here at the Dr JL Dube High School.

*Sanibonani nonke! SinguMkhandlu weTheku sithi Halala Dr JL Dube High School, Halala!*

I have been informed that this exciting initiative is a result of a public-private partnership between our government and Vodacom South Africa.

We commend Vodacom for being a responsible corporate citizen by investing some of their resources in community development. Your intervention at this school is more meaningful because a school is here where we build and shape tomorrow's leaders.

Our beautiful country of South Africa is a much better place than it was before 1994. Our democracy has resulted in political freedom which gives all citizens an equal right to choose their government. However, 22 years after the attainment of freedom, it is ever more important to use education to build capacity in all sectors of our economy. Education is one of the ways we can ensure economic liberation.

Infrastructural upgrades, curriculum changes and other interventions have been made to improve the education system. But we cannot depend on government alone. The

private sector, parents and community structures all have a role to play.

That is why we value this partnership because it assists with the transformation of the education sector. I can assure you that because of this initiative, learning and teaching here at the Dr JL Dube High School will never be the same again. Learners will be able to conduct research on the internet, prepare electronic presentations and reports as well as set up emails. All these elements are very important because they develop the skills needed by the knowledge economy.

Programme Director; the transformation of our education system into the 21st century learning environments will provide our learners with the skills they need to succeed in today's information age economy.

This century has seen a number of technological developments which affect almost every aspect of our lives. At the core of this is the ever-growing use of Information Communications Technology in all realms of life, from the workplace to the sports field, in schools and on a personal or social level.

The benefits of Information and Communications Technology in education have been researched and articulated. Research conducted by Africa Institute of South Africa in 2012 placed emphasis on the integration of ICT into the curriculum of learners, noting that this is immensely beneficial to the learners.

The research further states that ICT learning and teaching methods will bridge the digital divide between previously disadvantaged schools and schools that are well-off.

Therefore, we must enhance digital education because it can contribute to overcoming challenges of improving the efficiency and productivity of both learning and teaching in our schools. Bridging the digital divide also means children from disadvantaged schools will be able to access the same information that is available to developed schools.

Furthermore, learners who continue to use ICT in doing their assignments and projects begin to cultivate a culture of personal information management, independent learning and working without supervision, communication skills, teamwork and research skills, which are highly valued in today's global workforce.

In closing, I would like to encourage learners of Dr JL Dube High School to make use of these useful resources to enhance their education.

Once again, our Municipality would like to thank Vodacom South Africa.

We are making inroads in transforming our education system into a paperless and digital system.

**Thank you!**