



## CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

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**A City of Johannesburg Speech by  
Executive Mayor, Cllr Herman Mashaba**

### **Newclare Primary School celebrates 100 years of education**

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Former President Nelson Mandela said that *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"*. These words continue to bear relevance for us today. It is through education that we learn not only to read, write and count, but also to understand and reason daily as we experience our world and those around us.

A quality education is the greatest gift that can be given to a child, empowering them to pursue their dreams and realise their ambitions.

It is for this reason that in 1976, many young people left their homes to protest against an apartheid government that believed that people of colour did not deserve a quality education.

They did this because they knew that education is about more than understanding words and numbers, it is about one's ability to live a life of value. Many of them died for the right to access a quality education. Thanks to their sacrifice, we are able to gather here today.

Thanks to their sacrifice, today a quality, basic education is a constitutional right, and in South Africa, each and every child is entitled one. It is only through education that we can hope to overcome poverty and unemployment, and create a better future for ourselves and those we love and care about.

I know what it is like to struggle. We did not have much growing up, but I knew that education was my way to individual freedom. I worked hard at school and studied in order to achieve my goals. It is through this hard work and dedication that I became the man that I am today.

It is hard work and determination that will allow you, our children, to overcome the hurdles that will keep you from succeeding.

When I campaigned in this community last year, I had the privilege of coming here to join you in a march against drugs and crime. Tragically, drugs and crime destroy far too many lives in our community and our youth are the most affected. We must never accept this and we must do everything as a community to prevent this.

Today, we celebrate 100 years of the existence of Newclare Primary School. The City of Johannesburg is only 130 years old. This means that the history of this school is intertwined with the history of this city. With every year that has gone by, hundreds of children have passed through the halls of this school, offering them the opportunity to change their lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend all the teachers, past and present, here today. Without your commitment and sacrifices, this school would not be what it is today. Not many of you will know, but Mr Eastwood was Councillor Stewart's English teacher when she was at this school. That is true dedication to the community of Newclare.

As the saying goes, *"It takes a village to raise a child"*, and it is your responsibility as parents and adults in the community to encourage children to go to school and do their best.

It does not cost money to instill strong morals in our children and believe in them. Your support and encouragement is vital to our children's development and their journey in reaching their full potential. This is not the role of teachers alone. Let us all take responsibility in ensuring that this generation, and generations to follow, are provided every opportunity to succeed.

Decades from now, another Mayor will be addressing young learners just like you. Some of you will be grandparents and even great-grandparents by then. If you could be there, what would you like to hear them say about you? I am sure you all want to hear about how well you performed, how hard you worked and how much you made a positive difference in your community through your education.

It all starts now, by staying in school, working hard and keeping away from drugs, crime and alcohol. This is how you can honour the sacrifice of your parents and grandparents.

Today I would like to make a commitment to you as the future leaders and captains of industry of the City of Johannesburg. My government will do everything in its power to uplift communities like this one, and to ensure that drug dealers and other criminals meet the full might of the law.

We are committed to cleaning up communities in this City of ours and restoring safety in our communities. We all have a part to play but when we are honest with ourselves, we are doing all this for our children, because they will continue to live on after we are long gone.

The dream of every parent is to see their children achieve more than they have. I share this dream and I will work tirelessly to see it realised for all the residents of Johannesburg.

**Cllr Herman Mashaba**  
**Executive Mayor**  
**City of Joburg**