



Bojanala Platinum District Municipality

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CLLR. DIREMELO!



Cllr. Louis Diremelo,
Executive Mayor of the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality



Cllr. V. Tlhapi,
MMC Gender, HIV/AIDS, Youth & Disability



Cllr. V. Molotsi,
MMC Health & Environmental Services



Cllr. V. Maluleka,
MMC Sports, Arts & Culture

Mothutlung/ Brits – It was a hive of activity on Thursday, November 17 at Neo Mathabe Special School, situated in Mothutlung just outside Brits, as the Executive Mayor of Bojanala District Municipality, Cllr. Louis Diremelo, celebrated his birthday with children living with disabilities - more so as we are approaching the disability month of which will be celebrated in the 3rd of December 2011. The Mayor made use of the opportunity to celebrate his birthday whilst the entire country prepares to celebrate the International Disability Day on the 3rd of December 2011, as well as the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Violence on women and children. The Mayor's important guests included the MMC for Health and Environmental Services, Cllr. V. Molotsi, MMC for Sport, Art and Culture, Cllr. V. Maluleka as well as other guests from the municipality. The party kicked off on an exciting note with a number of learners taking to the floor to dance to the music. Cllr. Diremelo said he was happy to spend his birthday with the children as it gave him an opportunity to interact with them and share some of the challenges that they are facing in their day-to-day lives. He said: "I am very happy today. I am happy because I am able to share my birthday with these children. Do you

know that I have never had a birthday party? I am glad that my first birthday party is with these children." Cllr. Diremelo said that he would each year choose a disadvantaged group within the District where he would spend his birthday as this gives him an opportunity to interact with people that he usually does not get to meet. "We decided to give these children a treat because it is Christmas time and they do not have any formal parties. Every year, we will identify various communities, whether it is disabled children or the elderly. "We will be more creative because we also want to hear about the challenges that they are facing so that we can address them because that is an important part of our service delivery programme. For many of these children, this is the only time that they will get to have a face to face interaction with the mayor," said Cllr Diremelo. The Principal of Neo Mathabe Special School, Ms. Wildah Motsei Lebethe, thanked the mayor and his entourage for choosing to celebrate the birthday with them and added that the development is part of the fruits of a beneficial relationship that the school has established with the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality. "We are very happy that they are here because it really shows that they care about our

welfare. It means a lot to these children and you can see how happy they all are, to be part of this party," she said. Ms. Lebethe said the school – which has a total of 24 children who are all slow learners – overcame a number of challenges since it was established. She said: "The school was started in 1984 and I took over as the principal in 1987. We had a lot of challenges. The enrolment went down because some parents could not afford to give their children transport money to travel here and back. "To make matters worse there were a number of other Special Schools being set up. Eventually, we were able to get a driver from the Department of Education and this helped us a lot. "I am happy that we have continued to benefit from the support of companies like Xstrata, who have also promised to throw a party for these children. We also get donations of bread from Sasko and this ensures that the children never go hungry." Other schools also to benefit include the Kutlwanong School of the Deaf in Phokeng, the Ntshalle le Bane Care Centre in Freedom Park, the Neo Mathabe Special School as well as Kgalagatsane Primary School in Kgetleng.



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