

REMARKS BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, REV. MUSA ZONDI

DLANGEZWA HIGH SCHOOL IT EQUIPMENT HANDOVER

13 MARCH 2026

DLANGEZWA

Programme Director and Dlangezwa High School Principal, Mr. B.V Gumede

Head of Department for EDTEA, Dr. Nkosenye Zulu;

Chairperson of the School Governing Body, Mr. Mafuleka;

Ithala Development Finance Corporation GCEO, Ms. Pearl Bengu;

The leadership of Ithala Development Finance Corporation;

Educators;

Distinguished Guests;

And most importantly, the learners of Dlangezwa High School;

Good morning!

Today is not just another official visit for me. It is deeply personal.

Standing here takes me back many years to the days when I was a learner at this very school.

Dlangezwa High School helped shape the person I am today.

It was here that I learned the value of discipline, hard work, and responsibility.

Like many of you, I was actively involved in school life -

I sang in the school choir, which taught me teamwork and confidence. I also practiced karate and earned a yellow belt. Karate teaches discipline, focus and respect - values that stay with you for life.

Some of my former classmates still remind me of those days.

They tell stories about how strict I was as Head Prefect in 1977, especially with the boys in Room 15!

They say I made sure everyone spoke English and followed the rules.

If you misbehaved, you would be “written in the book” and punished on Monday.

At the time, some of them thought I was too tough. But today they say they understand that it was not about punishment, but it was about building discipline, diligence and commitment.

That same spirit is what I want to see in the learners of Dlangezwa today.

Learners, the world you are growing into is very different from the one we grew up in. Today, knowledge is digital. Opportunities are digital. The global economy is driven by technology, innovation and information.

That is why today’s handover of these computers is so important.

These computers are not just pieces of equipment. They are tools for opportunity. They are tools that can open doors to knowledge, to skills, and to careers that can change your lives and uplift your families and communities.

But technology alone does not create success.

Success comes from discipline, curiosity, and hard work.

Use these tools to learn.

Use them to explore the world.

Use them to prepare yourselves to become the engineers, entrepreneurs, scientists, teachers and leaders that South Africa needs.

As the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environment Affairs, working together with our entities, we remain committed to supporting young people and investing in education.

Programme Director, when we invest in schools, we are investing in the future of our province and our country.

Dlangezwa High School is not just a school to me, but it is part of my story. And today I am proud to return not just as a former learner, but as someone who believes deeply in the potential of the learners who sit in all these classrooms today.

To the educators:

Thank you for the important work you do every day to shape young minds.

To the parents and the community:

Continue supporting these learners so they can reach their full potential.

And to the learners:

Remember that greatness can come from places like this. I am standing here as proof that your beginnings do not determine your destiny - but your commitment does.

Work hard. Stay disciplined. And dream big.

Thank you.