

MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

MEDIA STATEMENT

Monday, 27 March 2017

Attention: News Editors

Speaker gives hope to the 19 year old Gumede

The Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Mrs Blessing Thandi Shongwe together with the Robert Gumede Family Keni Foundation have brought a smile and hope to the 19 year old Sibusiso Gumede and his family. Gumede, a grade 11 learner from Chief Funwako Secondary School at Barberton in Mbombela is one of the best performing students in Mpumalanga Province.

Gumede who was invited by the provincial Speaker to form part of the Junior Guard of Honour during the SONA 2016 could not positively respond to the invitation due to his family socio-economic background.

When the Speaker had then sanctioned the investigation into the matter, it was subsequently found that Gumede is from a family of 16 and were all staying in an RDP house. The Speaker being a caring mother approached the Robert Gumede Family Foundation for assistance. (Not related to Sibusiso Gumede)

The foundation has since committed to fund the education of the young man. The foundation further built an extension room to the relief of Gumede and his entire family, a monthly stipend and a bicycle for Gumede to be able to go to school. Furthermore, the foundation committed to funding the tertiary education for Gumede depending on his matric results performance.

Speaking during the handing over ceremony the Speaker Mrs Shongwe appreciated the Robert Gumede Family Keni Foundation for their generosity in assistance to the young man. She encouraged the learners in attendance to stay away from drugs and alcohol and put more focus on their studies.



Private Bag X 11289

Mbombela 1200

Tel +27 13 766 1219

Fax + 27 13 766 1465

Building No 1, Mpumalanga

Government Complex

Riverside, Mbombela

Mpumalanga Province

www.mpuleg.gov.za

MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

The representative of the Robert Gumedde Family Keni Foundation - Bonginkosi Qwabe presented a written message from the foundation CEO Dr Portia Gumedde.

He said the foundation is committed to the social up-liftment of the people. The foundation also appreciated the Speaker's leadership for her people centered initiatives in uplifting the spirit of the young and struggling people in the Mpumalanga Province. He further said they are proud of Speakers initiatives to usher a better life and tomorrow for fellow South Africans.

He concluded by announcing commitment to provide financial support for Gumedde's tertiary education. This came with a condition though, that Gumedde must pass his matric with flying colours.

As the keys to the newly furnished room were handed over, Qwabe said the intention of the foundation is to give comfort, light and stability to Sibusiso throughout his schooling period.

Ends,

Issued by: Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature
Enquiries: Ms Zamagambu Memela - Gamede
Senior Manager: Communication
Tel: 013 766 1445
Fax: 013 766 1465



Private Bag X 11289

Mbombela 1200

Tel +27 13 766 1219

Fax + 27 13 766 1465

Building No 1, Mpumalanga

Government Complex

Riverside, Mbombela

Mpumalanga Province

www.mpuleg.gov.za
