

Teachers day Speech by Selefo Sabone

Date 07/06/2019

Venue: Nthwalang J.S.S.

Let me begin by recognising the presence of Mongwa rona, Kgosi Kehitlhile Kgwakgwe le Magosi a mangwe a a gone, the representatives from Government Departments, Honourable Councillor, VDC chairperson, and PTA Chairperson from Nthwalang, PTA Chairperson from Digawana, Baruti, Without forgetting the cherished teachers present here. Ke a le dumedisa ka Pula!

I would like to say HAPPY TEACHERS' DAY TO YOU ALL

My name is Selefo Sabone. Born and raised in Digawana.

I read from the Programme that we are at item "Ministerial Speech by PEO I". Well I am not a Minister, neither do I have aspirations to be one, but if this is an indication of things to come, then time will tell..

It is with honour and privilege to have been cordially invited to be among you and in particular to have been requested to speak at this auspicious occasion.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are gathered here today to celebrate Teachers' Day. The day is celebrated on the 1st Friday of June every year. The essence of the day is to recognise the role played by the teachers to pedagogy and human development. It is also intended to emphasise the significance of the teaching and learning, to raise the profile, and increase awareness and understanding of the teaching profession.

I have been made to understand that the word Teachers stands for Thoughtful, Experienced, Ambitious, Committed, Hardworking, Effective, Reflective and Supportive. This I have just learned. *Thuto ga e golelwe.*

The theme for this year's Teachers Day Celebration is A KEY TRANSFORMATION AGENT – I AM A TEACHER – What a befitting theme.

Before I speak to the theme let me pay tribute and thanks to all teachers who have played and who are still playing and who will continue to play this vital role in our lives.

This theme A KEY TRANSFORMATION AGENT – I AM A TEACHER became clearer and clearer to me yesterday as I was wondering about how to package the message for this occasion.

A KEY TRANSFORMATION AGENT – I AM A TEACHER

To understand the theme you have to know that any transformation has to start with the smallest constituent of the matter in question. Then identify the smallest unit of society. The smallest unit of a society is an individual. Where does this individual begin their journey,

yes at home with their parents? Basically learning how to crawl, walk and utter few sensible words and from there they go to school.

You may not all agree with me but most of the language used by children is from school, even pronunciation. If you don't agree with me pick a motswana student who speaks English with a British accent, then go to the parents. You will be surprised that the parents talk in the same setswana accented english that I am subjecting you to today. Where do children get that accent from? They get it from the teachers. That is why

A KEY TRANSFORMATION AGENT – I AM A TEACHER is so much relevant.

KEY in the theme

Why do we send children to school? We send them to school so that they can grow or transform into better citizens. Why not send them somewhere else. There is no other place. Those who try homeschooling only do it for early education and the children end with the teacher hence the word KEY in the theme. There is no other way to unlock the treasure. You need the KEY. Hence the word KEY in today's theme A KEY TRANSFORMATION AGENT – I AM A TEACHER.

A HERO

As a teacher, you are a hero, a role model and a source of knowledge. If you listen to Tumediso ya bana or inola in the RB1 station, when the presenter asks kids what they want to be almost always the majority want to be teachers. You know why? because they want to transform into something better. Hence the theme – A KEY TRANSFORMATION AGENT – I AM A TEACHER.

Teaching as a mother of all professions

It has been said many times that teaching is the mother of all professions; You can simply update this tired cliché by saying 'teaching is the key to all professions'. for somebody to succeed in life he passes through the teacher. So it is the teacher that unlocks the doors to prosperity for anyone. Your teachings affect eternity; your messages goes on and reaches generations. We still receive stories from our grannies about their days in schools. I still tell some of the jokes that were shared by some of my teachers up to this day. So all the teachers in our midst today must feel the theme – A KEY TRANSFORMATION AGENT – I AM A TEACHER

Personal Experience

I usually assist my kids with homework whenever I can, and sometimes I run into trouble because I will be told, 'but Daddy that's not what the teacher says it is should be done'. At this juncture, it is usually clear that the student is concerned that she has been taught and I want to unteach her. I don't know how you handle this, but I switch to a strict parent mode and tell her 'I am always telling you to concentrate in class, it means when this point was taught you were not concentrating fully, so now listen...'. Then sometimes I get the concentration, at times I can see that she is just obeying out of respect. So the children

recognise the teacher as key to their knowledge. Parents are not in that space. That is why today's theme:-

A KEY TRANSFORMATION AGENT – I AM A TEACHER must sound dear to you my learned teachers.

From this analogy, you can see that children expect assistance from Parents, As far as knowledge is concerned they get it from school. They request assistance from parents because the teacher said so.

Parents being transformed

We were discussing the performance of our children with some of my family friends over this past Xmas holidays. There is one story from one of the parents that I feel is relevant today. Her kid once came home and reported that he was spanked by the teacher, the parent didn't like it, so she went to the classroom and confronted the teacher. Not at the staff room but at the classroom with all students in attendance. She then told the teacher to not dare do it again on her child. The wise teacher obliged and apologised. Several days went by and the parent realised her daughter was enjoying TV programmes more and was not presenting homework to be assisted with. She asked the child and she could not get a satisfactory answer and she plucked the courage and went to school to enquire from the teacher. This time she did not go to the staff room but went to the staff room.

The teacher told her that, when I ask your child about her home work. She tells me she has left the books at home. I don't believe her but I am constrained because of the advice that you gave me on the child.

The parent was so touched by this, she went home recollected her thoughts and realised what she was doing to her child. The following day she went to school. This time around she went to the staff room receptionist asked when the teacher will be out from the classroom and requested that an appointment be set for her to see the teacher. She told us she apologised profusely to the teacher. She went on to tell the teacher to punish her kid in whatever way she deems fit as this was in the child's benefit. So the story illustrates the teacher transforming the parent. And this directly talks to the theme – A KEY TRANSFORMATION AGENT – I AM A TEACHER.

Exposure to transformational discussions

As a teacher, you meet students, parents, doctors, lawyers, etc. Your discussion with these professionals from different persuasions is about transforming this child into a better citizen of tomorrow. On many occasions, your discussions veer into other areas of knowledge or current affairs. You also meet your former students and they tell you about what they did after leaving your class and what they are doing now. This exposure makes you powerful because you see what other people are not seeing. It makes you see where the world is going before everyone else notices. This is all because you are a teacher, hence A KEY TRANSFORMATION AGENT – I AM A TEACHER

A teacher today a leader elsewhere tomorrow

You are a teacher today and a leader of change elsewhere tomorrow. Because of your exposure, you are forever at the pulse of the nation. You are the barometer to the most pressing challenges of tomorrow and sometimes you decide, let me stop talking. Let me do it and become a transformational agent. If this does not sound true, remember the cabinet of Sir Seretse Khama, it was filled by the key agents of transformation called teachers.

One of my colleagues once told me that, Seretse's cabinet was filled by teachers because a few Batswana were educated at the time. Okay, today who is the president, what is his background. Who is the Vice President, what is his background? They are teachers demonstrating our theme today which says A KEY TRANSFORMATION AGENT – I AM A TEACHER.

Now the president and his vice are talking about a big transformation. Transforming Botswana from a resource-based economy to a knowledge-based economy. A KEY TRANSFORMATION AGENT – I AM A TEACHER

If there is any teacher who still doubts about his / her relevance and importance as a teacher just remember today's theme A KEY TRANSFORMATION AGENT – I AM A TEACHER

GOD BLESS THE TEACHERS – LET'S HAVE A HAPPY TEACHERS DAY

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