



Many years ago now, the late Dr. Nelson Mandela made bold to say that our country needs an “RDP of the soul”, the Reconstruction and Development Programme of its soul. He made this call as our country, in the aftermath of our liberation in 1994, was immersed in an effort to understand the elements of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

Initially, RDP was eminently about changing the material conditions of the lives of our people. It made no reference to matters of the soul, except indirectly.

### **EDUCATION IS THE CORE ELEMENT FOR THE RDP OF SOUL !!**

For us as a school to make our community enjoy the fruits of the hard-attained democracy, we need to ensure that our learners are subjected to the “RDP of Soul”. This is because the best compliment to a child or a friend is the feeling you give him that he has been set free to make his own inquiries, to come to conclusions that are right for him, whether or not they coincide with your own. This could only be attained through the provision of quality education to all children irrespective of challenges we might come across along the road.

The late Honourable Dr. Nelson Mandela said “... we must, constrained by and yet regardless of the accumulated effect of our historical burdens, seize the time to define for ourselves what we want to make of our shared destiny...” I am confident that these words define in a nutshell the aspirations and passion of Onane Lower and Higher Primary School. One could proudly mention that there is a prima facie evidence that Onane Primary School is the most suitable institution to all parents who are having their children’s education at heart, as we work tirelessly together to realize the core aspiration of our people to attain a better life for all. As the former President of South Africa; His Excellency Mr. Thabo Mbeki once said I “... in our own estimation, it is not often that a nation is called upon to strain every sinew of its collective body to attain a dream. And such is the injunction that history has imposed on us today.” It remains our task and duty to rectify the legacy of the past to harness a better future for our children, our communities and our good selves. "

To do this, we at Onane have committed ourselves to working strenuously and in partnership with others towards achieving the mission of establishing a caring and responsive teaching and learning system which would make this institution unique and outstanding. Our motto of “Ora et Labora” is not an empty slogan. It is our sole belief that only in this way can we move towards a teaching and learning system, which empowers children to reach the ideal promised in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa to ‘free the potential of all our people’.

We are however aware that the road is not as rosy as it ideally looks; nevertheless we still maintain that beyond every mountain there is a level ground. Even if the gale could be strong out there; we should keep on sailing as we cannot postpone the future of the innocent souls which are so dearly in dire need of psychological and intellectual emancipation.

As we sail through this still but dangerous waters called life; we should recall the well-known words with which Charles Dickens opened his novel, A Tale of Two Cities, I quote:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way." This simply gives an indication that we should anticipate fire-fighters and fire-lighter along the way; yet we should remain focused, disciplined, dedicated and goal driven in order to attain the fullest realization of our dreams.

- Sihlangu S.S (Mr.) Deputy Principal