

Media Statement

5 March 2023

The tragic passing of the Free State MEC for Education, Tate Makgoe



Kagiso Trust joins the education sector and the country to mourn the passing of a visionary and a great leader and partner, MEC Tate Makgoe. Dr Makgoe has demonstrated that the dreams of young learners don't have to be put on hold and that it is possible working with partners in education to turn the wheels of progress.

With a strong engineering background, he was uncompromising in his drive for learners to pursue Mathematics and Science. He was a great motivator, tirelessly moving from one school to another encouraging learners to dream big. He famously used to say to the learners, "the conditions you live in now are not your creation, but what you do now in school and what you become after you have been through schooling is your own creation." He was unwavering in his belief that these learners could break the cycle of poverty and change course for themselves, their families, and the country. He was so convinced that it does not matter even if you are from a rural province or a township, you can perform at the highest level, given the requisite support.

Dr Tate Makgoe, used to say if there is a single intervention that stands above all from Kagiso Trust, is the Empowerment Workshops. These workshops, amongst the six (6) components of the KT education models, help the officials, teachers, management, and staff to reconnect and recommit with their calling to serve the learners in South Africa. When we received the sad news of his passing, he was advocating together with Kagiso Trust the adoption of the education intervention model. He was also advocating for rural connectivity to support remote learning and teaching. The issue of technology in teaching and learning was very close to his heart, and truly believed that once the playing field has been levelled between rural and urban learners, the country will see an improvement in education outcomes.

Dr. Makgoe was the anchor of the Kagiso Trust education Programme in the Free State. He has truly changed the course of education in Free State! And was now championing for others to experience the same change. What a truly remarkable leader.

Kagiso Trust would like to pass condolences to the family, friends, the education community in the Free State and nationally.

Rest in peace Champion, Mampodi. "Simply the best."

Mankone Ntsaba
Chairperson

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