

Mrs. Mkhize, Principal,
Mr. Mlambo, School Governing Body Chairman,
Ms. Gough, President of the Pretoria Sunrise Rotary Club,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning.

On behalf of the whole team of the Embassy of the Czech Republic I would like to appreciate all the work done in the preparation of today's ceremony and also for the individual performances. We really enjoyed them, as we always do whenever we come, and they help us to feel closer to you.

As I have already said on different occasions, the Tshegofatsong Special School has developed since our first visit in 2012. The school environment has evolved, most notably after the massive renovation which has been completed recently. I would like to pay a special tribute to Mrs. Mkhize, Principal, but also to all the staff of the Tshegofatsong Special School, for their efforts. We have always admired your determination, dedication and the vision for what you are doing. I sincerely hope that the Czech Republic contributed its modest piece for the benefit of the school. For the second consecutive year the Embassy of the Czech Republic implemented a small development project in the amount of 39.000 rands as a part of the Official Development Co-operation of the Czech Republic. This year we were able to help the Tshegofatsong Special School again with some material and instruments for beadwork, woodwork and sewing and on top of it, to arrange for young adults shelter workshop. We are extremely happy and proud that it was the Czech company, which donated the container. Thanks to money from the Embassy's project it was rebuilt to serve as the workshop. It will not only create further opportunities for learners, but could also generate a modest income.

We do come often to Tshegofatsong and I think I can say that we became true friends. In addition to the development projects I mentioned we engaged in Nelson Mandela Day activities and assisted in the preparation of the school garden. I am happy that our efforts literally start bearing fruits. Or I should rather say vegetables.

In June we organized screening of short cartoon stories about a Little Mole. We were convinced that the children in Tshegofatsong would like him as we, the Czechs, do. And it proved to be true. Not only are they entertaining, the stories are also educative. I promised that we would offer you the DVDs for further use by the school and I am very proud to present them to you now. And also a beautiful Little Mole calendar.

We also regularly invite our friends from Tshegofatsong to join our activities - last October a group of children performed dances at the National Day Reception. Products made by the school were also displayed. Just last week we were jointly present at the Diplomatic Fair at the Union Buildings.

And we do intend to continue our engagement even in the future.

I know that you are retiring, Mrs. Mkhize. On this occasion allow me to present to you a small gift from the Embassy.

Thank you again for this ceremony and also for the good and worthy work that you have been doing in the School. On behalf of the Embassy of the Czech Republic I would like to wish you all the success.