

Speech by the Amb. Blanka Fajkusová
Handing over of the small development project
Tshegofatsong Special School in Mamelodi, 11 September 2015

Mr. Ngobeni, Principal,
Mrs. Mkhize, former Principal,
Ms. Reynders, President of the Pretoria Sunrise Rotary Club,
Mr. Garlick, former President of the Pretoria Sunrise Rotary Club,
Ms. Rachidi, Director for Central Europe, Department of International Relations and Cooperation,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning.

As I said on numerous occasions before, the support of the Czech Embassy for the Tshegofatsong Special School has become almost a tradition since we visited the school for the first time in 2012. The aim of our involvement has always been to care for the special needs of the learners by supporting occupational activities, which will increase their life skills and foster their integration into society.

It is the third consecutive year when the Embassy of the Czech Republic is implementing a small-scale development project in the framework of the Official Development Co-operation of the Czech Republic. The value of this year's project reached almost 100.000 Rands. To carry it out we have engaged with another long-standing partner of Tshegofatsong, with the Pretoria Sunrise Rotary Club. In addition to the provision of two sewing machines, tools, instruments and materials for beadwork and woodwork, the main objective of the project was to provide a borehole and thus get access to water to be used for the irrigation of the school's gardens (and also save money by using the municipality water for this purposes).

I am extremely pleased that thanks to the excellent cooperation with Mr. Perry Garlick on behalf of the Pretoria Sunrise Rotary Club the 101 meters deep well was drilled and will soon give 1,200 litres per hour. And feel honoured to be able to hand over the project to you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My term of duty is coming to an end and in a week's time I will be leaving South Africa for Prague. Today's visit to Tshegofatsong is thus the last one for me. I would like to thank you for your friendship and wish you and the learners of the school all the best for the future.

At the same time, I'm sure that the Embassy will continue its relationship with Tshegofatsong.