



African People's Convention

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SCHOOL PLEDGE DEBATE

by

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Chairperson, Comrades and Honourable Members.

The APC welcomes and support the school pledge. We dare say that anyone opposed to the pledge does so for wholly unpatriotic reasons.

The democratic dispensation has, correctly so, emphasised the rights of individuals and society; it however now needs to be balanced by introducing and stressing responsibilities that go with these rights especially for our young ones.

The future that we want to build; the values that our youth must live by; the shaping of their outlook - these can not be left to chance. If we appreciate the challenges out there,

of poor discipline, truancy; the violence at schools; the drug abuse, dysfunctional families and community life, we certainly do need an intervention that seeks to help our young people focus properly in the best interest of society and their own future.

We need to bring-up youth that is conscious of its responsibilities to society; that is patriotic and lives up to the values of ubuntu.

This is a national cause that requires us to rise above our narrow partisan positions. The APC encourages parents, teachers and us as members to join hands in this national effort to promote and explain the rationale behind the pledge. The introduction of the School Pledge is one of the most important milestones in our dialectical march towards a consolidated nationhood. Responsible citizenry is not just wished for, it is built consciously. The School Pledge is one such effort.

Thanks.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. A. ...', with a small mark to the right.