LERATO AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
A NOTE TO OUR READERS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. The objective was to produce a set of universal goals that meet the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our world. The SDGs represent the greatest international agreement on sustainability of all time. These 17 ambitious goals relate to social development, climate issues and education and will eventually encourage human development and maintain a liveable environment for people all around the world. The SDGs target the root causes of poverty, climate change, and education and food access disparities. Also known as the Global Goals, the SDGs were officially created in 2015 and must be achieved by 2030. They were developed during the United Nations Development Summit (Rio+20) in line with the ending of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were eight goals aimed at ending poverty in the world.
In the land of the free is where Lerato stays. Her country is extremely beautiful, in many different ways.
Breathtaking landscapes, many animals and valuable resources **galore**;

Plus kind people, fun music and no war.

***Galore means a lot of something.***
TREATIES
In school Lerato learns about South Africa and other countries. She learns about the United Nations, and how countries work together to create peace **TREATIES**. The UN works with the Government to make South Africa an even better place, for all people, no matter their gender, religion or race.

***Treaties are agreements.***
One day, Lerato and her class visited the United Nations in Pretoria. The smart children answered tough questions posed to them very quickly.
Hearing more about the UN MOTIVATES Lerato to grow up and change the world. However, she thinks that right now she can’t because she is only a little girl.

***Motivates means to give a reason to do something.***
The UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) tells her, “You can bring about change. There’s a lot of things you can do, a very wide range!”

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
“The United Nations is working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Everyone can help to achieve the SDGs; young or old, no matter their roles.”
“Starting off with getting rid of poverty, we must work to meet basic needs."
Everyone deserves a safe home; this is something we need, **indeed.**

***Indeed means ‘in fact’ or ‘in truth’.***
“Next, we want zero hunger and for all people to have access to food."
**NUTRITIOUS** meals help you to perform well and put you in a good mood.”

***Nutritious means healthy and well-balanced.***
“Everyone has the right to medicine, being able to exercise and good health. Regardless of where you live, your age or your wealth.”
Everyone has the right to medicine, being able to exercise and good health. Regardless of where you live, your age or your wealth.
“It is important to learn how to read and write and how to do math.

All people deserve quality education so that they can succeed on their life path.”
“All boys and girls should be treated **EQUALLY** and given the same opportunities.

***Equally means in the same way.***
We must promote equality and stop **gender-based violence** in all communities.”
“Everyone has the right to clean water and sanitation;”
In the North, South, East and West, all people of the nation.”

***Sanitation means living in a clean and healthy way. It also means the right way to get rid of waste.***
“Instead of using petrol and other resources that can be DEPLETED;”
Sunlight can power things, and its use can be repeated and repeated.”

***Depleted means to be used up.***
“All people should have positive and safe employment;
And the economy should be able to grow positively in the present.”

***Employment is someone’s work and how he or she makes money to support his or her family.***
“Our roads and our bridges should be built to last and be strong.
So that when travelling, all people can be safe and nothing will go wrong."
“Everyone should be treated right and with **EQUALITY**; All people deserve a life of the highest quality.”

*** Equality means that every person is entitled to the same rights and opportunities as the next person.***
“As the Population grows, cities also need to grow in the right way.

They need safe buildings and places for everyone to stay.”

*** Population is the number of people in a certain place. ***
Sustainable Cities and Communities
“We must be responsible when we use things; to this we must commit! You can **RECYCLE**, reuse and reduce to achieve it!”

***Recycle means the process of converting waste materials into reusable objects, e.g. we can reuse plastic bags or make toilet paper out of used paper.***
Responsible Consumption and Production
“Climate change is making South Africa warmer and drier.
Let’s reduce **POLLUTION** to prevent temperatures from getting higher.”

***Pollution is when harmful and poisonous substances are released in the world, into the air, water, oceans, etc.***
“The fish in the ocean need to be protected too.
Preventing overfishing is what we can do.”
“Lions, rhino, and elephants are some animals that live on land.”
Let’s work to stop **POACHING!**

We must take a stand.”

*** Poaching is the illegal hunting or stealing of game or wild animals without the owner’s permission. ***
“We must strive for peace, justice and strong INSTITUTIONS.
To ensure that all people are protected and treated fairly, we must find solutions!

***Institutions are organisations, establishments, foundations, societies, etc.***
“Finally, all countries, companies and people must work together to make the world for all its **inhabitants** much better.”

***Inhabitants are people or animals that live in a certain place.***
The UNRC smiled after sharing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with all the children.

Lerato was so happy to learn that the SDGs are something she can take part in.
That night, Lerato hurried home to spend time with her family.

She told them about her visit to the UN House very happily.

Lerato said, “Let’s put our heads together! Everyone! You and me!”
“BECAUSE TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE THE SDGS.”