

**OPENING ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO,  
AMBASSADOR CHUPU STANLEY MATHABATHA ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE LIMPOPO INVESTMENT  
CONFERENCE 2021 HELD AT THE RANCH HOTEL,  
POLOKWANE.**

01 September 2021

Programme Facilitator, Honourable MEC Thabo Mokone;

Our keynote speaker, His Excellency, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa;

Our Minister for Trade, Industry & Competition, Hon Ebrahim Patel;

Our MECs, Executive Mayor's and Mayor's of our Municipalities;

Chairperson of the Limpopo Economic Development Agency;

Representatives from the BRICS Business Council;

Esteemed men and women of the business community;

Friends from the Media;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

## **Good morning! Avuxeni! Ndi Matsheloni! Goeiemore!**

Let me start by joining our Program Facilitator in welcoming all of you to this edition of the Limpopo Investment Conference.

We welcome you with deep appreciation of your presence in this conference.

Indeed, this conference is a historic meeting between ourselves as government and our valued partners in the private sector.

The majority of our people who are not physically part of this conference are with us in spirit and yearnings.

They are hopeful, as we are, that this conference will be a resounding success.

They know, as we do, that the success of this conference will reflect in the socio-economic fortunes of our province and our country as a whole.

Our people believe in solidarity and partnerships, and that's exactly the spirit that drives our government.

We believe that it is through working together as government and the private sector that we can;

- Explore the fullest potential of our rich and diverse mineral deposits;
- Realise the full potential of our impressive tourism industry, and
- Exploit the great potential of our agricultural sector.

## **Programme Director**

As Limpopo, we have adopted the Provincial Economic Recovery Plan, which is our localized version of the National Reconstruction and Economic Recovery Plan.

The Economic Recovery Plan, implemented together with the Provincial Development Plan, are geared towards strengthening our response following the devastation caused by Covid-19.

We are presenting these plans to this conference because, it is our view that government alone cannot eradicate all the economic challenges facing our people.

It is our firm belief that, government working together with private sector, should intensify its investment drive in order to safeguard the lives and the livelihoods of our people.

## **Programme Director**

We are therefore, presenting the implementation of one of the most strategic flag-ship economic development project, known as the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone.

Through this initiative, we hope to stimulate economic growth, create the much-needed employment opportunities and reduce the ballooning gap of inequality.

We have thus invited you to this session in order to provide a platform for you as our esteemed potential investors, to identify opportunities in the Musina-Makhado SEZ.

I can confirm that the opportunities in the Musina-Makhado SEZ project are in abundance.

These opportunities ranges from manufacturing, agro-processing, automotive, steel, pharmaceutical, logistics, so-on-and-so-forth.

We are implementing this project with the visible support of our National Government.

I speak without a fear of being contradicted when I say that our president, and his cabinet are fully behind this project.

As the Provincial Government, we have placed the Musina-Makhado SEZ project as our apex priority.

We therefore, continue to invite investors to partner with us in making this project a resounding success it is destined to be.

### **Programme Director**

To put concrete expression towards our resolve that, mining, agriculture and tourism are our provincial three key economic focus area, we now take a look at tourism.

We do this because, we pride ourselves with the most vibrant and colourful tourism industry.

As a matter of fact, tourism is one of our major competitive advantages in the province.

Our province is endowed with abundant natural resources, including 54 provincial reserves and countless private game reserves.

The latest available data indicates that Limpopo is the second most popular destination for international arrivals.

With regard to domestic tourism, our province still leads the pack as number one.

Hence we are confident that investors will be pleased to explore the tourism sector, and leverage opportunities that are available.

We are saying that our tourism sector is alive with possibilities.

### **Programme Director**

As we journey together to eradicate the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality, we call upon investors to explore our mining sector.

Our province is the richest when it comes to mineral deposits. Our province has an abundance of minerals such as platinum, chrome, coal and diamond.

We therefore require partnerships and collaborations with private investors to take full advantage of these mostly untapped mineral deposits.

Because there is so much wealth buried beneath our soil, we are saying equally, there is indeed so much for us to share.

We can achieve this and more through working together. We indeed, need to work together to realize the full potential of our mineral wealth.

**Fellow South Africans**

As I draw towards conclusion, please allow me to raise our satisfaction towards progress we are making as Limpopo with regard to Covid-19 vaccination drive.

As the province, we are proud that we have surpassed the 1 million Covid-19 vaccination mark.

Working together with our social partners, we are working very hard towards achieving our 3 million plus vaccination figure, which is our herd immunity.

We continue to call upon all our people to continue adhering to all the Covid-19 regulations, because this virus is still alive and dangerous.

Programme Director

Please allow to conclude by fulfilling my second important task to this conference.

And therefore, I feel very much honoured and privileged to present the keynote speaker to this conference. He does not need any lengthy introductions.

The President of the Republic of South Africa. His Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, it is now time to address the Limpopo Investment Conference.

Mr President.

**I thank you! Ndolivhuwa! Inkomu! Kea Leboga! Baie Dankie!!**