

NOTES FOR LIMPOPO PREMIER CHUPU MATHABATHA DURING THE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT LAUNCH IN POLOKWANE, JACK BOTES HALL, 18 FEBRUARY 2020.

Programme Director,
MECs present here,
Executive Mayor of the Capricorn District, John Mpe,
The Polokwane City, Executive Mayor, Thembisa Nkadimeng,
The Director General of the Province,
The Sponsors and Esteemed guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Programme Director,

I wish to first thank the warm welcome extended to us by the Executive Mayor of this city of the Stars, Polokwane. Indeed we are now feeling like stars today.

Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, during the 2017 State of the Province (SOPA) address, we mandated the Limpopo Youth Development Directorate in the Office of the Premier to respond effectively and positively to the challenges facing the youth of this Province.

The mandate given to them, amongst others, included developing a Limpopo Youth Development Strategy, premised on the values, ethos, objectives and goals as set out in the National Youth Policy of 2015 to 2020.

Indeed in 2018 a Youth Summit attended by all Youth formation from across the province was held here in Polokwane. The Summit produced a blue print document based on the discussions and agreement by youth delegations. That document became an over arching Youth Strategy that was also adopted by the Executive Council of the Province. The Youth Development Strategy as it stands today, segments the different youth cohorts into three groups, namely;

Those transitioning out of school, aged between the ages of 14-19;
Those attempting to transit into employment, aged between 20-29, and,
Those hoping to become fully adults, independent and productive and aged between 30-35.
This segmentation has indeed assisted us a lot in understanding who and what we are dealing with. At the end to be able to talk relevant messages and actions to our youth in general.

Programme Director,

A year ago, our office with the cooperation and support of municipalities coordinated a Province wide collection of profiles and CVs from the youth for the purpose of developing the Provincial Unemployed Youth Digital Database.

This was a ground breaking initiative ever produced by this province. Subsequently, an extensive and inclusive drive was also undertaken throughout the province. This was also coordinated with the full participation of all municipalities in the province, to ensure that all youth are able to submit their profiles and CvS. These were collated in our youth directorate and in different municipalities across the province.

It is therefore my honour and privilege that I announce here that the initiative managed to collect over 59 000 profiles and CVs from the youth of this province. All these were digitally converted with the support and assistance of the Limpopo development Agency (LEDA) via the services of LULLAWAY. It is by no means an exhausted list so far, as you would notice that some of the young people might have come here with their CVs and profiles to also get included in the process.

This digital database, ladies and gentlemen, was created in order to serve as a skills reservoir for the Provincial Government in an endeavour to link our youth with empowerment initiatives. This also goes to skills training such as those envisaged for the Musina-Makhado SEZ (Special Economic Zone).

I will talk in more detail about these initiatives when I present my State of the Province address (SOPA) next week here in this same platform.

Programme Director,

As part of its of its mandate to lobby for the youth empowerment and development, the Office of the Premier has engaged with MSC College, as you might have heard earlier, so as to equip our youth with adequate and requisite skills which will maximise their chances of either getting employment or becoming entrepreneurs in the ICT and other career paths.

As we promised when we collected their CVs and profiles, we can now proudly say that 300 youth from across the province have been offered a 12 months leaner ship by MICSETA, a program sponsored and run by GIJIMA and implemented by the MSC college in Polokwane.

Programme Director,

I wish therefore to say that this Skills development programme launch is an emphatic expression of the Provincial Government's commitment to realise the strategic objective of the Youth development Strategy.

The program also seeks to address the job shortage that our rural province have shed in the past labour quarters as I alluded earlier in my address.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the several partners, especially the MSC College in Polokwane, and those within the ICT world like GIJIMA and others for believing and partnering with us when we called them.

I also wish to make a clarion call to all others within the training world like universities to please come join us and tap in the data base that we have created so that our youth can be empowered for the future world of the 4th Industrial revolution.

From here, there is no turning back, Limpopo will never be the same again. Let us move together. Our youth is our future.

I thank you.