

ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, AMBASSADOR CHUPU
MATHABATHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOD TURNING CEREMONY
MARKING THE CONSTRUCTION OF NKUNA CITY.

07 OCTOBER 2021

Programme Director;
Our host, the Executive Chairman of Masingita Group, Dr Mike Nkuna;
Our MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Ntate Thabo Mokone;
Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Nenguda;
Mayor of Collins Chabane, Cllr Moses Maluleke,
Our Esteemed Traditional Leaders present here today,
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you Mr Chairman, Mike Nkuna and the directors of Masingita Group of Companies, for your generous invitation to this sod-turning ceremony.

As government we view today's ceremony not as just a sod-turning event, but a seed planting ceremony.

We are here to plant a fertile seed of socio-economic development.
We are here as government to commit that we will be working with role-players to ensure that this seed is watered and nurtured to its full potential.
At its fullest potential, the seed we are planting today will bear the fruits of socio-economic development and prosperity.

This socio-economic prosperity will be evidenced by the creation of jobs, the reduction of poverty and the improvement in the quality of living for our people.
The work we are witnessing today is much in line with our government's developmental agenda.

As Premier of our beautiful Limpopo, I am particularly excited about any development that takes place in those areas that have been previously marginalised.

When we went to the previous national general election, the ruling party echoed that together we can build the South Africa we want.
We customised it to say that together we can build the Limpopo we want.

Today's ceremony builds on such progressive developments which have taken place in our province since the previous election.
Last week Minister Gwede Mantashe addressed the Mining Conference which we hosted as Limpopo.

The focus areas for that conference included issues such as, the current and future investment climate for junior and emerging miners. The conference also dealt with issues around investment limitations that exist in Limpopo and other parts of the country.

The engagements also highlighted the unique provincial minerals and mining offering of the province.

Preceding the Mining Conference was the hosting of the Musina-Makhado SEZ Smart City Development Symposium and the Provincial Investment Conference we hosted at the beginning of September.

These events, including today's ceremony breathe life into our commitment of building the Limpopo we want.

At the core of this ideal, is our collective commitment to drive our people out of the dehumanising web of poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment. Experience has proved that this is a herculean task that requires innovation and partnership.

It is for this reason that as government, we see corporate entities such as Masingita Group of Companies as a reliable and valued partners for socio-economic development.

As we go into the forthcoming local government elections, the ruling party is presenting a commitment to fast-track rural development.

It is in this area of rural development that we expect a continued partnership with corporate citizens such as Masingita Group, led by visionaries such as Dr Nkuna. The ruling party is going into this election with a commitment to ensure that all levels of government work to grow the economy, increase jobs and reduce poverty, especially the poverty amongst young people. In this way, we will make democracy meaningful for the majority of our people. Democracy is indeed about taking services to the people.

Democracy is about building schools, building clinics, building roads such as this one; so-forth-and-so-on.

Everywhere you go in this province, you will see democracy in action; you will see our people harvesting fruits from the tree of democracy. We have build RDP houses, we have electrified households, we have provided clean drinking water, and we are providing our children with quality and accessible education.

I am saying this because there are those who conveniently lose their sight, and can no longer see, simply because it is an election season.

Suddenly, these people can no longer see all these good things that the ANC government is doing.

But we should not focus on those who refuse to see. We have a greater task ahead of us – our task is the mandate to change lives.

Our mandate is the mandate to build better communities, this is the mandate we are committed never to betray.

As we go to this elections, we do so with the knowledge that municipalities are important vehicles to drive economic development.

It is for this reason that we have adopted an attitude to strengthen the capacity of our municipalities;

We want municipalities which will be able to work with the private sector to attract investments and to develop our communities.

It is for this reason that the ruling party has decided to deploy mayors who are well educated and capacities with the knowledge of the local government sector. If we work together, we will achieve the development and the prosperity that we all yearn for.

Programme Director

Our approach is to build this type of infrastructure not only in the cities, but everywhere, be it in the cities, townships or a rural area like this area.

We want to make sure that our people enjoy the fruits of this democracy because you are the ones who have voted for this democratic government.

Indeed, ours is to create an infrastructure that makes life easy everywhere, not just in the big cities.

This is exactly what we are doing.

Everything we do in this government is to make sure that our freedom and democracy is more meaningful to all our people, including those in rural areas.

Programme Director

This sod-turning ceremony is part of the good story we continue to tell.

Today is indeed better than yesterday, and tomorrow will surely be better than today.

Without taking much of your time, please allow me to take my hat off, for Dr Nkuna and company.

Just this year 2021, we journeyed together during the official opening of Mphephu Plaza, one of their rural infrastructure projects.

It was during that special occasion that the Masingita Group of Companies pledged to do more in Limpopo.

For that commitment, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You are indeed reliable patriots who actualise the ideal of public private partnerships. Together, we move Limpopo forward.

As if that is not enough, we also like to appreciate your Good Samaritanship. This one is as a result of the ongoing intervention you are making at Siloe School for the Blind. You are indeed a shoulder to cry on.

Programme Director

As if the above is not enough, Dr Mike Nkuna and Masingita Group of Companies have contributed immensely during our recent Limpopo Investment Conference, held on the 1-2 September 2021.

Through their pledge, the conference has surpassed it's original target and managed to raise more than R200b.

We hope that this kind of contributions will re-energize and motivate our youth to embrace entrepreneurship and enterprise development. We say these as we reiterate our call that government alone can not decisively deal with the high levels of poverty, unemployment .and inequality.

We require all hands on deck and young people are our key to resolving all these existing challenges.

Young people must rise and take advantage of the fourth industrial revolution to conquer the world.

Young women and males are called upon to take advantage of the opportunities that are available in our mining, agriculture and tourism to shine.

I call upon all the people of Limpopo to embrace the good example of Dr Nkuna and Masingita Group of Companies to rise.

It is possible and only through innovation and hard work, it is possible. Before I sit down, please allow me to quote from the father of African Renaissance, the late Kwame Nkurumah, when he said and I quote:

"It is not about the heights of which you see a man, but a depth of which a man is coming from" close quote.

I call upon the people of this area to appreciate, support and safeguard this newly launched development.

It is yours to benefit and improve your lives and livelihoods. Take care of it.

Lastly, Covid-19 is still very much with us, please adhere to all the prevention measures and most importantly, go out there and vaccinate in your millions.

I Thank You!
Ndza Nkhensa!
Rea Leboga!
Ndaa!