

ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, AMBASSADOR CHUPU
MATHABATHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE VHEMBE
DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL AT MAKHUVHA STADIUM.

06 March 2020

Programme Director;
Our religious and traditional leaders;
Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality;
Mayor of Thulamela Local Municipality;
All the councillors present in this meeting;
Members of the business community;
Community leaders;
Leaders of non-governmental organisations;
Members of the media;
Esteemed ladies and gentlemen:

I want to start by thanking every one of you for attending this important event which is the official launch of the Vhembe District Development Model.

Indeed, we are here to witness a new way of doing things. The launch of the District Development Model is about a different approach to service delivery.

The concept of a District Development Model is a concept which is championed by our President, Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa.

The first launch of the District Development Model took place at the OR Tambo District Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province on 17 September 2019.

This was followed by the second launch which took place at eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

The third launch of this district-based development model took place in this Province in the Waterberg District Municipality Province on the 26th November last year.

The national government has taken a decision that this Development Model will be implemented in all of South Africa's 44 municipal Districts and 8 Metropolitans in the country.

Last month we were in Aganang in the Capricorn District Municipality facilitating the launch of this model in that district.

Just like the Waterberg launch, the launch of the Capricorn District Development Model was also a huge success.

It is for this reason that we have come in Vhembe District Municipality to launch our Province's third leg of the model.

We will be going to the remaining districts which are Sekhukhune and Mopani to facilitate similar launches.

We have decided on this district-based development model because over the last 25 years, government has been working very hard to take services to the people. However, it has been apparent that there have been some serious gaps in our models of service delivery which required correction.

Part of these gaps were identified by the President Cyril Ramaphosa during the 2019 Presidency Budget Speech when he identified the "pattern of operating in silos" as a challenge for government.

This lack of coherence in planning has made monitoring and oversight of government's programme difficult.

We agree with the President, the lack of proper planning has resulted in poor delivery of services. This has undermined our efforts to fight poverty, inequality and unemployment.

It is for this reason that we have embraced idea of the new District Development Model which is championed by President Ramaphosa.

The District Development Model aims to improve the coherence and impact of government service delivery with focus on districts as development spaces that can be used as centres of service delivery and economic development, which include job creation.

Inspired by the Khawuleza call to action, the District Development Model aims to accelerate, align and integrate service delivery under a single development plan per district.

Through this model, we will see greater partnership between national, provincial and local government. We will also see increased partnership between government, the business sector, labour and community in each district.

Each district plan ensures that national priorities such as economic growth and employment; improvements to living conditions; the fight against crime and corruption and better education outcomes are attended to in the locality concerned.

This development approach will ensure that planning and spending across the three spheres of government is integrated and aligned. The District Development Model will also ensure that each district plan is developed with the input of concerned communities.

This is a people-centred and a people-driven development model I believe that this is a prescription we have been waiting for.

We believe that a district-by-district approach to development is exactly what our country has been waiting for.

This is because each district has its own competitive advantages and its own unique challenges.

This model will take service delivery to new and greater heights.

Program Director;

Over the years, a blanket approach to issues of development has not managed to yield necessary progress.

We believe that this is the approach which will assist us to develop our country, grow the economy and create the much-needed jobs.

For an example, this district is rich in primary agriculture and mining.

For us to develop this district we will need to put focused attention in these sectors.

We will also need to ensure that our academic institutions tailor their programs to respond to the socio-economic needs and attributes of the districts they serve.

We need to ensure that the abundance of land in this district work to create food and job opportunities for the people of this district.

For this to happen we need a greater partnership between government, communities, traditional leadership and the business community.

We can say confidently that the District Development Model will stimulate economic growth and benefit our local entrepreneurs, majority of who are young people.

This Model is expected to develop, support and promote local entrepreneurs through prioritising local procurement of services and goods.

Programme Director;

Central to the District Development Model in this area will be the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone.

This flagship project is nearing implementation stage. In this regard, we are designing measures to ensure that a significant value chain to be produced in this SEZ remains in the Province.

Our focus is to ensure that a significant number of the projected jobs should be taken up by the people of Limpopo, particularly our young people.

As I have said during the State of the Province Address, the Musina-Makhado SEZ has attracted an additional investment commitment of 6.1 billion US dollars. As a result of this additional investment, the number of projected jobs to be created by the Musina-Makhado SEZ project has since being revised upward from the initial 21 000 to 26 000.

These are the opportunities which will benefit the people of this area and the people of Limpopo at large.

Programme Director;

I want to conclude by inviting everyone in this district and everyone in this province to embrace this concept of district development model.

Let us continue to work together to take services to our communities.

I thank you.