

**ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, AMBASSADOR
CHUPU MATHABATHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE
IMPACT CATALYST LAUNCH EVENT, HELD AT THE
RANCH HOTEL, POLOKWANE.**

29 October 2019

Programme Director;

Our development partners from Anglo-American, Exxaro, CSIR
and World Vision;

Members of the Media;

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen:

I want to start by commending the Anglo-American, Exxaro, the
CSIR and World Vision, for this great initiative of the Impact
Catalyst.

Your commitment of partnering with government to establish
inclusive, collaborative, cross-sectoral initiatives to achieve
lasting socio-economic impact is highly appreciated.

This is what we refer to as good and responsible corporate
citizenship.

When we talk of good corporate citizens we refer to the responsibilities of companies toward society.

Good Corporate citizenship is about ensuring improved standards of living for the communities within which businesses do their business.

Being a good corporate citizen is about ensuring the necessary balance between the needs of the shareholders and those of the community, including the needs of the environment itself.

I have already made a bold claim and assertion that the Mining Houses in this hall are without doubt our model corporate citizen.

I am saying this because I do not doubt your commitment to your social responsibilities; I do not doubt your commitment to sound ethical practices in your operation; and I do not for a second, do not your love for our environment.

I think we all agree that it is through partnerships and collaboration of this nature, that, we can realise our outmost potential.

What makes this partnership even more unique is the fact that it is designed not for the benefit of ordinary men and women of our Province.

The impact areas of this initiative include the growth and development of our Provincial economy, expanding access to

quality health services, ensuring improved access to education, the social upliftment of our communities and the general improvement of service delivery.

Programme Director;

Mining will continue to play a central role in the economy of our Province for a future to come. Currently, mining contributes almost 25% to the Provincial Gross Domestic Product.

Our Province has 147 mining projects that are operational.

In July we announced to the people of this Province during the State of the Province Address that, a further eight projects were in the pipeline in the Capricorn and Sekhukhune Districts.

These projects are expected to attract investments worth R2.5 billion and create around 3000 jobs.

We have committed to working with the mining houses to ensure that the Province maximises all possible returns from the mining activities taking place in our Province.

The most clarion call we continue to make is that mining houses should beneficiate their raw materials in the Province. This will without doubt, help expand the productive capacity of the economy of our Province.

Programme director;

As government we move from a position that mineral resources are a collective heritage of our people. Through the government, the state acts as a custodian of this collective heritage of the people.

We also acknowledge the living reality that mineral resources are part of the non-renewable natural resources.

It is against this background that the government has an obligation to ensure the mineral resources are utilised in a manner that promote local and rural development and the social upliftment of communities affected by mining.

At the same time, collectively we carry an obligation to ensure that mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects the environment for the benefit of future generations.

We indeed can advance our economic and social development while at the same time caring for our environment; the two are not mutually exclusive.

Programme Director;

I have interacted with the list of projects being planned as part of pilots for this project. I must say that we could focus on these projects and give them the necessary attention and resources, Limpopo will never be the same again.

We really want to see those Limpopo game farmers being assisted to supply meat to the envisaged central processing

facility. This will help to facilities easy export to both local and international markets.

The envisaged Agro-Processing and Biodiesel production facility will go a long way in contributing towards the creation of much-needed jobs for our local communities. This will help us to fight the poverty that is engulfing our communities.

This effort will best be supplemented by the proposed Personal Protective Equipment manufacturing. A number of young people are expected to gain meaningful employment from this initiative.

In addition, the envisaged waste tyre recycling facility will contribute to the ideal of reducing carbon print and ensuring environmental sustainability.

Emerging farmers in this Province would benefit greatly from the envisaged Fresh Produce Market. We indeed agree that this will help improve food security, help generate employment and stimulate the growth and development of local economies.

There is no doubt that this Impact Catalyst is a great initiate pillared on a working partnership.

Our collective challenge is to go beyond words into action.

Our people are yearning for the actual deliverables.

We need to move with necessary speed to ensure that these great ideas are turned into living projects.

I do not for a second doubt our collective commitment in this regard.

It is in our hands and within our abilities to contribute towards the improved wellbeing and living conditions of our communities.

Together we will not fail.

I thank you!