

REMARKS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, AMBASSADOR CHUPU MATHABATHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDUCTION WORKSHOP OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

18th June 2019

Programme facilitator, Dr Sydney Mufamadi;  
Members of the Executive Council  
Our Director General,  
Our esteemed presented;

Good morning!

Let me start by commending our Director General, Mr Nape Nchabeleng, for assisting to put together this important induction workshop.

I also want to thank the DG for the textbook manner with which he directed and managed the transition from the 5th to this 6th administration.

We thank you very much for helping to safeguard the institutional memory of government. Your work has also ensured a smooth landing for our new MECs. We can safely say that no one is starting from the scratch; we all have a solid base which will allow us to do the work that we are mandated to do.

I know that this workshop is part and parcel of this important transition management process.

Those who have already gone through the programme of this two days event would agree that this is a very packed programme. We are not here just to tick boxes and then go back to our offices –we are indeed here to learn.

We all know that knowledge itself is a continuous process. We learn every day. By the end of these two days workshop, we would have assimilated new knowledge relating to:

- Political administrative interface;
  - Practices of good governance for executive authorities;
  - Ethical standards expected from executive authorities;
  - The letter and spirit of the Public Finance Management Act;
  - Issues relating to the expansion of the mandate of the Auditor General; and
  - Issues relating to communication and protocol
- Colleagues;

As I have said, learning is a never-ending process.

The point I am making has been best illustrated by Thomas Huxley when he said that:

The known is finite, the unknown infinite; intellectually we stand on an islet in the midst of an illimitable ocean of inexplicability. Our business in every generation is to reclaim a little more land, to add something to the extent and the solidity of our possessions.

Indeed, we have gathered here to do exactly that –we are here to add a little more to our basket of knowledge.

Those who have been around would know that the significance to this exercise we are engaged in cannot be over-emphasised.

We all know that there are dire consequences to ignorance –there is a price to pay for being ignorant when you are supposed to be knowledgeable.

The lawyers would say that ignorance of the law is not an excuse. The content of this principle is that a person who is unaware of a law may not escape liability for violating that law merely he or she was not aware of the law.

We are all expected to know what the law expect of us and act in accordance with such an expectation.

At a general level, as MECs your powers and authority is found under section 125 of the constitution. Our expectation is that you must always act within the boundaries of the law.

My own expectations as Premier from all of you is that you must always strive to increase your knowledge base. I expect that you should work hard, within a short space of time to become quasi experts in your fields of deployment.

However, your knowledge should not just end with issues of your Department. You are members of the Executive; you are expected to have intimate knowledge of the entire work of government.

It is not acceptable for any MEC to say that I am not an MEC for health and therefore I cannot be expected to know anything about the NHI. It cannot be accepted for any MEC to say that I am not deployed at LEDET hence I cannot be expected to know anything about the SEZ initiative.

I can assure you that the MEC for Social Development will be asked about the construction of a road somewhere in a village, and at that you are not allowed to say you don't know.

You may not be an authority on issues of education or social development, but you are expected to know what is going on. This is what I expect from all of you. We are in a new era of an industrial revolution. I am glad that the Office of the Premier is starting to go on e government. Next time when we meet, there should not be files, but laptops with all required documents loaded inside.

You can imagine how many millions of rands we will save by eliminating papers,

Colleagues;

Let me end my brief remarks by re-emphasising the significance of this induction workshop. Let us concentrate and participate freely.

This is our opportunity to enhance our knowledge and understanding of how government works.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**