

ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, MR. CHUPU MATHABATHA BY MEC THABO MOKONE ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE MGB HOTEL, HELD AT EMM CENTRE AT 2 TEN HOTEL – THOHOYANDOU.

09 NOVEMBER 2019

The Programme Director;

Khosikhulu Tony Mphephu Ramabulana

All our religious leaders present here;

The Mayor of Thulamela Local Municipality, Cllr Nenguda;

The management and the hotel staff;

Invited guests;

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen:

Good evening!

Let me start off by expressing our profound thanks to the management of the MGM Hotel at 2 Ten for a job well done.

On behalf of the Provincial Government, we want to congratulate you for this significant investment in the economy of our Province.

There is no doubt that this impressive facility will go a long way in promoting local economic development and assisting to grow our tourism offerings.

This is also good news for the Vhembe district in particular. The economy of this area will never be the same again.

I take it that we all know that yesterday President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa concluded a highly successful edition of the Annual South Africa Investor Conference.

As you know, the 2019 edition of this Conference was a build up on the Inaugural Conference which was held last year in 2018.

The inaugural South African Investment Conference in October 2018 attracted over 1,500 delegates from across the world.

Over 20bn US Dollars of investment commitments were made at the event.

The conference was not just a talk-show. As we speak, a number of projects emanating which were committed during the conference are at an implementation stage.

Empirical evidence shows that over 16 000 jobs were created directly from these projects.

This year's conference has also proved to be highly successful, exceeding expectations.

By yesterday, a whopping R200 billion was pledged from multinational companies and our own local businesses.

It is clear that the spirit of the New Dawn is propelling us to greater heights.

Our collective challenge is to ensure that we work together as South Africans to support President Ramaphosa's dream of lifting this country out of the doldrums of economic wreck into visible economic growth and development.

Programme Director;

Tourism is a very important sector for our Provincial Economy. As a matter of fact, tourism is one of our major competitive advantages as Limpopo.

It is for this reason that we have taken a conscious decision to position Limpopo amongst the top tourism economies in the country.

As the Premier has said during his State of the Province Address, through targeted support to the sector, we hope to unlock the massive economic stimulation power of the tourism sector and create more jobs.

In this regard, the government intends to increase the number of tourists visiting Limpopo by implementing the **5 in 5 Strategy** that aims to receive **5** million tourists in **5** years.

This Strategy also seeks to double the current 3% contribution of the tourism sector to the total national GDP.

According to the 2018 tourism performance report by **Tourism South Africa**, our Province is the second most popular destination for international tourists after Gauteng.

On the domestic tourism front, our Province still leads the pack with 3.3 million trips recorded in 2018. We hope to build on this positive trajectory in order to create even more jobs for the people of Limpopo.

We will achieve this through tailoring and supporting events which promote a lengthy stay in the Province. In fact, we are packaging more tourism offerings for our visitors in all respects.

I am confident that the entrance of this facility into the space will introduce competition, variety and diversity of our offerings.

Additional hotel rooms mean more tourists and more for the Province. With more money circulating in the Province we would be able to create more job opportunities for our people. It is in this context that we truly support this initiative.

We wish the hotel everything of business success.

We congratulate the Magwabeni family for keeping the legacy alive.

This is yet another evidence of Black excellence.

It is also testimony to the fact that hard work does indeed pay and not short cuts.

Once again, we congratulate the management and the workers and wish all of you a healthy and long working relationship.

May the Lord bless your initiatives and grant you more success.

I thank you.