

ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, MR CHUPU MATHABATHA, PRESENTED BY MEC SEAPARO SEKWATI ON THE OCCASION OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT MID-TERM REVIEW IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SOWETAN DIALOGUES HELD AT MEROPA CASINO, POLOKWNAE.

08 November 2017

Programme facilitator Mr Jerry Ndou;

Esteemed fellow panellists, Mr Elvis Masoga and Prof Lesiba Teffo;

Mr Philani Mgwaba, from Sowetan Dialogues;

Members of the audience;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

First of all, would like to extend my sincere appreciations to the Sowetan Newspaper for affording us, as the Government of Limpopo an opportunity to share with our people the mid-term performance of their government.

I also wish to take this opportunity to extend my appreciations to our panellists, Prof Lesiba Teffo and Mr Elvis Masoga for gracing this event.

I hold no doubt that your presence here this evening will contribute to a critical, robust and honest diagnosis of the true state of our province.

You should be able to tell us if we are still on track to creating a better life for our people or whether we have taken an off-ramp from our developmental agenda, to a different direction.

In as much as we expect criticism from you, we will also appreciate your pointers to the things we are doing right so that we can build on and sustain the momentum.

I will not be doing the actual presentation on the government's mid-term performance; as this will be done by our Director General, Ntate Nape Nchabeleng.

I was requested to just give a brief overview of the Limpopo Development Plan.

As you would know, the adoption of the LDP followed the adoption of the National Development Plan.

The LDP represents our own localised steps in an ongoing journey to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality, as visualised in the National Development Plan.

You would know that the Limpopo Economic Growth and Development Plan lapsed in March of 2014.

The term expiry of the LEGDP in 2014 left our province without a Master Plan to guide and direct our province's development agenda.

You would also know that, the NDP urges that the provinces must spell out their intended contributions by developing their provincial plans with a view of supporting the realization of NDP objectives.

In this way, we will also be filling a gap created by the lapse of the Limpopo Economic Growth and Development Plan.

Through the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) we aim to express the province's shared vision towards the future.

Programme director;

The process of crafting the Limpopo Development Plan was all inclusive and participatory for all stakeholders.

We have specifically enjoyed the participation of public entities, private sector, organised labour and the civil society in developing this Plan.

We can safely say that this process was stakeholder driven and the ultimate product is an honest reflection of the views of the people of this province regarding their own future and destiny.

In developing our Development Plan, we have certainly borrowed from lessons of previous strategies and plans, while taking into consideration the current socio-economic climate in the province, the country and the world as a whole.

We have done this to ensure continuity and institutionalization of lessons learnt, both in terms of weaknesses and points of strength.

Programme Director;

The Limpopo Development Plan is our 5 year Master Plan. The main essence of this Plan is to reduce poverty, fight unemployment and reduce the unacceptable levels of inequality.

We aim to achieve this through sustainable economic development and transformation, social development and transformation.

This Plan represents a policy framework that articulates issues related to both economic growth and social development.

It represents strategic choices made with the aim of achieving the development objectives as outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP).

The LDP will therefore be focusing on Economic development and transformation, infrastructure development, building a

developmental state, as well as fostering social cohesion and transformation.

With regard to economic development and transformation, we will be focusing on Mining, agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, empowering SMMEs and Cooperatives. We will also be strengthening our support towards identified Growth Point areas.

With regard to Infrastructure development, we have accepted the responsibility to prioritise the development and maintenance of water. We are also upgrading our social infrastructure to support quality education and health care services in our province.

This Plan will also guide us to ensure appropriate measures for fostering social cohesion towards building a cohesive society.

These are the tasks that we have set for ourselves to achieve in our pursuit to better the lives of our people.

To achieve our set targets and goals, we are working with the support and in partnership of all the stakeholders. To a larger extent, we are enjoying a buy-in and support of labour, business, the religious sector and the civil society.

Programme Director;

The objectives of the LDP can be summarised through the following 10 **High-Level Development Targets**, to be attained by 2020.

These targets are:

- the achievement of economic growth rate of 3% revised in the light of the current performance of the global economy,
- the creation of 429 000 jobs;
- Increased access to basic water from 83% in 2014 to 90%;
- Increased access to electricity supply from 83% in 2014 to 90%;
- Increased access to sanitation from 43% in 2014 to 50%;
- Improved Grade 12 results, with a target of at least 80%;
- Increased Geographic Gross Product contribution to the national GDP from 7.15% in 2014 to 9%;
- Reduction of the unemployment rate from 16.9% in 2014 to 14%;
- Increased average life expectancy from 58.3 in males in 2014 to 60, and 62.5 in females in 2014 to 65, and above all;
- The reduction of inequality;

Programme Director;

With these few remarks we aimed at introducing you to the Limpopo Development Plan.

I believe that this, together with the presentation to be made by the DG will trigger necessary questions and facilitate a debate on the mid-term performance of our government.

I thank you!