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Premier Mathabatha Outlines Government Achievements

In delivering his last State of the Province Address at the Jack Botes hall in Polokwane on Thursday, 29 February 2024, Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha outlined government's achievements.

"The journey we have travelled covered transformation and development in critical areas, such as the economy and the provision of the public goods and services, like water, electricity, roads, education, health and homes," said Mathabatha.

A remarkable progress made in education; the matric pass rate results have improved from 38% in 1996 to 79,5% in 2024.

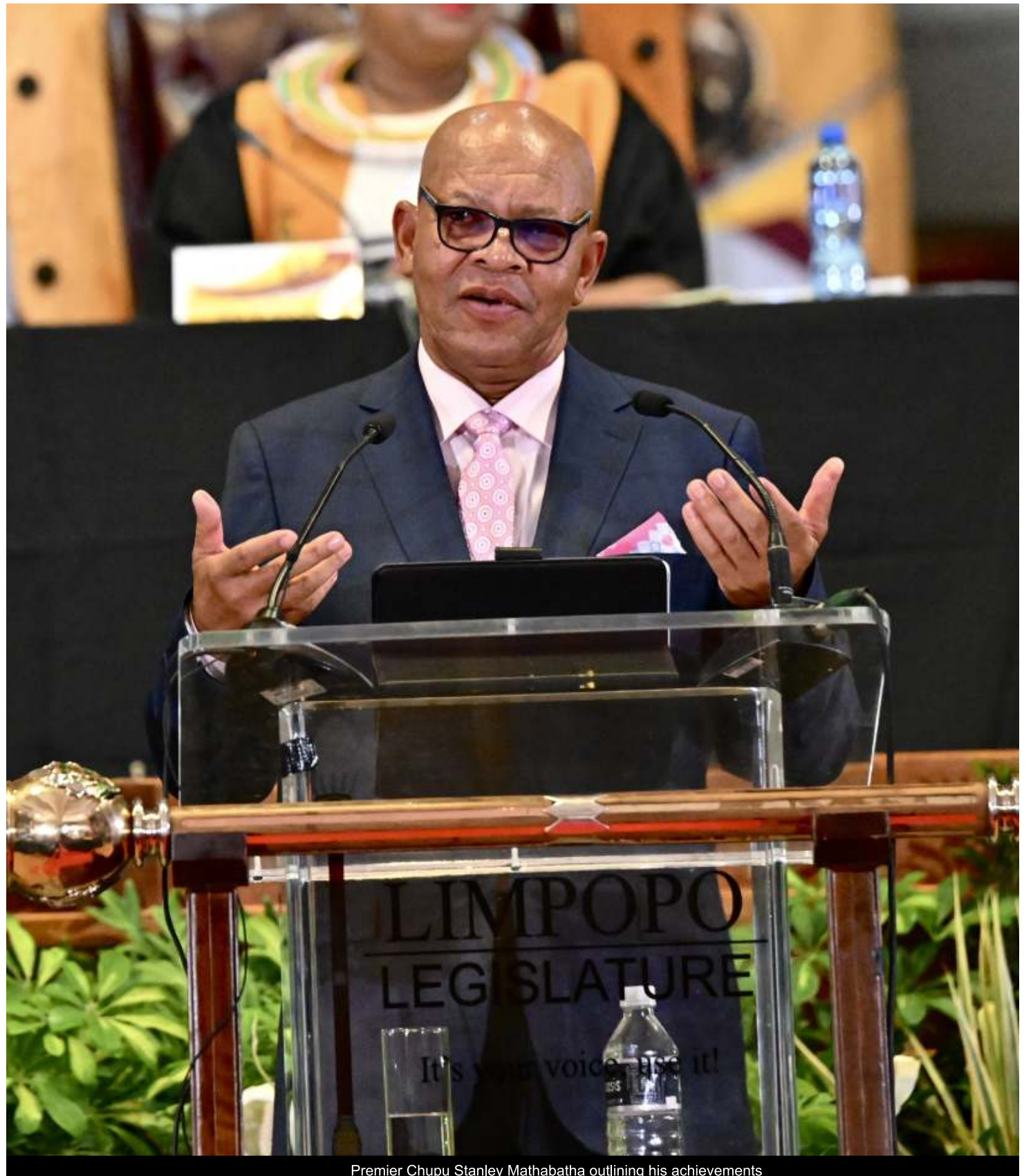
Mathabatha said the province has experienced an increase in employment from 2019 to 2023. Limpopo is in the top three provinces that have shown rising employment. Although the province has lost 40,000 jobs in the quarter, but it created 182,000 jobs in 2023, making the province the second largest province in job creation.

"The provincial government has implemented enterprise development and support programmes. The programmes support local enterprises, including small, micro and medium enterprises, as well as co-operatives. We achieve this through access to finance, markets, training, and essential business equipment. We have established partnership with organisations such as Impact Catalyst, Coca Cola Business South Africa, and the SAB Foundation, to implement enterprise development programmes, targeting youth, women, people with disability and graduates interested in new venture creation."

He expressed his gratitude to the investors for contributing over R280 billion in investment pledges during Limpopo Investment Conferences. "The difference that these pledges brought about is reflected in their immediate implementation. These investments include mining, agriculture, agro-processing, green energy, property development, as well as trade, catering and accommodation. Rising investment is a sign of confidence and is important for the province to address unemployment and poverty."

Mathabatha said the province is known as a province where agriculture plays a pivotal role. "In the first quarter of 2020, up to the third quarter of 2021, agriculture was the third largest contributor to employment in the province, after community and social services, as well as trade. It was overtaken by construction in the last quarter of 2021. In the first quarter of 2022, agriculture returned to the third spot in the province's sectoral employment contribution."

"The Province has made a significant progress in agriculture. Government has implemented agricultural support programmes, such as the Land-Care Programme, the Revitalisation of Agriculture and Agro-Value Chain Plan, and the market access certification programme. Efforts in climate-smart agriculture, skills development, research, and infrastructure development have contributed to agricultural production. **D.M**



Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha outlining his achievements

Remarkable Improvements in Audit Outcomes and Overall Provincial Performance



One of the completed road project

Premier Mathabatha has been on the administration space since 2013, leading fifth and sixth administrations.

Mathabatha steady hand helped stabilise the financial and administrative position of the province which at the time of his ascension, had several departments under administration by central government due to maladministration.

“In 2013, Limpopo was at a critical juncture. Five departments were under national administration. Confidence in our provincial administration was waning. Our task was clear, yet daunting. It was to breathe life back into these departments and restore

confidence in our governance. It was a journey akin to the mythical phoenix rising from the ashes, a symbol of renewal and resilience that resonates deeply with the spirit of Limpopo,” Mathabatha reflected on the journey travelled.

“Over the past decade, we have worked tirelessly to bring stability and sound administration to our province. Through collective effort and unwavering commitment, we have seen remarkable improvements in audit outcomes and overall provincial performance. The once prevalent disclaimer audit opinions are now a thing of the past in our departments, public entities and municipalities. No department is under administration,” Mathabatha said.

He reiterated that the story of Limpopo's renewal and development is far from over. It is a continuous journey, one that requires an active citizenry, and the collective effort of every community and leader.

In his sixth administration, he successfully delivered 50 socio-economic infrastructure projects, Mathabatha highlighted that since 1994 the province has expanded road infrastructure network by over 6,000 tarred kilometres.

The province has made a significant stride in several key infrastructure projects that will in future boost the economy.

Mathabatha said in the Waterberg District, Road Agency Limpopo (RAL) has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Northam Platinum, securing R41 million in Funding, entirely provided by Northam Platinum. He said the initiative aims to enhance a bridge and upgrade a three-kilometre stretch of Road D2357 connecting to road R511. The project which commenced in November 2023 is set for completion in August 2024 and “is presently at a 32% completion stage.”

“In the Mopani District, RAL has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Phalaborwa Mining Company to rehabilitate and upgrade road D3786 in Mashishimale and Road D4424 in Lulekani, with a combined value of R205 million. RAL and the mining company have agreed to contribute R105 million and R100 million, respectively. The project will commence in March 2024, aimed to be completed in September 2025,” Mathabatha said.

“Additionally, we have allocated resources for road maintenance and rehabilitation. This will improve the overall quality of our infrastructure and contribute to the longevity of our road network,” he said. **D.M**

Premier Mathabatha Champions Accountability and Progress at The Limpopo Premier's inter-Governmental Forum

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mr Basikopo Makamu, lauded Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha for his pivotal role in stabilising administration and enhancing accountability across the Limpopo Province. This commendation came during the Premier's Inter-Governmental Forum, a key assembly aimed at fostering cooperation and dialogue among various levels of government.

Premier Mathabatha, addressing the forum, underscored the significant strides made in governance and accountability. “You must be proud of the work that you have done as municipalities. We have come a long way from where we were in 2014, with today marking a historic moment where not a single municipality, entity, or provincial department in Limpopo is left with a disclaimer audit opinion,” stated Premier Mathabatha.

The Premier emphasised the importance of

preemptive measures and the utilisation of systems for early detection of potential issues, praising the municipalities for their proactive approach. “The systems can help us detect problems before they happen, identifying bottlenecks. Many of our municipalities have those systems,” he added.

Highlighting the achievements, Premier Mathabatha pointed out the eradication of disclaimer audit opinions across the province, attributing this success to a combination of political and administrative will, and a strategic reduction in the reliance on consultants. “We have done this through Treasury and COGHSTA to bring about the kind of audit opinions we have today,” he remarked.

The Premier also highlighted the positive impact of the District Development Model and the Presidential Imbizos in addressing service provision issues through collaborative efforts. He called for the remaining districts to expedite the rollout of the

District Development Model Imbizos to close the social distance with communities and address their service delivery issues promptly.

Concluding his address, Premier Mathabatha urged for continued efforts towards building an ethical and capable state, emphasising the need for qualified personnel to sustain good governance. “We should work tirelessly to ensure that our people do not stay on the opposite side of this government, as we journey to transform their lives,” he stated.

The Premier's Inter-Governmental Forum stands as a testament to Limpopo's commitment to transparent, accountable, and coherent governance, with Premier Mathabatha leading the province towards prosperity and well-being for all its residents.

Improved Provision of Healthcare in The Province

Outgoing Limpopo Premier Chupu Mathabatha used this year State of the Province Address to boast about the milestone achievements the provincial government has achieved under his leadership.

“In healthcare, it is pleasing that we currently have 476 clinics in Limpopo. Two hundred and sixteen of our healthcare centres, that is 45%, operate 24 hours a day,” Mathabatha said.

He said healthcare infrastructure received a significant boost with upgrades to laundries at various hospitals and the construction of the new medical facilities, ensuring that communities have access to quality health care services.

Following the upgrading of the Siloam Hospital, as well as other health care facilities, Mathabatha maintained that the upgrades will improve the provision of healthcare in the province.

“Our infrastructure development efforts have been robust as well. We have commenced construction for the Limpopo Central Academic Hospital. The construction for the Limpopo Central Academic Hospital reflects our dedication to expanding and modernising our healthcare infrastructure and training of healthcare professionals, including the much-needed specialists. The impact of this hospital will be profound, offering state-of-the-art healthcare services and serving as a hub for healthcare training and research”.

Mathabatha said the HIV positivity rate in the age group 15-24 years has been reduced from 1.9% to 1.3% since 2013.” My administration trained 750 implementers on social behavioural change and provided psycho-social support services to over 10 000 beneficiaries living with HIV.”

Limpopo has a population of just more than 6,4 million people. The national health guidelines recommend a ratio



new ambulances

of one ambulance for every 10 000 people. Mathabatha has emphasised that the acquisition of 566 ambulances in the current financial year will enhance Emergency Medical Services, underscoring government commitment to provide timely and efficient emergency care to the people.

“Rural Health Matters Programme has contributed significantly to reducing the backlog of surgery, taking

quality healthcare to the people,” noted Mathabatha.

He said the journey is far from over, but with the continued support of dedicated healthcare workers, partners, and the community, the province will achieve even greater milestone in the years to come. **D.M**

Historic Sod Turning Ceremony marks the beginning of the Limpopo Provincial Theatre



Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha



Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha and MEC'S during sodturning

Premier Chupu Mathabatha led the community in the ground-breaking sod turning of the Limpopo Provincial Theatre on Thursday,22 February 2024.This momentous event marks a significant milestone in the province's commitment to nurturing and showcasing the rich tapestry of artistic talent within Limpopo.

Chupu Mathabatha expressed his deep satisfaction with the commencement of construction, stating,” The final appointment of the contractor to begin work towards the end of my term gives me comfort that the dream that has taken long has finally come to reality. “He further elaborated on the importance of the theatre, saying,” The vibrant and diverse talents of our artists in Limpopo, spanning across theatre, film, video, craft, poetry, comedy, opera, choral music, and more, have long called for a dedicated and contemporary space to showcase their electrifying performances. Today, we respond to that call.”

He emphasised the theatre's role beyond a me physical structure, envisioning it as “the heartbeat of our creative and cultural industry” and a pivotal development for the

arts in Limpopo. “It will be a safer space for electrifying theatre performances, nurturing creative talents, and contributing significantly to the creative economy and the growth of our artists,”he added.

Mr. Victor Kgomoeaswana, representing the University of Limpopo, thanked the Limpopo Provincial Government for initiating the theatre project, highlighting its significance for the youth and the broader community. “This facility will be anything but a white elephant if it is no put to good use because the young people who are representing this province across the world come from this place,”he remarked.

Kgoshi Masemola, Chairperson of the Limpopo Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, shared a message of support, noting the theatre's anticipated positive contribution to arts and culture. “The development of the Limpopo Provincial Theatre will assist in ensuring that dramas and shows written in vernacular are played here, showcasing the unique talents of our people,”she stated.

Mmabulepu Kekana from the Limpopo Arts and Cultural

Council praised the ground-breaking as a barrier -breaking event.” We are not just breaking ground; we are breaking barriers, creating a space where the arts can flourish and resonate with the diverse voices of our community,”said Kekana. She extended gratitude to Premier Mathabatha for his unwavering support and vision for the arts in Limpopo.

The Limpopo Provincial Theatre is set to become a beacon of artistic expression, enriching the cultural landscape of Polokwane and the entire province. Its strategic location along the busiest route in African promises to draw visitors from around the world, eager to experience the traditional and contemporary artistic performances that Limpopo has to offer.

The 800-seat theatre, worth R300 million, is expected to be completed in 24 months. **N.R**

Legislature Lauds the Legacy of Premier Mathabatha

Members of the Limpopo Legislature lauded the leadership of Premier Stanley Mathabatha at the debate on his State of the Province Address held on Thursday, 07 March 2024 in the Limpopo Legislature, temporarily sitting in the Polokwane Municipality Council Chamber.

Most of the speakers from the governing party, the African National Congress, elaborated on the illustrious work that was brought by Premier Mathabatha in the 11 years at the helm of the provincial government. They primarily affirmed the leadership, stability, and guidance Premier Mathabatha provided to place Limpopo where it is today.

The Chief Whip of the Legislature, Mr Essob Mokonyana said: "I am certain that I am speaking on behalf of the people of the Limpopo Province when I say, you have been a good shepherd to the flock, and today we are steadily heading towards greener pastures, because of your pivotal leadership."

"Your term of office has witnessed an unprecedented programme of building roads, with long distances being tarred, into areas whose people never dreamt of a tar road, in their lifetimes."

Premier Mathabatha has made profound difference, and the people of Limpopo will continue to honour the sterling work he has done, said Member of Executive Council (MEC) for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mr Basikopo Makamu.

MEC for Provincial Treasury, Mr Seaparo Sekoati, was at pains to explain to members who he felt were not doing enough to study and understand financial documents that were in their possession. Chiefly, he lambasted what he called charlatan approach to matters in the house, that some members kept on saying the province has returned R1 billion to National Treasury. He said nothing could be far from truth than this, that paltry portion was returned to National Treasury.

There were other speakers from the governing party including the MEC for Education, Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Ms Nkakareng Rakgoale, the MEC for



Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha during the debate

Transport and Community Safety, Ms Florence Radzilani as well as the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba who went at length to show the impact of Premier Mathabatha's leadership in their various portfolios.

Members of the opposition parties were quick to water down Premier Mathabatha's speech. The leader of the opposition party, the Economic Freedom Fighters, Ms Tshilidzi Maraga, said they feel that the speech did not go enough into accounting for each of the previous pronouncements made, instead it has glossed over them.

Ms Lindy Wilson, the sole speaker of the Democratic

Alliance, was quick to admit that WhatsApp message she shared in a media release on 26 February 2024 which mistakenly claimed that the province returned over R1 billion to National Treasury contained incorrect information but blamed the governing party for leaking such information to them. Her major issue was on lack of water in the province, relying mainly on the report from the Human Rights Commission on status of water provision in Limpopo. **N.R**

Response to False Media Reports on Underspensing in Limpopo

The Limpopo Provincial Government has taken note of the media statement dated 26 February 2024 from the Democratic Alliance in Limpopo alleging that the Provincial Government has underspent over a billion rand and returned that to [National] Treasury in 2022/23 financial year.

The Provincial Government denounces the reference of the statement or apportioning it to 2022/23 financial year as that information is deliberately misleading. The figures are not for 2022/23 financial year and the Provincial Government has not returned the figures stated to [National] Treasury.

The process of declaring funds as unspent is quite involved. Conditional grants and equitable shares that are not spent within a financial year are repurposed by Provincial Treasury and the money is appropriated in budgets for subsequent years within the provincial government. After that, a request for roll-overs is made to National Treasury that approves or reject it. Only then a surrender of the amounts that could not be rolled over-takes place.

In the case of 2022/2023 financial year, the Provincial Government only surrendered R122 million to National Treasury arising out of the Welisizwe Rural Bridges

Programme (R81 million) and other smaller projects which only constitute 0,15% of the provincial budget of over R70 billion.

The general underspending for 2022/23 was 1,9% of the appropriated budgets which is within the National Treasury norm of 2% and an improvement from 2021/22.

The province has been doing well in terms of spending that it has received additional R250 million this year for human settlements grant because the catch-up programme has been bearing fruit. **N.R**

Head of Limpopo Department of Social Development placed Under Precautionary Suspension

The Premier of Limpopo, Mr. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, has placed the Head of Limpopo Department of Social Development, Mr. Julius Makwena Mahopo, under precautionary suspension from 20 February 2024 until the disciplinary process has been concluded.

The suspension follows the remedial actions made by the Public Protector's Report Number: 31 of 2023/2024, which investigated allegations of maladministration and

improper conduct in the appointment of Child and Youth Care Workers and Child and Youth Care Team Leaders at the Polokwane Welfare Complex and Mavambe Secure Care Centre.

The report has found that various officials in the Department, including the Head of Department were implicated in wrong doing. The report made remedial actions that needed to be implemented within a timeframe set.

Ms Dudu Setlatjile has been appointed Acting Head of Department from 20 February 2024 and is expected to continue implementing remedial actions as they relate to officials implicated.

The provincial government will make necessary announcements as soon as the process is concluded. **N.R**



EXCO Lekgotla encourages Provincial Administration and Municipalities to Consolidate on Economic Transformation and Development



Premier: Chupu Stanley Mathabatha during EXCO

The Premier of Limpopo, Mr. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, highlighted the need for serious investment in economic development in municipalities to assist in restructuring the province's economy. He encouraged municipalities to decentralise economic activities to brown areas and identify competitive areas for economic development.

The Premier was speaking at what must be his last Lekgotla as Premier held in Meropa Entertainment World, Polokwane on 20 February 2024. He said: "I am delighted by the consistency of administration that has seen me at the helm of the provincial government for more than 10 years. What is more pleasing is the change we have brought to the outlook and socio-economic status of people of Limpopo, effective governance and professional administration."

The EXCO Lekgotla considered and noted presentations on various key areas, including the Limpopo Draft 30 Year Performance Report, Limpopo Budget MTEF for the 2024/25 financial year, 2023 Grade 12 Performance Report, and

State of Readiness for the National and Provincial Elections in 2024.

The session recognised significant progress in socio-economic transformation over the past 30 years, including the consolidation of democratic values, economic development, and improved access to basic services. However, challenges such as high levels of unemployment, poverty, and income inequality persist in the province.

The Premier highlighted the recent ruling party Lekgotla, where progress was reported on implementing manifesto priorities and government accountability. The PEC Lekgotla assessed performance and challenges faced in service delivery, emphasising the need to fulfil priorities for the people of Limpopo as agents of service delivery.

Acknowledging challenges such as budget constraints, the COVID-19 pandemic, and energy crises, the Premier outlined key priorities for economic reconstruction, job creation, basic service provision, combating Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, resolving the energy crisis, and

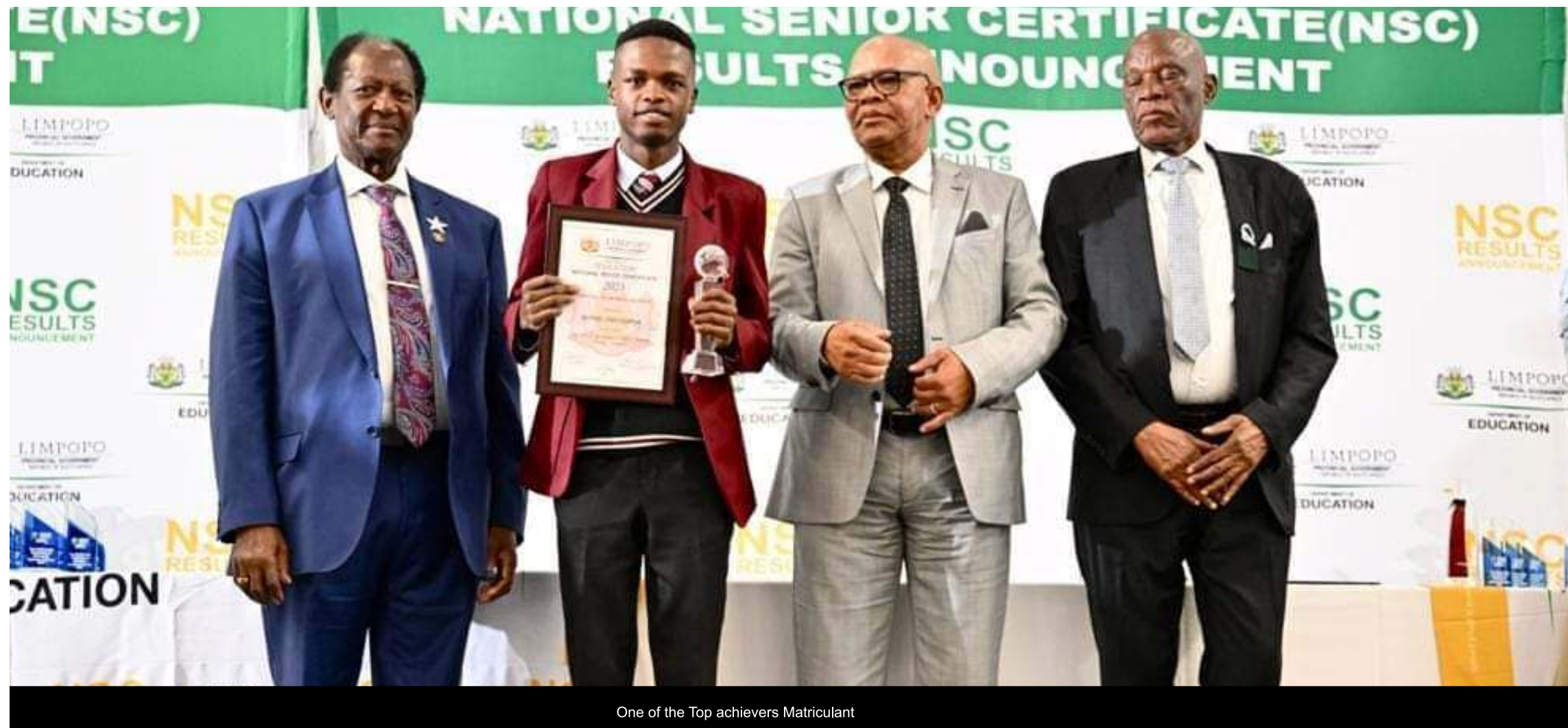
strengthening the fight against crime.

The EXCO endorsed the draft 2024/25 MTEF Provincial Budget Framework and Infrastructure Service Delivery Programme, focusing on strategic infrastructure management interventions, inclusive growth, job creation, service delivery, provincial fiscus stability, and quality provision of water, health, and education.

The Executive Council was preparing for a smooth transition to the forthcoming 7th Term of Administration, finalise the 30-year Performance Report, review development plans and sector plans, and prioritise youth development and gender transformation programmes.

Additionally, the EXCO Lekgotla approved the Draft Provincial Adjustment Budget for the 2023/24 financial year and the Draft Provincial 2024/25 MTEF Budget. A post-Elections EXCO Lekgotla will be convened to focus on Medium Term Strategic Priorities for the 7th Term of Administration. **N.R**

Limpopo Provincial Government Celebrates Historic 2023 Matric Results



The Limpopo Provincial Government was thrilled to announce the outstanding performance of the Limpopo Matric Class of 2023 in the National Senior Certificate examinations at the Ranch Resort in Polokwane on Friday, 19 January 2024.

With an impressive overall pass rate of 79.54%, Limpopo has emerged as the number one most improved province in the country. This achievement is not only commendable but also historic, as it marks the highest pass rate Limpopo has ever achieved since the dawn of democracy in 1994.

Under the leadership of Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, the administration has consistently prioritised education and worked tirelessly to improve the quality of matric results. This dedication has yielded remarkable results, with the highest percentage pass rate of 73% achieved in 2019, only to be surpassed by the Class of 2023.

Premier Mathabatha himself expressed his enthusiasm and pride in the learners and teachers, emphasising that their dedication and hard work have paid off.

"Today's results are heart-warming, a true testament to the implementation of our education turn-around strategy that came after our Education Indaba in the beginning of 2023," said Premier Mathabatha.

Premier Mathabatha further said: "The Limpopo Matric Class of 2023's exceptional performance is an attestation to their unwavering commitment to excellence and the tireless efforts of teachers, parents, and school governing bodies. It is also a reflection of the various interventions and initiatives implemented by the Department of Education, the MEC, the Head of Department, and all the staff to improve the quality of education in the province."

Of particular note is the significant contribution of Limpopo to the country's Mathematics passes. With 60% of learners in South Africa enrolling for mathematics coming from Limpopo, the province has demonstrated its commitment to providing quality education and the dedication of its teachers. This achievement is truly remarkable and showcases the potential and talent within Limpopo's education system.

The Mopani West District was the highest performing district reaching 83,8% and achieving 42,9% bachelor passes.

Premier Mathabatha assured the learners and the education system of the Limpopo Provincial Government's continued support and investment in education. The government remains committed to providing the necessary resources and opportunities to ensure the continued success of learners in the province.

The Limpopo Provincial Government congratulates the Limpopo Matric Class of 2023 on their remarkable achievements. This historic pass rate is a source of great pride for the province and a testament to the success of the Mathabatha administration's commitment to education. The government looks forward to witnessing the Class of 2023's continued success and wishes them the best in their future endeavours. **N.R**

MEC LERULE-RAMAKHANYA WISHES SPEEDY RECOVERY AND SENDS MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES TO LEARNERS INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT

The Limpopo MEC for Education, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya wishes a speedy recovery to 20 learners, following a minibus accident that happened on Thursday, 7th March 2024, on the R37 Moroke just outside Burgersfort. MEC expressed her sadness and send her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families after two learners lost their young lives from the accident.

Learners from Lesedi Sedi, an independent school were on their way to school when the private scholar minibus they were travelling in lost control and overturned; and killed the two learners on the scene while other learners sustained injuries.



The 18 injured learners, a teacher and driver were rushed to hospital and released after been treated for shock; teacher and driver still in hospital but stable, 3 learners remained in hospital and later transferred to a hospital in Benoni.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya said "This is very devastating, and no parent should ever have to experience the pain of losing a child. My heart aches with the bereaved families and wish a speedy recovery to the injured. Reckless and negligent driving is unacceptable and will never be tolerated by the department. Rules of the road must be obeyed." **M.T & M.K**

Limpopo Provincial Government Advances Aids Council Agenda

The Limpopo Provincial Government, under the leadership of Premier Mr. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, convened a Special Limpopo Provincial AIDS Council meeting on Thursday, 25 January 2024. The virtual gathering brought together key stakeholders from various sectors to discuss and advance the province's efforts in combating HIV/AIDS, TB, STIs, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Human Rights Violations, Inequalities, and Mental Health.

The meeting, a continuation of the 3rd Quarter session held in December 2023, focused on supporting the establishment of fully-fledged AIDS Councils in Sekhukhune and Waterberg districts. Notably, the Sekhukhune district successfully established its Council and is set to launch its Civil Society Forum soon. The province commends this progress and pledges ongoing support.

In line with the National Strategic Plan, the Limpopo Provincial Government aims to reduce barriers to accessing health and social services, with a particular focus on addressing inequalities for all individuals affected

by HIV, TB, and STIs. The inclusion of mental health services and social support is also prioritized, recognising their interconnectedness with the aforementioned challenges.

Premier Mathabatha emphasised the importance of multisectoral engagement and cooperation to achieve the goals outlined in the National Strategic Plan. He called upon academia, the private sector, organised labour, business, civil society, and the community at large to actively participate in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Premier highlighted the province's progress in reducing mother-to-child transmissions, teenage pregnancies, TB infections, and HIV infections, attributing these achievements to initiatives such as Voluntary Male Circumcision and the rollout of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEPs).

The Limpopo Provincial Government has also collaborated with the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) and the Networking HIV&AIDS Community of Southern Africa (NACOSA) to intensify efforts in combating HIV/AIDS. Successful collaborations include the launch of

the 16 Days of Activism campaign and the Takuwani Riime Programme of Action, in partnership with SANAC and the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa.

The Council also agreed that the next provincial World TB Day Commemoration will be held in Modimolle-Mookgophong Municipality, Waterberg District on 26 March 2024.

Premier Mathabatha concluded by emphasising the importance of collective action, quoting Mother Theresa: "None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful." The Premier expressed his commitment to moving Limpopo forward, leaving no one behind in the fight against HIV/AIDS. **N.R**

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya Launches RCL and Declares 2024 The Year of Academic Excellence.



Representative Council of Learners (RCL) is a legally elected council of learners representing all the learners in a school with representatives elected from the eighth grade and higher to form council of learners.

The leadership council at school level is established in terms of Section 11 of South African School Act 84 as amended for learners from grade 8 and higher. The council provides learners with an opportunity to participate in school governance and to participate in appropriate decision making.

Jeremiah Rakgedi, a former RCL President of Limpopo now an LLB student at Wits University, believes that he is today what he is because of what he learned as a member of RCL in high school and Limpopo provincial RCL president; and the support the Department gave them.

"Before I was a member of the RCL, I was an underperforming learner. Being an active RCL member has today led me to obtaining four distinctions in my Grade 12, and that made me the third best performer at my school." Rakgedi said.

Two learners from RCL must be selected to serve on the School Governing Body (SGB). The elected learners have voting rights on the SGB elections to be held from 01-31 March 2024. As members of SGB they are listened to and have an opportunity to raise their concerns on behalf of other learners.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya alluded that, as a leader of fellow learners, one should be in a position of understanding the responsibility of always acting in the best interests of learners within their different schools. The MEC furthermore

indicated that strengthening the RCL is another strategy that can be deployed to ensure access to quality education through the acceleration of effective governance in schools.

"Through proper and structured governance, the improvement of learner performance is certain. What we have learned as leaders is that we must be able to transfer our knowledge to our future young leaders in order to advance sustainable effective governance within the process of the provision of basic education in our province" MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya said. **M.T & M.K**

R57 million Zanghoma to Mariveni Road Paving Project making strides and Creating Employment



Mariveni road paving project

In a significant stride towards creating both infrastructure development and employment opportunities, the R57 million Zanghoma to Mariveni road paving project is well underway.

Boasting a distance of 6 kilometers including the construction of two low level bridges, this significant development aims to enhance connectivity and accessibility for both residents and commuters.

With a focus on empowering the local community, the project has already provided employment to 80 individuals, with a total of 117 expected to benefit from job opportunities upon its completion.

Petrus Ngobeni, a 48-year-old father of six from Mariveni village, has

secured a two-year work contract as a store manager tasked with overseeing equipment safety. Ngobeni, who previously engaged in intermittent jobs in Gauteng, expressed gratitude for this employment opportunity, emphasizing its significance in allowing him to remain close to his family."

Additionally, 24 Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) have been engaged, further stimulating economic growth and fostering entrepreneurship within the communities.

Currently, the project stands at a 40% completion rate, showing significant progress since its commencement in May 2023. A two-

year timeline has been set, with an anticipated completion date set for May 2025.

Tango's Consultants are tasked to facilitate the execution of this project as the consulting engineers. LEBP Construction and Projects are the appointed contractor entrusted with bringing this vision to fruition.

As progress continues to unfold, anticipation mounts for the transformative benefits this project will bestow upon the community upon its completion. **G T M Communications**

Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality Hand over a Sewer Pump Infrastructure to Namakgale Residents



Mayor, Cllr Merriam Malatji with PMC during the handing over of a new sewer pump

Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality led by the Mayor, Cllr Merriam Malatji in partnership with Palabora Mining Company (PMC) ON Friday, 8 March 2024, handed over a sewer pump infrastructure to Namakgale residents in Foskop Zone D.

This is one of the 13 Sewer pumps that were requested by the Mayor, Cllr Merriam Malatji from PMC to assist communities in Phalaborwa town, Namakgale and Lulekani to live in a healthy environment as part of the Social Labour Plan between the Municipality and PMC.

Phalaborwa town and Lulekani will also receive sewer pumps soon. Mayor, Cllr Malatji thanked PMC for heeding the call to assist the Municipality in improving the lives of the residents citing "that it was long overdue."

The Mayor urged municipal employees responsible for water and sewer to maintain the sewer pump to ensure that it continues to serve the community for a sustainable period.

Representing PMC, Ms Tshidi Ngobeni says PMC will continue to assist the Municipality to improve the socio-economic activities of the local residents.

The Mayor was accompanied by the Speaker, Cllr Oliver Mabunda, ward 1 councillor, Joe Mamphuru, delegation from PMC, appointed contractors and municipal support staff. **Baphalaborwa Local Municipality Communications**

Bothanang Primary School win cleanest School Competition At Blouberg Local Municipality



Bothanang Primary School during the awarding of prizes

We are excited about winning this prize.

Last year we took position three, and that encouraged us to work harder, we thank CDM and all the sponsors for the prizes we got", said Mphoka Taueatswala an Educator at Bothanang Primary School.

The awarding of prizes for the Cleanest School Competition happened at Senwabarwana in Blouberg Municipality today. This for the schools which participated under this

municipality.

Six schools participated in the competition. The schools that best performed are: 1st position went to Bothanang Primary School from Senwabarwana (R6000, 00). The 2nd prize went to Botshwa Primary School from Sweethome (R4000, 00). Selaelo Primary School from Marobjane scooped the 3rd prize (R3000, 00).

The learners from these schools and their schools also received vouchers from Pick n

Pay, and cleaning material from Polokwane Chemicals Suppliers (PCS). Pick n Pay and PCS are CDM's partners in the competition.

This program focuses on issues such as school environment, sanitation and waste management, greening, water conservation, etc. Only six schools entered the competition within Blouberg Local Municipality.

Government Bridges gap between Tradition and Digital with Cyber Lab



Learners at the schools where Cyber Labs are introduced



Minister Mondli Gungubele

Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Minister Mondli Gungubele in partnership with State Information Technology Agency (SITA) has on Friday, 16 February 2024, officially launched the first Cyber Lab in Limpopo to Ramogabudi Senior Secondary School outside Mokopane, as part of the national cyber lab programmes aimed at advancing and creating awareness to learners.

Speaking on behalf of SITA, IT Infrastructure Services Executive Manager Mr Musa Khumalo says this initiative will bear fruits as the country moves to the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR).

“This will bridge the gap and prepare them for higher learning researchers and business setups with the

most advanced technologies. Experience has taught us that books can be lost or damaged but with these digital technologies, it's easy to retrieve information efficiently”, said Khumalo.

Minister Gungubele said:” This will empower learners to improve their computing capabilities, ensuring inclusivity of the 4IR while preparing them for the digital revolution and economy of tomorrow. He further said that these labs guarantee that leaners, even those in remote areas, are afforded the same resources as those in urban areas.

Minister reiterated the vision of the DCDT is one aimed at bringing digital transformation to South Africa.

Learners at the schools where Cyber Labs are

introduced are taken through lessons in different digital technologies, including Robotics, Coding, Digital Skills and Artificial Intelligence. A session on cyber security was held with the learners to equip them with skills and knowledge on how to be responsible digital citizens and navigate the internet safety.

One of the gadgets and connectivity key stakeholders Mr Fred Zhou who is a General Manager for Honor South Africa, a company that is based in China has pledged its support to the school by donating more laptops and Wi-Fi routers. **E.C**

UAE shows Investment Interest in Limpopo Province

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is oil and natural gas reserves and are the world's sixth and seventh-largest economic hub, their visit was to assess the possibility of investing oil revenues into healthcare, education, and infrastructure. The country has the most diversified economy among the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. In the 21st century, the UAE has become less reliant on oil and gas and is economically focusing on tourism and global hub for business starters

Strengthening the bilateral relations between the province and UAE, the provincial government hosted ambassador Mahh Saeed Alhameli in Polokwane on 12 March to engage with investment prospects to bolster economic ties and explore investment opportunities between the two countries.

South Africa and UAE enjoy this robust partnership anchored in the shared vision since 1994 with South African companies tapping into the lucrative UAE market which benefits sectors and growth.

During the presentation which was attended by MECs from Agriculture, Transport and Community Safety and accounting officers led by MEC Seaparo Sekwati, presented investment opportunities by Musina Makhado and Fetakgomo Tubatse SEZ.

The UAE has shown interest in investing at the Gate Way Polokwane for logistic hub, agriculture for the export of grain particularly rice which is the most basic in the country.



UAE Ambassador with Provincial Government leadership

Other investment opportunities identified by the UAE as key strategic is infrastructure, dairy products, poultry solar energy, meat health care and red meat.

Ambassador Alhameli thanked the provincial government for allowing them to look at the area of their investment especially food security and mining

Speaking on behalf of the Premier . MEC Sekwati they are

very excited to host the Mahh Saeed AlhameliMahh Saeed Alhameliand his team to interact with investments in areas such as rural development and any other opportunities that will benefit the province with skill and stable economic activities that will expose the province to bigger platform in the world



SOPA RED CARPET MOMENTS



MEC Ms Nandi Ndalane



MPL Dickson Masemola and MEC Phophi Ramathuba



MPL Ms Sarah Monyamane



MEC Thabo Mokone and MEC Ms Nkakareng Rakgoale

Road Infrastructure Projects in Limpopo Province

Project	Progress
Upgrade of Road D4180 from Atok Mine to Ga-Selepe	Final stages of design
Upgrade of Road D4260 from Malope to Phokwane	Contractor appointed
Roads D4090, D4093, D4094 and D4096	Contractor appointed
Roads D4199 from Apel to Ga Nkoana and D4190	Design report approved
Construction of road D3278 from Blouberg Hospital to Buffelshoek in the Capricorn District	Underway
Road D3561 in Segole 1 and Segole 2,from N11 to Masebe Nature Reserve in the Waterberg District	Progressing
Road D3734,also known as Tshatshama,in the Mopani District	Under construction
Construction of roads D3436,D3428, and D5007 in Ga-Ramoshwane,Ga-Rammetlwane,Ga-Ramotlokwane in the Capricorn District	Progressing well
Construction of road D3248 from Thapane access to Nwamitwa in the Mopani District	Underway
Construction of road D3671 from Musekwa to Maranikwe in the Vhembe District is progressing	Progressing well
Construction of road D4109 from Mamatonya to road D885 in the Capricorn District	Underway
Construction of Ga-Malekane Steelpoort bridge	35% progress and is on track for completion in November 2024
Upgrade of road D2357connecting to road R511	32% completion stage
Rehabilitation and upgrade road D3786 in Mashishimale and road D4424 in Lulekani	To commence in March 2024,aimed to be completed in September 2025

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Editorial Head: Ndavhe Ramakuela
Editor: Dexter Mohale
Sub Editor: Emmaculate Cindi

Graphic Designer: Mathew Shiluvane
Photographer:Musa Njaba



@OtpLimpopo



Office of the Premier:
Limpopo Provincial Government

Postal address: Private Bag X9483
Polokwane
0700
Physical address: 40 Hans van Rensburg
Street, Polokwane
Tel: (015) 287 6079

Editorial email:
cindie@premier.limpopo.gov.za
Visit us on www.limpopo.gov.za