



BAOBAB NEWS

LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER

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June 2022

“Let the dust go up!”, the language of the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone

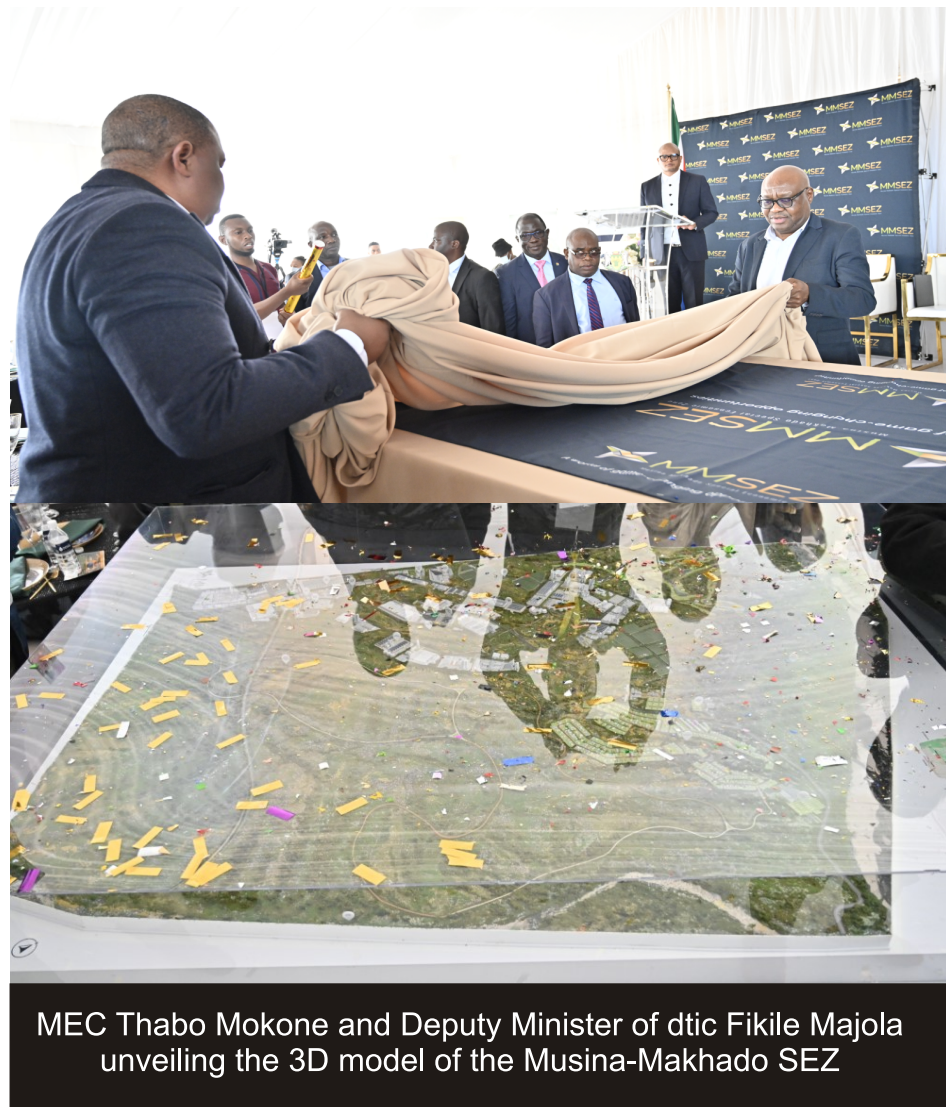
Dust! Dust! Let the dust go up! This was a common refrain as myriad of stakeholders gathered in the little town of Musina in the beginning of what signals growth for the north most part of the Limpopo Province.

The ground has been broken, civil work for bulk infrastructure is taking off and, for the next few years, the area around Antonvilla in Musina will be a hive of activity as the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ) begins its operations. It was this project that the Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic) Mr Fikile Majola, the MEC for Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) Mr Thabo Mokone and other members of the provincial legislature conducted an oversight visit to on Tuesday, 28 June 2022.

“We want yellow plant on the ground, we want construction workers on the ground, we want to see dust from now onwards,” said elated Deputy Minister Fikile Majola.

Majola further said: “This is a big and commendable milestone in the rollout of the MMSEZ. It is a historic moment for the people of Musina and surrounding areas. Their town will never be the same again. This project is going to change it forever. This is a huge step in the right direction for the practical implementation of the Special Economic Zones Programme that the dtic is spearheading. This the dawn of a new era: when the dust settles, a bustling economic hub and a vibrant smart city will emerge. And Musina will be described in new terms.”

The North site is designated for the development of aggro-processing, manufacturing and a logistic hub and its geographical location places the MMSEZ in a very strategic position to leverage on the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCTA).



MEC Thabo Mokone and Deputy Minister of dtic Fikile Majola unveiling the 3D model of the Musina-Makhado SEZ

The Limpopo Provincial Government has committed to implement the R150-billion project of the SEZ over the next 20 years. “As the Limpopo government, we will deliver hope to the people of Musina and Makhado and the surrounding communities through this multi-billion rand project,” remarked MEC Thabo Mokone.

“In addition”, Mokone further intoned, “we have pledged some commitments to promote industrialisation through beneficiation of different mineral resources in the province through the metallurgical complex.

This programme will include a coke plant, ferrochromium plant, ferromanganese plant, pig iron plant, carbon steel plant, stainless steel plant, lime plant, silicon-manganese plant, metal silicon plant and calcium carbide

plant.”

The MMSEZ was initially designed in 2017 and it is a king of mega industrial project that has never been seen in South Africa, attracting \$150billion (R2 455 500 000 000) from the energy and metallurgical clusters and will create approximately 21000 direct and indirect job opportunities for the people of Musina and Makhado.

The SEZ is seen as a new era of South African government by introducing novel dispensations to begin industrial parks in numerous development corridors throughout the country in line with the objective of Industrial Policy Action Plans.

Mokone highlighted that the Limpopo Provincial Government has approved the provincial Industrial Master Plan of 2020-2030 which anchored on an industrialisation agenda of which

the SEZ is part of.

The plan is expected to change the structure of the Limpopo economy, with the future of communities in proximity to the SEZ looking perkier as the Limpopo Provincial Government is set to deliver hope to the surrounding communities through this lucrative project. **MN**

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EXCO Decisions of June 2022

The Limpopo Executive Council (EXCO) met in its regular meeting on 22 June 2022 to consider and take decisions on the following:

Learner Performance Intervention Plan

The Limpopo Department of Education has as part of its overall accountability sessions to address underperformance held sessions with the District Directors for Sekhukhune East and South, Circuit Managers from their underperforming circuits and Principals from their chronic underperforming schools.

The Department has developed a Rapid Response Team to intervene at Sekhukhune East and South. The Rapid Response Team will use a two-pronged intervention plan, comprising pedagogic and political prongs/arms. The former will be managed by the Limpopo Department of Education (LDoE) and the latter will be led by EXCO.

The Executive Council approved Learner Performance Intervention Plan: Action Plan for Sekhukhune Education Districts.

Provincial Recruitment Plan for Departments and Public Entities for 2022/23

The Executive Council **approved** the proposed recruitment plans for Departments and Public Entities for 2022/23 subject to the following conditions
That only departments with available resources should be allowed to fill the vacant positions in line with available budget; and
That the appointment of Conditional Grant personnel should be done in line with approved business plans and grant frameworks.

Programme of Action on Provision of Support to Military Veterans

Following the Limpopo visit by the Presidential Task Team, led by the Deputy President of the Republic on the 05 June 2021, various interventions have been made to support the Military Veterans, including developing a plan of action. The plan of action to support Military Veterans presented highlighted proposed activities for the following key strategic areas: social relief of distress; economic support; job placements; health and welfare services; housing; and heritage and memorial.

The Executive Council approved the Programme of Action on the provision of support to Military Veterans as presented.

Implementation of Lifestyle Audits in Provincial Departments

The Executive Council approved the proposed framework on the implementation of Lifestyle Audits in Provincial Departments.

The Minister of Public Service and Administration has mandated line-function departments to conduct lifestyle audits in the public administration as from this financial year. The facilitation, coordination and evaluation of the lifestyle audits is implemented by the duly appointed Ethics Officers in sector departments in conjunction with the duly constituted Ethics Committee on the oversight function. The strategic objectives of the lifestyle audits are: to identify hidden assets, direct the forensic investigation and help with the recovery of any assets that are the proceeds of crime; to curb fraud and corruption in the public service; and to educate public servants about the pros and cons of engaging in incidents of fraud and corruption.

The majority of departments in the province have not yet established Ethics Committees nor have they appointed employees in the roles that have an impact on the implementation of lifestyle audits;

In the context of the current status of the province's progress related to achieving its integrity programme, it has become necessary to develop a roadmap that will take the province to a state when it can fully implement the lifestyle audits programme.

Proposed Framework: National and International Days for 2022-23

The Executive Council had mandated the Provincial administration to commemorate and celebrate national and international days that promote, protect and equalize opportunities of communities to heighten solidarity, social cohesion and nation building.

The following days for 2022/23 were approved:

Africa Public Service Day Celebration
International Nelson Mandela Day
National Women's Day
International Day for Older Persons
World Aids Day
16 Days of Activism on No Violence against Women
International Day for Persons with Disabilities
International Women's Day
Human Rights Day

23 June 2022
18 July 2022
09 August 2022
01 October 2022
01 December 2022
25 November 2022
03 December 2022
08 March 2023
21 March 2023

Systemic Human Rights Issues in Limpopo Province

Following EXCO's interaction with the Human Rights Commission it was highlighted that there are challenges that are facing Limpopo in terms of human rights. The systemic human rights challenges in the Limpopo Province that have been reported to the South African Human Rights Commission in the following areas: environmental challenges; access to clean drinking water; access to and provision of adequate housing; service delivery and infrastructure issues pertaining to hospitals, clinics, schools, police stations, government Offices and roads which are in a state of disrepair; incidents of bullying in schools; access to healthcare services; and complaints regarding hate speech fuelled by racism.

The presentation further stressed on the need for accountability by some government officials in following up and acting upon the human rights issues referred to them by the South African Human Rights Commission, considering the fact that there have been numerous incidents where the allegation letters sent to them by Commission for the purpose of investigation were not responded to.

The Executive Council directed that the Office of the Premier should designate a Senior Official who will serve as a point of contact on behalf of the Limpopo Provincial Government to deal with matters referred to the Province by the South African Human Rights Commission; and that the South African Human Rights Commission should equally designate an official who will co-ordinate all the enquiries and matters referred to the Limpopo Provincial Government for further investigation.

Reports for Noting

The Executive Council also noted reports regarding the shift of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education. A report on the stabilisation of Mogalakwena Municipality was also noted with recommendations that would ensure sustainability of the municipality.

Progress on the Jane Furse Township establishment was also noted.

Following the release of the Auditor General's report on the 2020/2021 municipal financial years and EXCO's recommendation for Rapid Assessment on Mopani District, Bela-Bela and Greater Giyani Local Municipalities EXCO noted the slow progress in relation to Mopani District Municipality. The Executive Council noted with serious concern the absolute lack of co-operation by the Mopani District Municipality on the concerted efforts by COGHSTA to conduct the rapid assessment as directed by the Premier's Inter-Governmental Forum.

The Executive Council directed as follows that the COGHSTA should proceed with proposed follow-up engagements with the Mopani District Municipality, and that should there continue to be a lack of co-operation by the Municipality, other applicable means to "compel" the municipality to cooperate should be invoked.

Boabab News

The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people

Boaba News is published by the Provincial Communications Services, Office of the Premier, Limpopo Provincial Government.

Editorial Head: Ndavhe Ramakuela

Editor: Emmaculate Cindi

DTP/Graphic Design: Mathew Shiluvane

Photographer: Louisa Omana Masebenza

Contributors:

Ndavhe Ramakuela (NR),
Emmaculate Cindi (EC), Jimmy
Malebati (JM),
Maano Nkehavhambe (MN),
Tsakani Baloyi (TB)

Postal address: Private Bag X 9483
Polokwane
0700

Physical address: 40 Hans van Resburg
Street, Polokwane
Tel: (015) 287 6079

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



Abundant opportunities for youth



Mr Kgomotso Mangwale of South African Youth Council at the launch of the Limpopo youth month

Limpopo Government has during the June 2022 youth month laid out available opportunities to empower and capacitate youth so that they too become great contributors in the economic recovery of the country.

Despite the devastating period of COVID-19, Limpopo kick-started the 2022 Youth Month with great determination and unleashed a month-long programme for youth to tap on. The activities have yielded positive results from the five districts of the province.

Amongst the activities held was the National Lottery Grant Funding workshop which had 200 youth in Bela-Bela, Waterberg in attendance.

Young people were assisted with business plans, application for funding and establishment of ECDs.

There was also Capricorn Youth Dialogue whereby various formation of political parties raised issues pertaining to unemployment, gender-GBVF, SMMEs interventions.

“

Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience of Young People for a Better Tomorrow,

”

Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha said: “The Covid-19 pandemic has also destroyed businesses which were providing jobs to young people. Government is working around the clock to assist these businesses to recover and reopen their doors. We are working hard to ensure that all businesses that had to shut their doors because of Covid-19 are reopened”.

Premier Mathabatha challenged the youth to tap on the wealth of raw material Limpopo is exporting to foreign countries so that they can be processed locally to create more jobs. Exporting raw means exporting thousands of jobs that could benefit youth. Limpopo is exporting minerals and fresh produce.

The 2022 Youth month was commemorated under theme “Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience of Young People for a Better Tomorrow”, which resonates with the work government is doing in supporting youth entrepreneurship. Youth are offered various support

including grant funding for start-up businesses.

Ms Belinda Lebelo, aged 30, received funding and financial management for her stationary shop and Internet Cafe business from National Youth Development Agency. She is supplying stationary to local schools in and around Thabo Mbeki village, Lephalale.

“I applied for funding from NYDA through their website www.nyda.org.za and within three months they responded. They want all business-related documents, CV, qualifications to check where they can support on your business management capacity. I was approved a grant fund of R50 000 and am currently employed four young staff members. I encourage all young people interested in getting support for their business to apply online and help in fighting the triple challenges of unemployment, inequality and poverty as we recover from the scourge of coronavirus”, concluded Lebelo. **JM**

Limpopo joins the call for accessible nutritional food for African continent

Tzaneen, the home of rain Queen Modjadji, lived up to its mythical legend as the Africa Public Service Day (APSD) main commemoration event was drenched in rain, attesting to the theme of the year - building resilience in nutrition on the African continent.

Africa Public Service Day is an entrenched strategic event on the African Union (AU) calendar, emanating from the declaration of the first Pan-African Conference of

Ministers of Public Service held in Morocco in 1994 that the 23rd of June each year will be used to honour the impact of work that public service does.

At the outskirts of Tzaneen, 11 km towards Ga-Modjadji, there is a farm Exilite ably managed by Ms Linda Nghatsane who supplies local and international markets with vegetables, fruit and other essentials packaged in the farm. The matriarch welcomed the Deputy Minister of

Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), Dr Chana Pilane-Majake, MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), Mr Basikopo Makamu, to this flagship project that government has supported for several years.

Nghatsane is a beneficiary of a Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) programme which allows previously disadvantaged communities (women, youth, and

people with disabilities) to occupy state land up to 99 years lease agreement.

The PLAS project is a strategy by Department of Rural Development and Agriculture that give access to South African to participate on agricultural and food security activities to feed the nation and strengthen international relations exports and imports relations.

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Nghatsane has signed a thirty (30) year lease agreement and receives extensive support such as weekly monitoring by Department of Agriculture and Rural Development extension officers and recapitalization programmes to ensure that she remains sustainable in the farming sector. She has a market for her cucumber, mealies and green peppers produce across the country and exports to some to Angola.

“Directly I am the only beneficiary on this farm, but when I bring the team, I am working with the workers, their families, our clients, I am not the only beneficiary, I am just leading the process. If I can break it down to every worker with all the people that are benefitting from this farm it's a huge group, including South Africa in general because we also take our products to the national market,” said Nghatsane.

Government is tasked with supporting farmers to produce adequate food to feed the nation and export to other countries. With the high prices of food in the country that affects all classes but the poorer the most remains a challenge to access nutritional food for all. The most vulnerable communities are unable to afford basics such as meal mealie.

MEC Makamu said in support of the day: “We have embraced this event because of our yearning to make a humble contribution to the cause of Africa's agenda to build capable states with the ability to drive the continent to Africa Agenda 2063. We are committed to the urgent task of accelerating the development of human capital on our continent. We understand that related to this task is the task of fighting against the phenomenon of brain drain on the African continent. We submit ourselves to the task of Africa's socio-economic development and prosperity.”

During her keynote address Deputy Minister of DPSA Dr Pilane-Majake encouraged public servants to continue providing quality efficient services to the public without being corrupt, rather accountable and improving governance. She said there is a perfect example set by the frontline health workers who proved commitment d

“our front line health workers proved commitment during the evacuation of students that were based in China during the outbreak of Covid19 in Polokwane and managing the pandemic” **EC**



Ms Linda Nghatsane (left) showing off crops to Dr Pilane-Mojake (right) at her farm, Exilite, at the outskirts of Tzaneen

“*Directly I am the only beneficiary on this farm, but when I bring the team, I am working with the workers, their families, our clients, I am not the only beneficiary, I am just leading the process. If I can break it down to every worker with all the people that are benefitting from this farm it's a huge group, including South Africa in general because we also take our products to the national market,*”

Zikhala Kanjani without prevention strategy!

Government has thrown back the gauntlet to the popular slogan “Ziyakhala (There is an outcry)” with a rhetoric response “Zikhala Kanjani” (What's the basis of the outcry). The question asks the youth what their individual responsibility is towards their health and other challenges facing them, especially when government has offered alternatives.

“Zikhala Kanjani without a condom?” is one of the slogans for the South African Youth HIV Prevention Strategy to encourage youth not to engage into any sexual activities without protecting themselves from HIV related diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

The launch of the strategy was held at Mdavubula stadium, Malamulela in the Collins Chabane local municipality by the National Department of Health in partnership with the South African National Aids Council (SANAC) and the Limpopo Provincial government.

According to Stats South Africa, Limpopo Province had shown an increase in teen pregnancies with

2.4% among the ages of 9 to 15 years between 2019/2020.

“

Zikhala Kanjani without a condom?”

”

They youth are at a disadvantage of negotiating for a safer sex with older partners and their peers due to lack of awareness of long-term consequences and socio-economic pressure faced by child-headed families and unemployment.

The strategy aims to improve access to HIV prevention services, and methods to help the youth strengthen existing programmes, that were exclusive to the population but focusing more on youth.

In 2020, Ximun'wana High School in Malamulele recorded the

highest number of pregnancies in the province which led to the provincial

Health Department and stakeholders including the community to adopt the

school for awareness. During the launch, MEC Phophi Ramathuba announced that in the last two years to date, the school has recorded 0% of learners pregnancy from more than 50% which proves that working together with stakeholders will maintain the reduction and prevention of new HIV infection and unwanted pregnancies.

A 16 year old Mugwambani Ndzalama from EPP Mhinga Secondary School shared with attendees that the solution to unwanted pregnancies and HIV can never be avoided for as long as school premises are surrounded by

taverns.

“After school, we go there to buy food and drink instead of going to libraries which are invisible, this is where we get to drink and engage in unprotected sex with our peers and older men because they buy alcohol for us. I am doing my Grade 12 and if I don't get employment opportunity after my schooling I will go back to the tavern. They not only buy alcohol, but they provide for us financially which at times my family cannot afford to because of high rate of unemployment.”

The strategy launch was sealed with signing the pledge which will serve as a commitment to the prevention strategy by the Deputy Minister of Health Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, SANAC chairperson Steve Letsike amongst others and must be implemented across the country.

Various health services including voluntary HIV testing were offered, MEC Ramathuba tested few volunteers in her capacity as a trained and qualified doctor after due process of counselling were provided to volunteers. **EC**

Divine intervention to end widespread killings

South African National Taxi Council, South African Council of Churches and Government join hands to pray for peace against the widespread killings in the taxi industry, road fatalities and Gender-Base Violence and Femicide in Limpopo.

The stakeholders held a prayer day at Ngoako Ramahlodi Sport Complex, Seshego outside Polokwane. Various taxi associations from the province's five districts, Church leaders and their congregants walked from Seshego traffic circle to Ramahlodi Sport Complex in a breeze and cold cloudy Sunday morning (26 June 2022) for a peaceful march to seek God intervention in ending the scourge of violence.

Earlier this year in February, the chairman of SA National Taxi Council (SANTACO), Mr Solomon Ledwaba was gunned down in Seshego by unknown assailants. Last year two taxi owners were also killed while returning from the funeral. Their lifeless bodies were found in a car in Pienaarsrivier. Six people also perished on the R71, Mopani when a sedan caught fire.

Limpopo Provincial Government was led the then MEC for Department of Transport and Community Safety, Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya with Department of Social Development, Ms Nkakareng Rakgoale.

"Out of five deaths in the province, three are GBVF related. With the prayer today, we're saying to



Divine intervention

the public, you also need to take charge of your own communities, because the police only know of criminal activities after they have taken place. One of the issues is the high number of cases of grievous bodily harm incidents among the youth aged 18 to 35 taking place in drinking spot", said MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.

Mr Lesebana Ledwaba who spoke on behalf of the deceased family said that the family is still not recovered from the incident. He further said that during the memorial service of the late Solomon Ledwaba, indicated that the taxi industry needs prayers. Mr Ledwaba also send words of condolences to those who have lost

loved ones due to taxi violence and that whoever does anything against the law to avenge the death of Solomon Ledwaba must not do so in his name. **JM**

CoGHSTA on guard to maintain a safe and zero death Initiation Schools' Season

After a two-year break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Mr Basikopo Makamu hosted a Media Briefing on the 2022 Limpopo Initiation School Season.

The Briefing held at the Department's Headquarters on Wednesday, 22 June 2022 in Polokwane was also attended by the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba and SAPS Mopani Regional Commissioner Major General Willy Mashava.

During the Briefing, MEC Makamu reported the number of initiates that have enrolled at approved schools had almost doubled from 393 in 2019 to 731 this year. Out of this number, 485 are for males and 246 females. From the grand total of 731 applications



Initiates returning from initiation school

received, 680 have been approved. He highlighted that the Department for CoGHSTA and Health are working tirelessly to ensure a safe, successful and death free 2022 Initiation Season. "We are sparring no efforts in ensuring that the lives of

initiates are protected".

"The total number of approved schools are as follows per district; Sekhukhune-458, Waterberg-54, Capricorn-46, Mopani-87 and Vhembe -35," he reported. **TB**

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BAOBAB NEWS

Sport

A night in the ring celebrating Peter “Lion of the North” Mokaba



Christiano (red gloves) and Makondo broke their sweat at Peter Mokaba International Boxing Night for WBF title contest.

MAMA Rocks partnered with the Limpopo Provincial Government to stage a boxing night in honour of the Son of the Soil Peter Mokaba. Peter Mokaba International Boxing Night was held at Meropa Casino, Polokwane on the 26 June 2022. The boxing was part of the youth month commemorations.

Giants boxers from Africa broke their sweat as they went head-to-head at the Peter Mokaba International Boxing Night. The boxing attracted scores of boxing fanatics who were thirsty for this sport from all over the province and outside its boundaries.

This international boxing affair had line-up of several bouts which were fought in

commemoration of the life of the political hero and icon, Peter Mokaba. The boxing night was presented by MAMA Rocks Boxing Promotions which is determined to put Limpopo on the sporting map.

“The fallen legend Peter Mokaba loved sport. Peter was a karate man, he used to play soccer, boxing, and he was doing almost everything because he was trying to encourage the youth to stay away from substance abuse. We need to encourage our youth to do sport because it keeps their mind healthy. I hope that [MAMA Rocks], this boxing night will persuade young people to become boxers. From the Mokaba family, we thank you and everyone who is here”, said Ms Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana.

Headlining the show was the multi-champion Congolese boxer, Christiano Ndombasy and South African boxer, Khensahosi Makondo who locked horns contesting for the WBF International Fight Title. Christiano “The Warrior of Faith” defeated Makondo with TKO at round 10 and defended his title.

The supporting bout between Eastern Cape born former South African and IBO featherweight champion Lusanda Komanisi battled with Amani Bariki of Tanzania for the WBA Pan African Title. Lusanda Komanisi won the fight on unanimous decision.

Peter Mokaba International Boxing Night also saw female boxers taking to the ring. Rollen

Muleba of Limpopo, South Africa battled and defeated Lillian Molala for the Female Cruiserweight over a series of 4 tight rounds.

The night lived up to its promise as it was packed with close and competitive fights where the adrenaline levels were high. Boxing fanatics waited at the edge of their seats for a breath-taking exhibition match of well-known political leaders. The battle between MEC LEDET Thabo Mokone “Lion of Juda” against City of Polokwane Executive Mayor Cllr John Makoro Mpe “Mayweather” was rescheduled for a later date in the year. **JM**



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Faces of Limpopo Provincial Government



Mr Chupu Stanley Mathabatha
Premier of Limpopo Province



Mr Seaparo Sekoati
MEC: Provincial Treasury



Dr Dickson Masemola
MEC: Department of Social Development



Ms Nandi Ndalane
MEC: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



Dr Phophi Ramathuba
MEC: Department of Health



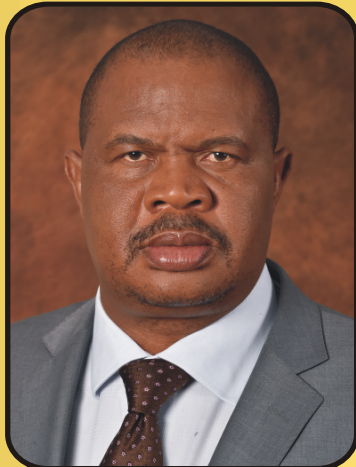
Ms Thandi Moraka
MEC: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture



Mr Basikopo Makamu
MEC: Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs



Ms Polly Boshielo
MEC: Department of Transport and Community Safety



Mr Thabo Mokone
MEC: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism



Ms Nkakareng Rakgoale
MEC: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure



Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya
MEC: Department of Education