

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Limpopo Provincial government to visit People's Republic of China

The Premier of Limpopo Chupu Stanley Mathabatha will lead a government delegation mission to People's Republic of China. Premier Mathabatha will be joined by MECs for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Seaparo Sekoati and Agriculture and Rural Development Joyce Matshoge.

The aim of the visit is to explore investment and trade relations between Limpopo Government and People's Province of Henan and Anhui. This follows the announcement made by President Jacob Zuma and his counterpart, President of People's Republic of China Xi Jinping declaring 2014 as South Africa Year in China and 2015 as Chinese Year in South Africa. It is envisaged that the year of South Africa in China should be implemented at three spheres of government: national, provincial and local level. The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) is coordinating the South Africa's year in China.

The Province will be taking along prominent business people who have a link with China. The Province will use the opportunity to gain investment opportunities within the mining, agricultural and tourism sectors.

Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) as the economic drive in the province will sign investment partnership to increase and boost the economy. National government is in the process of designating and processing approval of two Special Economic Zones in the Province, mainly to concentrate business and investment opportunities in Tubatse and Musina.

As a province we see this visit as an opportunity to renew our commitment to the Chinese, particularly People's Provinces of Henan and Anhui. It will also highlight opportunities available in our province to Chinese.

South African Government has diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC). It has been noted that economic activities and investment opportunities remain concentrated in the traditional economic centers such as Gauteng and the Western Cape provinces, hence the Premier is leading a trade and investment seminar with business delegation.

This year marks the 16th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between South Africa and the PRC. Bilateral relations have since developed to that of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. China has become South Africa's largest trading partner since 2010. At the end of 2013, South Africa exported about R81 billion and imported R112 billion worth of goods and services. Trade balance is at a negative R19

billion. Nevertheless, there is a considerable scope to expand South Africa`s exports to China, particularly in value-added manufactured products.

The entourage will depart on the 19 October and return on the 30 October 2014. In the meantime, MEC for Treasury, Kgolane Phala will act as the Premier of the Province.

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