

ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, AMBASSADOR CHUPU MATHABATHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE CAPRICORN DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL AT AGANANG CLUSTER SPORTS GROUND.

07 February 2020

Programme Director;
Our religious and traditional leaders;
Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality;
Mayor of Polokwane Local Municipality;
All the councillors present in this meeting;
Members of the business community;
Community leaders;
Leaders of non-governmental organisations;
Members of the media;
Esteemed ladies and gentlemen:

Let me start by saying thank you very much for responding so well to our invitation to this historic developmental event.

Indeed, we are here to launch of the Capricorn District Development Model.

The concept of a District Development Model is a concept which is championed by our President, Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa.

The first launch of the District Development Model took place at the OR Tambo District Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province on 17 September 2019.

This was followed by the second launch which took place at eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

The third launch of this district-based development model too place in this Province in the Waterberg District Municipality Province on the 26th November last year.

The national government has taken a decision that this Development Model will be implemented in all of South Africa's 44 municipal Districts and 8 Metropolitans in the country.

It is for this reason that we have come to the Capricorn District Municipality to launch our Province's second leg of the model.

We will be going to the remaining districts which are Vhembe, Sekhukhune and Mopani to do exactly what we are doing here today.

We have decided on this district-based development model because over the last 25 years, government has been working very hard to take services to the people.

However, it has been apparent that there have been some serious gaps in our models of service delivery which required correction.

Part of these gaps were identified by the President Cyril Ramaphosa during the 2019 Presidency Budget Speech when he identified the “pattern of operating in silos” as a challenge for government.

The President continued to say that this has led to lack of coherence in planning and implementation and has made monitoring and oversight of government's programme difficult.

We agree with the President, the lack of proper planning has resulted in poor delivery of services. This has undermined our efforts to fight poverty, inequality and unemployment.

It is for this reason that we have embraced idea of the new District Development Model which is championed by President Ramaphosa.

The District Development Model aims to improve the coherence and impact of government service delivery with focus on districts as development spaces that can be used as centres of service delivery and economic development, which include job creation.

Inspired by the Khawuleza (hurry up) call to action, the District Development Model aims to accelerate, align and integrate service delivery under a single development plan per district.

Through this model, we will see greater partnership between national, provincial and local government. We will also see increased partnership between government, the business sector, labour and community in each district.

Each district plan ensures that national priorities such as economic growth and employment; improvements to living conditions; the fight against crime and corruption and better education outcomes are attended to in the locality concerned.

This development approach will ensure that planning and spending across the three spheres of government is integrated and aligned. The District Development Model will also ensure that each district plan is developed with the input of concerned communities.

This is a people-centred and a people-driven development model

I believe that this is a prescription we have been waiting for.

We believe that a district-by-district approach to development is exactly what our country has been yearning for.

This is because each district has its own competitive advantages and its own unique challenges.

Program Director;

Over the years, a blanket approach to issues of development has not managed to yield necessary progress.

We believe that this is the approach which will assist us to develop our country, grow the economy and create the much-needed jobs.

For an example, this district is our logistic hub.

If we are to develop this district, we would need to invest more of our energy and resources into the logistics sector in order to maximise our output.

We will also need to ensure that our academic institutions tailor their programs to respond to the socio-economic needs and attributes of the districts they serve.

We need to ensure that this district leverages on excellent and growing infrastructure, our international airport and its offerings of diverse cultural experiences.

We need to ensure that the abundance of land in this district work to create food and job opportunities for the people of this district.

For this to happen we need a greater partnership between government, communities, traditional leadership and the business community.

We can say confidently that the District Development Model will stimulate economic growth and benefit our local entrepreneurs, majority of who are young people.

This Model is expected to develop, support and promote local entrepreneurs through prioritising local procurement of services and goods.

Programme Director;

I want to conclude by inviting everyone in this district and everyone in this province to embrace this concept of district development model.

Let us continue to work together to take services to our communities.

I thank you.