

OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LIMPOPO EXCO LEKGOTLA BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO HONOURABLE CHUPU MATHABATHA HELD AT THE RANCH HOTEL.

19 February 2020

Program director;  
Members of the Executive Council;  
Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, Kgoshi Dikgale;  
Our Director General, Ntate Nape Nchabeleng;  
Heads of State-Owned Enterprises;  
Heads of our Provincial Departments;  
Representatives from the Office of the Auditor-General;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning!

Let me join you our Programme Facilitator, Mme Polly Boshielo in welcoming attendees to this very important 2020 edition of Exco Lekgotla.

Let me also commend all of you for responding so overwhelmingly to the invitation to this Lekgotla.

I have got no doubt that your response to this invitation speaks about your commitment to the program and work of our government.

This is the type of fidelity and commitment that is required if we are to successfully execute the task of improving service delivery and bettering the lives of our people.

The task of uniting our nation and ensuring the socio-economic development of our country is a hallowed task which requires absolute commitment and discipline.

Programme Facilitator;

This Lekgotla is taking place just over a month after the ruling party's January 08 Statement was released.

As you know, the ANC's January 08 Statement is very significant to the work that we do in government.

Through the January 8 statement, the ANC identified the following as the priorities for the year 2020; these priorities are:

- Building a capable state that serves all the people
- Building a united and cohesive society
- Investment, jobs and inclusive growth
- An effective land reform programme
- Eradicating poverty and improving people's lives
- Education and Skills for a changing world
- Social cohesion and safe communities, and
- the building of a better Africa, and a better world

It is the task of this Lekgotla to breathe life to these priorities which the ANC has identified. You would know that these priorities were not a product of creative thinking but a reflection of the true aspirations of the people.

The people we serve have said that they want to see a government that improves its capacity to deliver on the electoral mandate;

The people have said that they want us to prioritise the task of nation-building and social cohesion;

It is our people's cry that we should work to grow our economy and create the much-needed jobs, especially for our youth;

Our people have indeed said that we must expedite the process of land reform so that land ownership can reflect the reality of our national demographics.

It is not our task to question the demands of the people – our task is to deliver on what the people want.

Program facilitator;

This Lekgotla takes place during the year of the 60th anniversary of the Freedom Charter.

The Freedom Charter is a hallowed document of the people of South Africa, representing their views and demands.

The Freedom Charter sets out the fundamental vision of our democratic nation and is the foundation of our Constitution.

Through the Freedom Charter the people declared that they want a government of the people and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people.

Through the Freedom Charter the people declared that they deserve a fair share of the country's wealth.

Through the Freedom Charter the people demanded equality before the law.

Through the Freedom Charter the people demanded that the doors of learning and culture should be opened for all.

It was through this hallowed document that the people demanded there should be houses, jobs, security and comfort.

Through the Freedom Charter the people demanded that the land should not be monopolised by one national group but that it must be shared amongst all those who are prepared to work it.

Our primary task as government officials is to ensure that the aspiration contained in the Freedom Charter are realised.

We must use the state machinery at our disposal to breathe life to the vision of the Freedom Charter.

Programme Facilitator;

All of us in this house, by virtue of our high positions in government, we have taken a solemn oath to direct all our energies towards extinguishing the dehumanizing flame of poverty and joblessness.

We must do this with the knowledge that it is indeed within our power to bring about change in the lives of our people.

We should always remember that as we build houses, construct roads and connect households with electricity, we are not doing our people any favour.

The provision of these and many other services is part and parcel of our delivery obligation on the contract we have signed with the people - It is our mandate as politicians and as a government.

I must however hasten to say that I do not doubt your commitment to the assignment we have as government. I am confident that all of us in this hall are guided and directed by our common desire to make Limpopo a better place to live in.

It is for this reason that we will be giving this Lekgotla all the attention, focus and respect it deserves.

Every single presentation which will be made here today and tomorrow will be carrying a particular significance. No presentation will be made for ritual purposes.

We need to come out of this meeting with a clearer understanding on what we need to do through our SEZ programme to facilitate economic growth and development.

We need to redefine the role of mining houses in our communities in particular the role that the mining industry should play on the economic upliftment of our communities.

We should leave this Lekgotla with a workable approach on how to improve our audit outcomes so that we continue to enhance public confidence in government.

All other presentations carry the same weight and significance. I therefore urge all of you to engage with all presentation honestly and without fear or favour.

This is a platform for honest and robust engagements.

This is not the time to buy favors; it is the time for honesty, introspection and self-criticism.

Programme Facilitator;

My task was not to present a keynote speech but to officially open this Lekgotla. There is obviously a lot of work ahead of us today.

Our people look upon this meeting to produce tangible results and a long-lasting solution to the challenges they are confronted with on day-to-day basis.

I do not doubt the capacity of this meeting to produce necessary solutions.

Let us use our collective wisdom and energy to bring together a viable programme of action to be implemented by our provincial government.

I want to conclude by wishing this Lekgotla robust and fruitful discussion.

I thank you!