

MESSAGE OF SUPPORT BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO MR CHUPU STANLEY  
MATHABATHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOD-TURNING CEREMONY FOR THE  
LAUNCH OF SEKHUKHUNE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE.

21 October 2021

Programme Director  
Honourable Minister, Blade Nzimande;  
Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Keamotseng Stanley  
Ramaila;  
Our host Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Cllr Julia Mathebe;  
Our Esteemed Traditional Leaders;  
Principals and representatives from various TVET Colleges;  
Representatives of SETAs;  
Our friends in the Media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I was advised that my task in this glittering ceremony is to offer a message of support, and I am here to do exactly that.

As Limpopo Provincial Government we are excited and delighted that such a high-valued project is taking off in our province.

Our support for this project of establishing a Skills Development Centre here in Sekhukhune is unqualified and unconditional.

This is so because the issue of skills development has been one of the major impediments to the growth and development of our provincial economy and the economy of this region in particular.

The shortage of requisite skills amongst young people is equally amongst the key drivers of unemployment and the resulting poverty amongst our people.

For us as the provincial government, this is not just a sod-turning event – this is a seed planting ceremony.

We are here to plant a fertile seed of socio-economic development.  
We are planting a seed for skills revolution, a revolution which will power us with the much-needed capacity to build the Limpopo we want.

The Limpopo we want, is a Limpopo of empowered youth;  
It is a Limpopo of well capacitated and skilled youth;

We want to build a Limpopo of abundant, diverse and yet relevant skills.  
This is how we intend to frog-march poverty and underdevelopment from our communities.

It is for this reason that we commit ourselves to work with the Department of Higher Education, our TVET colleges and all relevant role-players to ensure that this seed is watered and nurtured to its full potential.

This project is important for us as the Province because it is in line with our Limpopo Development Plan, the LDP.

The LDP is our socio-economic development blueprint. The LDP has an entrenched focus on mining, agricultural, tourism sector and manufacturing.

For these areas to flourish, they require proper and relevant skills.

These skills are not ready-made, they need to be produced in a deliberate and focused manner.

Without these skills, our developmental objectives will remain empty shells without content.

The LDP acknowledges that a critical condition for job creation is improved levels of education and skills development.

It is against the above mentioned background that, human resource development has therefore been identified as one of the key priorities in the LDP.

As you know, Sekhukhune is our mining and agriculture region. I am therefore confident that these sectors, particularly our mining sector will benefit from this center.

This center will equally ensure that young people from this area are able to benefit from opportunities created and are available in this area.

Programme Director

At its fullest potential, the seed we are planting today will bear the fruits of socio-economic development and prosperity.

This socio-economic prosperity will be evidenced by the creation of jobs, the reduction of poverty and the improvement in the quality of living for our people. As I have said, the work we are witnessing today is much in line with our government's developmental agenda.

As Premier of our beautiful province, I am particularly excited about any development that takes place in those areas that have been previously marginalised. Like I always say, this opportunity once more puts concrete expression to our resolution that, the schools curriculum must respond to the needs of our economy as Limpopo.

I reiterate this call to all do that, we look at this important skills development initiative as a clarion to towards action to a change of approach in education.

We need to appreciate this initiative, utilize it and take good care of it.

It is therefore for this reason that I want to reiterate our support for this project.

Indeed this project is evident to the words of the late Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu when he said that and I quote:

"Tell my people that I love them and that they must continue to fight, my blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom, Aluta continua." close quote.

That is why therefore, I want to conclude by thanking the minister for identifying our area for this game-changing project.

It is indeed true that by working together we can build the South Africa we want. The South Africa that Solomon Mahlangu has laid down his life for.

With those few words:

I thank you!

Kea Leboga!