

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, MR CHUPU
MATHABATHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE MINING CONFERENCE, 28-29
SEPTEMBER 2021

28 September 2021

Programme Director, Mr Thakhani Makhuvha;
Hon Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Mr. Gwede Mantashe;
Our host MEC, Mr. Thabo Mokone;
All other MECs who are with us in this Indaba;
The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and
Tourism, Mr. Donald Selamolela;
The Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, Kgoshi Malesela Dikgale;
The Director General for our Provincial Government, Mr. Nape Nchabeleng;
The DG of the Department of Minerals and Energy, Advocate Thabo Mokoena;
The Leadership of Minerals Council, Mr. Roger Baxter and your Executives;
The leadership of various mining houses operating in our province;
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.
Good Morning, Thobela, Avuxeni, Ndi matsheloni, Goeie more,
On behalf of Limpopo Provincial Government, we welcome you to this important gathering,
the Limpopo Mining and Energy Indaba.
We are proud and delighted to co-host this event with the Department of Minerals and
Energy.

I am particularly happy that our minister, Honourable Mantashe has agreed that this
important engagement shall become a signature event on our joint calendar as the Provincial
Government and the Department of Minerals and Energy.

This will offer us an opportunity to interact directly and interface with challenges in the
sector.

This will allow us to respond swiftly and in a more tailored fashion to challenges that may
emerge from time to time.

Most importantly, this conference will help to highlight the many investment opportunities
that are available in our mining sector.

I speak with authority when I say investment opportunities in our mining sector are limitless.
It is a known fact that Limpopo is rich in mineral deposits such as platinum, chrome, coal,
and diamond.

As a result mining continues to be a major contributor to both provincial and national Gross
Domestic Products.

As government we move from a position that mineral resources are a collective heritage of
our people. Through the government, the state acts as a custodian for our mineral resources.
We also acknowledge the living reality that mineral resources are part of the non-renewable
natural resources.

It is against this background that the government has an obligation to ensure the mineral
resources are utilised in a manner that promote local and rural development and the social
upliftment of communities affected by mining.

At the same time, collectively we carry an obligation to ensure that mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects the environment for the benefit of future generations. We indeed can advance our economic and social development while at the same time caring for our environment; the two are not mutually exclusive.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As I have said, mining is the mainstay of the Limpopo economy and has on average contributed 25 percent to our economy in the last fifteen years. In the last five years, mining has contributed 90 000 direct jobs to Limpopo and a total of 1,2 million employed workforce.

If one considers both the direct and indirect impact of the mining sector, then its employment contribution increases from 8% to about 15%.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This important contribution by mining requires that all of us should continue to nurture the relationship between mining and government, the communities in which mining is taking place and the environment.

This gathering is part of that nurturing wherein we are bringing all the stakeholders to ensure that there is a harmonious co-existence between mining and communities around the mines.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The provincial government has always created a platform for engagement between government, mining and the communities:

At the height of COVID-19 pandemic last year, the provincial government came up with the

Government-Mining Task Team, to implement the Mining Sector Risk Mitigation Plan against the pandemic.

The objectives of the Task Team were later expanded to include local economic development.

We are happy to report that the interventions have reduced the positivity rate and helped us to change our behavior towards the COVID-19 pandemic.

The fruits of the Task Team have a bearing on how Limpopo Province manages the pandemic and the daily infection statistics can attest to this.

As we speak, the backlog remains on the mining support to the economic development, and we need to tackle it with the same vigor.

Programme Director

Limpopo is well endowed with mineral such chrome, gold, platinum group metals, diamonds, vanadium, coal amongst others and there are 136 mines operating in our communities.

The exploration and mining for these mineral deposits must benefit both the mining houses and communities around them.

The current relationship between the mining houses and communities can be described as tense and from time to time the provincial government has been called upon to resolve the disputes.

We would like to move into a new chapter of harmonious relationship and social compact defined by open communication and dialogue and certainty in terms of mining houses expectations and community benefits.

Ladies and gentlemen, mining and mineral beneficiation is the cornerstone of our Limpopo Industrial Master Plan.

We do need your support in mega-industrialisation programmes such the energy and metallurgical cluster in the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone.

For our SEZ project to thrive, we will need mining houses commitment as investors as well as the guarantors of Minerals and materials supply.

Our goal is to expand our manufacturing capacity in the production of steel products, the battery storage from lithium, hydrogen fuel cells, auto catalysts and so forth.

We invite you to invest in our SEZ initiative so that together we can harvest from the great potential that lies between our rich mineral resources and this SEZ project.

We do appreciate the investment from mining houses which is currently at the tune of R93 billion in the next five years. This investment will support mining development and expansion.

These investments do ensure that communities and SMMEs benefit through skills development, enterprise and supplier development and other procurement opportunities.

Ladies and gentlemen, you are welcome in Limpopo. Please enjoy what Limpopo has in tourism offerings and support us as we celebrate the Limpopo Tourism Month.

Let us engage honestly and robustly and enjoy the Mining Conference.

Let us continue to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols. I am confident that in this room we have got men and women of good intellect and capacity to equal the challenges and the task at hand.

We have come this far working together, and together lets continue to make the difference. It is now my pleasure to officially welcome you to this edition of the Mining Conference.

I thank you!

Nda!

Inkomu!

Kea Leboga!

Baie Dankie!