

ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, HONOURABLE CHUPU MATHABATHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE MOPANI DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL, NKOWANKOWA STADIUM.

16 April 2021

Programme Director, MEC Makamu;
Our host Traditional Leader, Acting Hosi Muhlava and all our Esteemed Traditional Leaders present here today;
The Chairperson of Mopani House of Traditional Leaders, Hosi Nwamitwa wa Vumbhiri and all distinguished members of the house;
Our host Executive Mayor, Councillor Pule Shai and Your Worship Mayors of our Local Municipalities;
All councillors present here today;
Senior members of our provincial government and employees of our municipalities;
Friends from the Media;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Programme Director

I am truly pleased to be here in Nkowankowa as we officially launch the Mopani leg of the District Development Model.

We are delighted to join the people of Mopani district as we unleash the spirit of khawuleza to propel our service delivery machinery.

Through the twin spirit of Thuma Mina and Khawuleza this district, our province and our country shall never be the same again.

As you know, khawuleza is about improving the pace of service delivery. We know that our people have been waiting for long and can no longer wait for houses, drinking water, roads, electricity and other basic services. Khawuleza is about cutting the red tape that impede the pace of service delivery. The spirit of khawuleza is about a faster and more effective method of taking services to our communities.

This means that municipalities and other service delivery agents, must innovate and think outside of the box.

One of the ways of doing this, is through partnerships and proper planning.
Programme Director

On the other hand, the spirit of Thuma Mina is about galvanising our people to become change agents themselves.

Thuma Mina is about people taking ownership of the development of their own communities.

As government we believe that people are their own liberators.

If people want it to be done, it will be done. After all, ours is a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Our battle cry has always been, everything for the people and nothing against the people.

The concept of the District Development Model is not a very sophisticated concept. It is a concept which is built on the understanding that says we can build this country, district by district, municipality by municipality.

The concept of a District Development Model is a concept which is championed by our President, Honourable Matamela 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 took place in this Province in the Waterberg District Municipality Province on the 26th November 2019.

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.

About two years ago, President Cyril Ramaphosa launched the Waterberg District Development Model as a National Pilot Project.

The launch of the Waterberg District Development Model was the third in the country and the most successful launch.

The launch of Mopani District Development Model is also a resounding success as you all can see.

In his speech, at the launch of the Waterberg District Development Model, President Ramaphosa said that:

The District Development Model we launched today is a break from a past where government departments did not plan properly and imposed projects on communities without taking their needs into account.

The district-based model is about putting local government at the centre of our country's growth and development.

By doing this, we are affirming the people's power to govern and determine their own destiny.

We want to put an end to the tendency of departments working in silos and developing plans from above which do not respond to the challenges faced by our people on the ground.

It allows government departments at national and provincial levels to combine resources and work together towards the implementation of a single plan – developed locally and coordinated at a district level.

We are very clear: 'One District, One Plan, One Budget, One Approach.

Programme Director

This is exactly how we are going to develop the Mopani District, and all other districts in our province.

We 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.

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.

Programme Director

The District Development Model means that development will be pursued through single and integrated plans per each district.

We will no longer be working in silos. Our message to the people of Mopani is that;

The district-driven development model is directed at turning plans into action and ensuring proper project management and tracking;

District Development Model will be pursued through single and integrated plans per district which will be further synchronised with Integrated Development Plans in municipalities;

The plans will elaborate the key transformation processes required to achieve long-term strategic goals and a desired future in each municipality; and Each district plan will outline the role of each sphere of government, prioritising the following:

The management of urbanisation, growth and development;

Supporting local economic drivers;
Accelerating land release and land development;
Investing in infrastructure for integrated human settlement, economic activity and the provision of basic services; and
Addressing service delivery in all our municipalities.

Programme Director

We mean business and we are serious about development. This district of Mopani has the greatest potential for development.

Our responsibilities as leaders is to work with communities, Traditional Leaders and other stakeholders to make sure that this potential is realised. The role of the district municipality is to work together and plan with all the local municipalities. The district municipality must also plan together with all agencies of government operating in the district.

On our part, the provincial government has a dedicated unit to support municipalities in their planning and in the execution of their plans. However, I need to stress the point that good governance is a necessary condition for development.

Good governance inspire confidence of the people in their elected government. When people develop confidence in their government they will support the work of government.

Good governance is also about prudent management of resources. We want to see every cent which is allocated to development project going to development projects and not in the pockets of individuals.

We do not want to see episodes similar to what happens with the Giyani Water Project.

Let us not mismanage the people's resources. The resources at our disposal as leaders, are not our personal resources.

Being a leader is not a golden ticket to personal riches. Leadership is about service to the people. We are mere servants of the people. We must remain servants of the people.

We must part with the twisted mentality that says leaders must be served by the people. It is leaders who must serve the people.

If we improve on good governance, we will not only rely on monies from the fiscus. Good governance attracts private investments, including direct foreign investment.

If we work together, we can indeed build the Mopani we want, we can build the Limpopo we want and we will definitely build the South Africa we want, a South Africa of our dreams.

Programme Director

Before I conclude my speech and still on issues of clean governance and capable state, I urge the people of Mopani District to join the provincial government, as we continue our historic audit outcomes.

I bring to you today, five (5) Clean Audit Opinions, nine (9) Unqualified Audit Opinions and two (2) qualified audit opinions. This is the achievement by the provincial departments and public entities, as assessed by the Auditor General of South Africa, for the previous financial year.

I bring to you today, a Limpopo without a single Disclaimer audit opinions. A Limpopo free from the shackles of non-accountability on public finances that has engulfed the province for many years which passed.

On the same wavelength, I am hopeful that all our municipalities will not let us down when the AG announces their audit outcomes. We are anxiously awaiting clean audit opinions for all our municipalities and nothing less. We have since declared Limpopo a Disclaimers free province and we will never be deterred.

The district development model will never yield positive results if we cannot account for the use of public funds. Therefore, we are unshaken in our resolve to get this area right.

Added to that, I urge all our provincial departments and entities to share our vision as political leadership and embrace the khawuleza approach. Our trajectory is that of quality audit outcomes that translate into tangible service delivery on the ground.

Our resolve is towards the attainment of the National Democratic Society, decorated by the fulfilment of all key pillars of the Freedom Charter.

Programme Director

As I conclude, please allow me to extend our appreciations as the Provincial Command Council to the people of Mopani, for the corporation during the hard lockdown and throughout the period as we battled coronavirus.

We are aware that it was not easy to be confined to your homes, work reduced hours, loose loved ones, cancel wedding plans, not hold gatherings and bury your departed under strict guidelines, due to Covid-19 pandemic.

However, we are proud that finally, steadfastly and majestically we are emerging victorious against this unknown demon.

Once again, we thank you the people of Mopani and the entire province for taking this long journey with us. Inkomu.

Lastly, I want to invite 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.

Together Moving South Africa forward.

I thank you!
Ndza Nkhensa!
Kea Leboga!
Ndo livhuwa nga maanda!