

**OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LIMPOPO EXCO LEKGOTLA  
BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO HONOURABLE CHUPU  
MATHABATHA HELD AT THE FOREVER RESORTS  
WARMBATHS, BELA-BELA.**

16 February 2017.

Program director;

Members of the Executive Council;

Our newly appointed 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!**

**Thank you programme facilitator** and MEC for LEDET ntate Seaparo Sekoati - let me join you in welcoming attendees to this very important 2017 edition of Exco Lekgotla.

This Lekgotla is taking place just days after the delivery of the State of the Nation Address by President Jacob Zuma.

It also takes place after the ANC Limpopo held its Lekgotla a few days ago to make serious economic transformational recommendations.

The State of the Nation Address delivered under the theme Radical Transformation of the Economy. In this regard, the President focused on the delivery of the 12 urgent tasks put forward by the ANC during its Lekgotla in January.

These tasks include:

- revitalizing the agricultural sector and expediting land reform;
- transforming the finance and banking sector;
- focused attention on industrialisation, manufacturing and beneficiation;
- improving education outcomes; fighting crime and corruption, and
- Improving the capacity of local government.

The ANC Lekgotla characterized the Radical socio-economic transformation as fundamental change in the structure, systems, institutions and patterns of ownership and control of the economy in favour of all South Africans, especially the poor, the majority of whom are African and female.

The decisions of the ANC NEC Lekgotla and the pronouncement of the President in his State of the Nation Address have now become our program of action.

As you know, next week I will be delivering the State of the Province Address at the Jack Botes Hall.

Once again, our people will be listening attentively and with great anticipation. Attentively, so as to hear what the government has managed to achieve over the past 12 months – with great anticipation because they would want to hear what the government has planned for them for the coming 12 months and beyond.

Whatever we will report on will be a reflection of our collective work. Whatever plans we will announce would be crafted by all of us in this Lekgotla.

Therefore, if there is anything that is still outstanding for SOPA, it is therefore a resolution of this Lekgotla. This is how important this Lekgotla is.

Together, we are midwives in the important task of delivering on the socio-economic expectations of our people.

We cannot afford to fail them because they have placed all of their hopes and dreams in our hands.

We have signed a contract with these masses – they have delivered their continued support for this government, it is now time for us to deliver on their legitimate expectations.

Our people do not expect the unexpected from us. They expect no more than what we said we could deliver.

They expect that we will use their resources prudently to ensure the provision of adequate and decent houses for those

who are in need and deserving;

They expect that we should utilise resources at our disposal to prioritize the provision of water to our communities; expand education and training opportunities to our youth and fighting crime and corruption.

It is for this reason that I have said that none of us can afford to take the business of this Lekgotla for granted.

**Programme Director;**

I am confident that all of us in this hall share in the 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 the purpose of merely making a presentation of just prolonging the program.

The presentation on industrialisation projects with the focus on SEZs will assist us with the necessary understanding of what needs to be done in order to facilitate economic growth and development.

The same goes to the presentation on mining – 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.

The presentations on Audit Outcomes and the implementation of Clean Audit Strategy are of high significance. As you know, good audit outcomes help to enhance public confidence in the government.

We can also expect that the recommendations from the AG presentation will help us identify and arrest areas of wastage. Curbing wastage will help us to direct resources to important areas such as education, health and projects that stimulate economic growth.

All other presentations carry the same weight and significance.

**Programme Facilitator;**

**My** mandate is to officially open this Lekgotla; I will therefore in the interest of time not go beyond the confines of my limited scope.

I once again wish to welcome you and to officially declare the business of this Lekgotla to have commenced.

I am confident that this Lekgotla will not be a mere box-ticking exercise.

I thank you!

