

Message from the Premier Chupu Mathabatha on the occasion of the official receipt of the National and Provincial Elections for Limpopo Province at the Provincial Results Operation Centre.

12 May 2019

Programme facilitator;
Commissioners of Electoral Commission;
Provincial Electoral Officer; Mme Nkaro Mateta;
Leaders of Political Parties;
Our esteemed traditional leaders;
Members of the media,

I want to start by taking this opportunity to thank the IEC for having invited us to this official handover of the Provincial Election Results.

Without doubt, this occasion marks the end of what has been a long, taxing, yet important journey for our country and our maturing democracy.

I am truly happy that this was not a one-man's journey – it was a collective journey for all of us.

The people of Limpopo came from all the corners of our beautiful province to ensure a peaceful, credible and above all, a free and fair election.

I therefore want to take this opportunity to commend the IEC in the Province for the remarkable work you are doing to sustain our constitutional democracy.

There is no doubt that you have once again delivered on your legislative and constitutional mandate.

I am also certain that your work will continue to attract attention even from outside the borders of our country.

Keep up the good work. The life and health of our democracy depends on the work that you are doing.

There is no doubt that the peace and political stability we are enjoying in this country is largely owed to the diligent work of the IEC.

Managing and delivering free and credible election is a strategic ingredient of peace and political stability of every nation.

I also want to take this opportunity to salute the police and the rest of the security team in the province for a job well done.

Your visibility, vigilance and prompt response help to secure the integrity of the election process.

Without you, there will be no election results to celebrate or talk about.

We know that most of you worked long hours away from your usual work stations. You sacrificed everything for the love of your country. You are the true patriots who keep our democracy safe and secured.

We salute you once again.

I also want to take this opportunity to commend various sections of government for ensuring adequate support to the IEC throughout the election process.

We thank our schools and SGBs for availing school infrastructure to support the work of the IEC.

Various municipalities have also availed community halls to the IEC to use as voting stations.

We have also enjoyed the similar kind of support from a number of churches across the province.

We thank all of you for making the work of the IEC a bit easier.

Our traditional leaders have also opened their doors and provided necessary support to the IEC to do its job. This is a very important contribution to our democratic discourse.

I equally want to take this opportunity to commend all the political parties which participated in this election.

The level of political tolerance and maturity displayed by political parties is highly commendable.

I can say without any fear of contradictions that in this election we did not have political enemies but political opponents. Your campaigns were conducted in a dignified manner and within the parameters of the law.

This is the spirit that can propel our country and our province forward.

We cannot even begin to overemphasise the significance of harmonious relations between and amongst the politicians and the political parties.

I lastly want to commend the most important stakeholders in this election process, the voters.

The people of Limpopo came out in their numbers to make their marks and to ensure that their voices are heard.

We want to thank you for voting and for voting in such a peaceful and dignified manner.

I am confident that most of the international observers who were in our province will have a lot of positives to say about your conduct during the election.

Personally, I saw people wearing t-shirts of different political parties walking together to different voting stations. I saw some of them in their different t-shirts driving in the same car to the voting stations.

Those are beautiful scenes that you can never see in our countries.

In conclusion, I wish to take this moment and say to those parties that did not make it that there is always next time. There is no reason to become despondent; you still have a role to play in the life of our democracy.

You can still work with government even when you are not in government or the legislature.

I also want to congratulate all the four parties which secured representation in our provincial legislature.

Please, always remember that you are not going to the legislature to pursue private agendas; you are in the legislature to serve the people of Limpopo.

We must always remember that it is only by working together that we can grow this province and create opportunities for our people.

Once again, thank you to the IEC for the job well done.

I thank you.