

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY MR. CHUPU STANLEY  
MATHABATHA ON HIS ELECTION AS THE PREMIER OF  
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DURING THE FIRST  
SITTING OF THE SIXTH DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURE OF  
LIMPOPO.**

***22 May 2019***

Our newly elected Speaker and Deputy Speaker,  
Leadership of the African National Congress,  
Leaders of Opposition Parties,  
Our newly elected Members of this distinguished House,  
Provincial Commissioner of the SAPS,  
Esteemed Members of the Judiciary,  
Chairperson and members of the House of Traditional Leaders,  
Stalwarts and Veterans of our struggle,  
Heads of Chapter Nine Institutions  
Religious leaders,  
My Special Guest, Consul- General of India, Dr KJ Frimivasa  
Director General and members of our Senior Management  
Service,  
Media representatives,  
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
The people of Limpopo:

Let me start first by congratulating our brand new Madam Speaker for being elected to this important position.

We congratulate you, together with the Deputy Speaker on your fresh mandate.

We have all the confidence in your collective abilities to drive the work of this august House.

You can also be assured of our continued support in the execution of your responsibilities.

I also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate our newly elected members of this Provincial Legislature.

Your mandate comes directly from the people of this Province. You have been given a mandate to work with your colleagues in this House to make Limpopo a better Province to live in.

I also wish to congratulate all the parties which managed to gain representation in this House. In particular, I wish to congratulate the Freedom Front Plus for gaining a seat in this House for the first time in so many years.

There is no doubt that you represent a significant constituency whose voices deserve to be heard.

**Madam Speaker** - It is indeed a special honour and privilege for me to stand before you and before the people of Limpopo as a newly elected Premier for our Province.

I assume the responsibilities entrusted upon me by the African National Congress and the people with absolute humility.

This is by no means a personal achievement, but a clarion call to action.

I have been called upon by the masses of our Province to lead government towards a destination of a better life for all.

This is a call to make an effort to better the lives of our people through good governance, fighting corruption and improving access to basic services.

We do not take this call for granted.

We have absolute respect for the people who have ensured that we are elected to these positions.

It is our commitment to work for them and to never betray their trust.

I once again wish to say that I am humbled by your faith and the unwavering confidence you have shown in me.

Your confidence in me has placed on my shoulders an obligation to work diligently and tirelessly to change the lives of our people for the better.

As I have said, my election today is not a personal feat; but a call to action.

I must also say that I am humbled by the continued vote of confidence in the ANC by the people of this Province.

As the ANC we accept your overwhelming mandate, conscious of the service delivery challenges that lie ahead, and we dare not fail.

We also accept the mandate that we should work together with the EFF, the DA and the Freedom Front Plus.

We are called upon to work together to ensure that we create job opportunities for the jobless; that we accelerate the provision of houses for the homeless, above all, deliver water and electricity to those communities which are still without such basic services.

**Madam Speaker;**

As I conclude, I wish to emphasise that as Premier of this beautiful Province I will always be faithful to the constitution and all the laws governing our country.

This means that I will also be intolerant of anyone in government who is caught breaking the law.

It is my primary mandate to ensure that the resources of this Province will be used for the benefit of the people and not the selected few. Every single cent at our disposal must and will be used for intended purpose.

We are alive to the fact that we are called upon to execute an extremely taxing task. However, as revolutionaries we have accepted that ours is not an easy parade, hence it is called a struggle.

It is against this background that, today, we recommit ourselves to jealously guard against any tendency that seeks to reverse the gains of the past 25 years of freedom and democracy.

At the core of these tendencies is crime and corruption. We therefore implore on all of you to join us in our renewed efforts to fight corruption.

We must do this because corruption is not only a government problem; it is a societal problem that requires all us to play our role.

As I have said earlier, these state resources are meant for nothing else but the improvement of the conditions of living of our people.

**Lastly**, I would like to extend a hand of friendship to the leaders and members of the opposition to join me in this journey to grow Limpopo.

I firmly believe that there is no cause which is more significant and worthy than to serve the people of Limpopo.

**Thank you very much.**