

ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, MR. CHUPU
MATHABATHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL ANTI-
CORRUPTION STRATEGY STAKEHOLDER, HELD AT PETER
MOKABA, POLOKWANE

28 August 2018

Programme directors,

Ms Tsebe and Ms Manamela;

Members of the Limpopo Anti-Corruption Forum;

Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality, Ntate John Mpe;

Executive Mayor of Polokwane Local Municipality, Mme Thembi
Nkadimeng;

Director General, Ntate Nape Nchabeleng;

All the stakeholders present here today;

Members of the media;

Esteemed ladies and Gentlemen:

I think I should start by expressing my appreciation to all of you for honouring our invitation to this important meeting. As you know, this meeting is part of consultation efforts to engage stakeholders on the development of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

The Strategy to be developed as part of this effort will serve as a guide for the rest of the country. It is for this reason that we must take the work to be done in this meeting very seriously.

I am saying this because you would know that the fight against crime and corruption is one of the apex priorities of this government.

You would know and agree that corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that affects all countries.

Corruption undermines democratic institutions, slows economic development and contributes to governmental instability.

Corruption attacks the foundation of democratic institutions by distorting electoral processes, perverting the rule of law and creating bureaucratic quagmires whose only reason for existing is the soliciting of bribes.

Economic development is stunted because foreign direct investment is discouraged and small businesses within the country often find it impossible to overcome the "start-up costs" required because of corruption'.

It is clear from this submission that corruption is a multi-faceted phenomenon that knows no boundaries.

We have said it on numerous platforms that the fight against crime and corruption remain a top priority of our government.

It is in this context that we continue to call for a working partnership between government and organs of civil society in dealing with the scourge of corruption. Our commitment to fight corruption, include fighting corruption both in the public sector and the corruption that is happening in the private sector.

A lot has been said and written about the corruption that is taking place in the public sector, but very little is being said about the ballooning and sophisticated web of private sector corruption.

There is no doubt about the damage that public sector corruption is doing to our country.

The corruption that is taking place in our government departments, parastatals and municipalities undermines the very dream of a better life for all.

Public sector corruption amputates the government's abilities to provide basic service delivery to our people.

It is largely because of corruption that we are not able to deliver as many houses as we would wish to our people; It is at times because of corruption that our people still drink water with wild animals.

Things like bhemuda roads and abandoned infrastructure development projects are in most cases, because of corruption.

Public sector corruption undermines the people's confidence in government and the entire political system. Such an eroded confidence of our people in government is a recipe for anarchy and disaster.

On the other hand, we have private sector corruption which is also spiralling out of control.

Private sector corruption takes many and different forms. Corruption in the private sector includes tax evasion, fronting, illicit transfer of money out of the country, and so on and for forth.

Some of you would know about the report of the High Level Panel which was led by former President Thabo Mbeki on the Illicit Financial Flow from Africa. The report as you know, was commissioned by the AU Conference of Finance Ministers.

It emerged as part of the investigation by the commission that:

- Total illicit outflows from Africa may be as high as 1.8 trillion US Dollars;
- Sub-Saharan African countries experienced the bulk of illicit financial outflows with the West and Central African region posting the largest outflow numbers;
- The top five countries with the highest outflow measured were: Nigeria at 89.5 billion US Dollars, Egypt 70.5 billion US Dollars, Algeria 25.7 billion US Dollars, Morocco 25 billion US Dollars, and South Africa 24.9 billion US Dollars;
- Illicit financial outflows from the entire region outpaced official development assistance going into the region at a ratio of at least 2 to 1;
- Illicit financial outflows from Africa grew at an average rate of 11.9 percent per year.

In as far as our country is concerned; you will agree with me that an amount of 24.9 billion US Dollars is too much to can change the face of this country. With this kind of money, we can fund all our social programs without seeking aid from foreign countries.

It is for this reason that we want to canvass to this meeting to accept the submission that any viable anti-corruption strategy, must take

into account both the private and public sector corruption.

The monies that we lose as a result of tax invasion can go a long way to assist in the construction of new roads, clinics, connecting households to electricity and providing clean drinking water to our communities.

It is for this reason that we should see corruption, in all its manifestation as the enemy of our people. Corruption is an enemy of development. Public and private sector corruption stand opposed to the ideal of a better life for all.

Programme Directors;

The government has put in place sufficient legislative and institutional mechanisms for members of the public to report corruption.

You would know that we have a very effective Premier's Anti-Corruption Hotline which is available to those who wish to report corruption anonymously.

This similar facility is available at our various departments and municipalities.

But as you know, because corruption has become very sophisticated our measures need to be reinforced from time to time.

We need a dedicated body of reputable men and women who will focus on the urgent task to bring down corruption. For this reason, that in 2015 we re-launched the Provincial Anti-Corruption Forum. Our task is to rejuvenate this important Forum.

Our guiding philosophy is that the work of fighting corruption is linked with the attainment of national goals such as, fighting poverty and unemployment, improving economic growth and promoting social cohesion.

These goals cannot be achieved in an environment of rampant corruption.

The goals we have set for the province through the Limpopo

Development Plan require that we liquidate corruption in all its forms.

The mandate of our Anti-Corruption Forum includes:

- To facilitate the co-ordination of sectoral strategies against corruption;
- To advise Government on national initiatives on the implementation of strategies to combat corruption;
- To share information and the best practice on sectoral anti-corruption work;
- To provide guidance and advice on sectoral anti-corruption strategies, and
- To promote integrity amongst members of different sectors of the community in dealing with government, such as procurement of goods and services.

Programme Director;

I am confident that today's consultation will achieve its set objectives.

I want to conclude by wishing you all of the best for the important work ahead.

Please remember that a fight against corruption is a noble and all-important fight which we cannot afford to lose.

Together we can, and must win against the cancer of corruption.

I thank you.