

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, MR. CHUPU STANLEY MATHABATHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF RATSOMA SHOPPING COMPLEX HELD AT MAGNETHEIGHTS-GA-MOGASHOA.

31 MARCH 2022

Programme Director

Our host, Mr Ratsoma, Your Family and Your Board of Directors;

MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Ntate Thabo Mokone;

Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr. Julia Mathebe;

Mayor of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Cllr. Minah Bahula;

Our esteemed Traditional Leaders present here today,

Distinguished Guests;

Friends from the Media;

The people of Ga-Mogashoa;

Ladies and gentlemen:

Please allow me to start with special thanks from the Executive Council of Limpopo, to Mr Ratsoma and company for inviting us to this important celebration.

We say this because for almost two years now, our country has been robbed from any joyous celebrations by coronavirus pandemic.

From the year 2020 since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, we were forced to endure the hardship of burying our loved ones abnormally and to some extent postpone ceremonies, as we were complying with regulations of Covid-19 pandemic.

At least today, we can breath a sigh of relieve due to the reduced levels of lock down, which allows the opening of major sporting events like soccer, and also allows us to go ave large gatherings like this one.

As we steadily go back to our normal lives, I urge all of the people of Limpopo, to remember that Covid-19 pandemic is still with us and therefore, it is necessary to continue adhering to all the safety measures in place.

This message equally applies to us here today. Therefore as we celebrate this milestone achievement by the veteran business mogul, Mr. Ratsoma, we need to do so responsibly.

We do not wish for a situation whereat instead of a celebration, we will tomorrow be told that this even was a super-spreader.

Programme Facilitator

We have gathered here today from different corners of our country to witness yet another historic milestone achievement. This is so because, this shopping complex is duly recorded as one of the key socio-economic intervention projects in our province.

The Ratsoma Shopping Complex is in direct response to one of the cardinal points of the Limpopo Development Plan, which deals with growing rural and township economy.

We are also looking at this milestone achievement as a positive response to the provincial economic recovery plan, following the devastation caused by coronavirus to our lives and livelihoods.

We are here to appreciate a job well done by Mr Ratsoma and Company, as they have successfully planted a fertile seed of socio-economic development here in the mountain Kingdom of Sekhukhune.

We will not stop praising Mr. Ratsoma for having unleashed his vision of a true patriot who believe that 'tshipa e taga mohlabeng wabo yona'.

We are pleased that local people benefited by being employed during construction of this project, and from today moving forward, more locals will benefit in different forms.

Programme Facilitator

We have gathered here today to witness as fruits of socio-economic development and prosperity are harvested.

This socio-economic prosperity will be evidenced by among others creation of jobs, the reduction of poverty and the improvement in the quality of living for the people of Sekhukhune and beyond.

Our expectation as government is that as we grow rural and township economy, we are heavily relying upon the public-private partnerships as envisaged by the Limpopo Development Plan.

We are therefore calling upon other entrepreneurs to emulate this perfect example and assist government to develop the nation. This is because the work we are witnessing today is much in line with our government's developmental agenda.

What can be more pleasing to us as the people of Limpopo than to witness development taking place in areas which have been previously marginalized?

This development is indeed a concrete expression towards our resolution that working together, we can build a Limpopo that we all want. This Limpopo is the one that is able to provide much needed economic opportunities particularly to women and the youth.

Setshaba sa Limpopo

Last year in 2021, we successful held the Limpopo Investment Conference and the Mining Indaba.

Those engagements highlighted the competetive advantages that as a province, we have in our key economic focus areas, namely: mining, agriculture and tourism.

It was during the Investment Conference that local and international companies made pledges that will assist in our socio-developmental trajectory. As we speak, we have put efficient and effective mechanisms to track and ensure that pledges made amounts to actual deliverables on the ground.

We are also excited that the Mining Indaba was also able to unravel the unique provincial minerals and mining offering of our province. In that space also, we are confident that we will reap the fruits because harvest time has come.

These events, including today's ceremony breathe life into our commitment of building the Limpopo we all want. At the core of this ideal, is our collective commitment to drive our people out of the dehumanising web of poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment.

We are guided by experience of the ruling party that the above-mentioned tasks are one of our critical imperatives which requires innovation and partnership.

Programme Facilitator

Through the Limpopo Economic Development Agency, which is an entity of the Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Department, the provincial government aims to strengthen partnerships with entrepreneurs like Mr. Ratsoma.

We see Mr. Ratsoma and other corporate entities as reliable and valued partners for socio-economic developmental agenda. Our hope is that this type of initiatives will stimulate the appetite of our youth into entrepreneurship.

In the same breath, we honour government's commitment to ensure that all levels of government work to grow the economy, increase jobs and reduce poverty, especially the poverty amongst young people.

In this way, we will make democracy meaningful for the majority of our people as we will be creating much needed black industrialist. In turn, they will leverage opportunities that are available in our key economic focus areas.

As government we are elated that currently majority of our people are harvesting fruits from the tree of democracy.

However, we acknowledge that more still needs to be done, particular regarding the upliftment of the living conditions of women and the youth. Indeed, the current material conditions of this sector require more focussed and urgent attention.

Programme Director

Our current generational mission under the leadership of President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, recognises the vital role that our municipalities can play as vehicles to drive economic development.

It is for this reason that we mandated our municipalities to work seamlessly with the private sector and attract investments. In the same vein, municipalities must work closely with our Traditional Leaders to develop our communities.

It is only when we work together, that we can achieve the development and the prosperity that we all yearn for.

We want this type of infrastructure not only in the cities, but everywhere, in the townships or a rural area like this areas. Indeed, ours is to create an infrastructure that makes life easy everywhere, not just in the big cities.

Programme Director

The official opening of this shopping complex is henceforth recorded a part of the good story we continue to tell. Today Ga-Mogashoa is indeed better than yesterday, and tomorrow will surely be better than today. Once again, we take our hats off as we salute Mr Ratsoma.

Programme Director

In conclusion, please allow me to call upon the people of Limpopo to embrace the good example set by Mr. Ratsoma, to rise and also be counted. Only through innovation and hard work, it is possible.

I call upon the people of this area to appreciate, support and safeguard this newly launched development. It is yours to benefit and improve your lives and livelihoods. Take care of it.

With those few words, Sepedi sere ‘moshuthelwa gaa nabe’.

I Thank You!

Nha Khenza!

Rea Leboga!

Ndaa!