

ADDRESS BY MEC FOR COGHSTA BASIKOPO MAKAMU ON BEHALF OF PREMIER
CHUPU MATHABATHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE APSD 2022 NATIONAL
COMMEMORATION, HELD AT TZANEEN.

Programme Director,
Deputy Minister for Public Service and Administration, Honourable Dr C Pilane-
Majake,
Our host Mayor for Tzaneen Local Municipality, Cllr Gerson Molapisani,
All councillors present here today,
Senior government officials,
Esteemed ladies and gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of our premier, honourable Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, to welcome you to this important commemoration of the 2022 Africa Public Service Day.

We are proud delighted as Limpopo to host all of you in our beautiful province. We are confident that you are already feeling at home and enjoying the great ambiance of our province and our beautiful town of Tzaneen.

You are in the greenest and the cleanest town in the country.

You may have already noticed that this town of Tzaneen is breadbasket – it is the home of abundance.

Our colleagues who are connected from the virtual platform are allowed to imagine the great ambiance we are talking about.

The premier had particularly requested me to extend his apology to the minister and all of you for being unable to be with us in this important commemorative event.

Premier Mathabatha had expressed his wish to be here with all of us, however on account of pre-scheduled demands, he is unable to be with us.

The Premier has requested that I convey his gratitude to Minister Thulas Nxesi for his thoughtful decision to stage this event in our province.

We know and appreciate the fact that this is a signature event on the African Union's calendar.

This event will offer us an opportunity to interact directly and interface with challenges facing our continent. I refer here to challenges in the areas of governance, public administration, civil service, and service delivery.

We have embraced this event because of our yearning to make a humble contribution to the cause of Africa's agenda to build capable states with the ability to drive the continent to Africa Agenda 2063.

This platform will allow us to respond swiftly and in a more tailored fashion to challenges of public service on our continent.

Honourable deputy minister – as a province we align fully with the theme of this event. We are committed to the task of contributing our energies to building resilience in nutrition on the African continent.

We are committed to the urgent task of accelerating the development of human capital on our continent.

We understand that related to this task is the task of fighting against the phenomenon of brain drain on the African continent.

We submit ourselves to the task of Africa's socio-economic development and prosperity.

To use the words of former President Thabo Mbeki, our collective task is to ensure that “through our own actions we will ensure that poverty gives way to prosperity....we have an obligation to help ensure that....no African child should ever again experience hunger, avoidable disease and ignorance; that no African child should ever again feel ashamed to be an African”.

It is therefore our duty as Africans to channel all our energies and expertise to ensure that we end hunger,

It is our duty to end avoidable diseases amongst our people,

We cannot abdicate the duty to end ignorance through quality and accessible education.

This is the task that cannot be left in the hands of few individuals who are our leaders; it is a duty for all of us.

We understand these to be the tasks before all of us here today. These are the tasks to be confronted throughout the day.

The presentations and addresses we are going to receive throughout the day will help us to breathe life into the theme to this commemorative event.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me not abuse the platform by delivering a quasi-keynote address. Mine was to conduct a traditional ritual of officially welcoming all of you to this all-important event.

On behalf of the Provincial Government, I wish you fruitful deliberations and a successful event.

I thank you!