

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR LIMMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, MR. ROGERS MONAMA, (ON BEHALF OF PREMIER OF LIMPOPO MR. CHUPU STANLEY MATHABATHA) AT THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS FORUM HELD AT THE RANCH HOTEL, POLOKWANE.

26 October 2022

Programme Facilitator, MEC Basikopo Makamu;  
Members of the Executive Council;  
Executive Mayors and Mayors;  
Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders;  
Director General, HODs and Municipal Managers;  
Distinguished Guests;  
Ladies and gentlemen: Good Morning!

It is a privilege and honour to welcome you to this important engagement, the Premier's Inter-Governmental Relations Forum (P-IGR). On behalf of the Premier and the Executive Council, please receive our warm greetings.

Programme Director

By its character and shape, the P-IGR Forum is a special and unique platform of engagement by the provincial and local spheres of government.

Therefore, with renewed commitment and zeal, we refocus our energies and strive to collectively contribute towards building a Limpopo that we all want. We say this because of the current socio-economic climate that our country in general and Limpopo in particular, is faced with.

While we thought that all hands are on deck following the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic, we are now confronted with new, albeit foreseen challenges in our communities.

Gathered here today, water provisioning in our communities is a massive challenge. As if water supply issues are not enough, continuous load shedding by ESKOM is aggravating the situation. These are, unfortunately, basic service delivery challenges that affect all of us. Equally so, these challenges have a potential of compromising the much-needed trust between us as elected representatives and the electorate.

Programme Director

Today unlike, yester years, it is no longer about privileges of those living in the cities versus those residing at rural areas; the challenge of scarcity of water and electricity affects all of us.

In this regard, we would like to remind this house about the national economic and social outlook, which does not show us much relief. Unemployment rate continues to rise, while the cost of living is also high.

I decided that it is crucial to single out these current challenges not because they are the only ones which are fundamental, but because I am looking at a leadership collective with capabilities to confront them head-on and emerge victorious. We have always spoken about hope, but now we have to speak about reason for that hope, we should be that reason.

Our people know very well that as their elected representatives, we have gathered here today, and they expect solutions to their current service delivery challenges from us. That is where now our generational mission comes in. We all have pledged that, we are not going to betray our mission, rather, we are going to fulfil it, as Frantz Fanon has said.

The people who elected us expect that through our dedication and commitment, they will receive clean and potable water, sustainable electricity supply, basic health care, quality education, job opportunities through stimulation of local economy, amongst others.

The late civil activist and liberation hero Moses Kotane challenged us when he said that “the future of your country is in your hands and depends on what you make of it”. That moment is now.

Programme Director

In line with the dictates of the District Development Model our cooperation as national, provincial and local government is crucial.

Therefore, all of us have since pledged to traverse the trajectory of good governance and ethical leadership. That is exactly what we will do to successfully confront all the challenges we face.

Since the beginning of this administration up to now, we have always called upon this leadership collective to rise to the occasion. Our decision to spend 100% Municipal Infrastructure Grants still stands, we should not allow any of us to drop the ball on this.

Our decision to achieve all the aims and objectives of the Musina-Makhado and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zones still stands. On that note, we urge affected municipalities to prioritize these projects so that we will leverage the economic spin-offs associated with the SEZs.

Our resolve towards a disclaimer free audit outcome in the province is still alive. We are proud that the Auditor General in her recent interaction with the Executive

Council, singled out Limpopo as one of the best performing province in terms of qualitative audit outcomes.

Our infrastructure development programme guided by the District Development Model (DDM) as launched by President Matamela Ramaphosa is still a government programme that we need to synergise for development of local communities.

Mayors and Councillors are still expected to give regular feedback to our communities regarding service delivery issues.

Following today's meeting, all of us are expected to follow Finance Minister Mr. Enoch Godongwane, as he releases the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the country.

All of us are still expected to embrace the Limpopo Development Plan, with all its cardinal points like, the Infrastructure Development Plan.

Programme Director

That is why through forums like this, we have created a perfect platform for engagement. It is meant to deal decisively with all service delivery issues affecting our institutions.

I welcome each one of you to this P-IGR-Forum.

I thank you!

Inkomu!

Kea Leboga!

Ndaa!