



# LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **Remarks by the Acting Premier of Limpopo Mr Seaparo Sekoati at the Sod Turning Ceremony of the Limpopo Central Academic Hospital, 18 July 2023**

Programme Director, Health MEC Dr. Phophi Ramathuba  
Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla;  
Other Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;  
Speaker of the Provincial Legislature;  
Other MECs present here today;  
Members of Parliament and MPLs;  
Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality;  
Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality;  
Our Esteemed Traditional Leaders;  
Religious Leaders present here today;  
The Vice Chancellor of the University of Limpopo;  
CEO of the Development Bank of Southern Africa  
The Director General of our province and all officials who are here  
Friends from the Media  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

Honourable Minister,

Today, it is my great pleasure to be here with you as we turn the sod for the construction of the Limpopo Academic Hospital.

You will be pleased to be informed that on the 29th May this year, Premier Mathabatha was also here for the handing over of this site to the contractor.

It was during that occasion, where we made a commitment to the people of Limpopo that, yourself as the Minister of Health, will be here for a sod-turning programme. That is why we are pleased to have you here today.

As you know, this is going to be a 488-bed hospital providing over twenty services.

Those services, amongst others, include all disciplines of surgery, trauma, burns, oncology, gynaecology, neonatal care, paediatrics, and emergency medicine. This state-of-the-art facility will be essential in ensuring that our citizens have access to quality healthcare services.

The implementation of the central hospital is the result of a collaborative effort between the Limpopo Department of Health and the National Department of Health. We are particularly pleased Minister, Dr Joe Phaahla, that this long-held dream is becoming a reality during your tenure. We have been making pronouncements on this great project over the years. Today it is pleasing that the ground has been cleared and work is beginning in earnest.

Programme Director

We would also further like to express our appreciation to the Minister and his department for all the technical work they have done to make us reach where we are.

Thank you, Executive Mayor of Polokwane, Cllr John Mpe, for seeing it fit that this pristine land should be used profitably for the general good and benefit of our people.

Preliminary estimates show that the project is expected to generate 1,220 part-time jobs during the construction phase and create 2,461 full-time equivalent jobs in Polokwane and surrounding areas, once the hospital is fully operational.

The sod turning ceremony today is significant as it coincides with international Nelson Mandela Day. This day serves as a reminder of the values and principles that Madiba stood for – equality, justice, and compassion. Mandela believed that healthcare is a fundamental human right, and it is our duty to make it accessible to all. By constructing the Limpopo Academic Hospital, we are taking a significant step towards fulfilling this vision.

I would like to express my gratitude to the contractor who will be responsible for the construction of this hospital. Their expertise and commitment to delivering a world-class facility are commendable. I am confident that they will complete this project within the stipulated time-frame and to the highest standards.

I also want to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Department of Health, led by our esteemed Health MEC, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba. Their dedication and hard work have been instrumental in making this project a reality. I have no doubt that under their leadership, the Limpopo Academic Hospital will serve as a beacon of hope for the people of Limpopo.

As we break ground on this site today, let us not forget the significance of this moment. This hospital will not only provide medical services but will also serve as a centre of excellence for healthcare education and training. It will be a place where our medical professionals can acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to provide the best care possible.

On this Nelson Mandela Day, let us remember his words, "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others." The construction of the Limpopo Academic Hospital is a testament to our commitment to making a lasting difference in the lives of our people.

I urge all stakeholders involved in this project, including the contractor, government officials, and healthcare professionals, to collaborate closely to ensure its successful completion. Let us work together to create a hospital that will uplift our communities and leave a legacy of excellence.

In conclusion, I want to thank everyone for their presence here today and for their support in making the Limpopo Academic Hospital a reality.

This project is a symbol of progress and development in our province, and it will undoubtedly contribute to improving the health and well-being of our citizens.

Let us break ground today with the spirit of Nelson Mandela guiding us and the knowledge that we are building a brighter future for Limpopo.

Thank you.