



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

12 September 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

RE: Premier Mathabatha Highlights Progress and Challenges During Meeting with National Council of Provinces

The Premier of Limpopo, Mr. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, presented the status of infrastructure development to the delegation from the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) to the province on 12 September 2023. The meeting provided an opportunity to assess the progress of various projects and initiatives, as well as address the challenges faced by the province. The Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Ms. Reneiloe Rosemary Molapo, and the Head of the NCOP delegation, Mr. Alec Nchabeleng, also expressed their thoughts on the importance of effective governance and service delivery.

In his opening remarks, Premier Mathabatha acknowledged the significant achievements of the Limpopo Provincial Government in recent years. He highlighted the province's improved peace and stability, its ranking as a top tourism destination, and its commitment to timely payment of service providers. The Premier also emphasized the positive employment growth experienced in the past two quarters, demonstrating the province's dedication to creating job opportunities.

Water scarcity emerged as a major challenge for Limpopo, with the Premier acknowledging the need for improved water sources and reticulation. However, he assured the delegation that interventions by the Department of Water and Sanitation were underway, including the Nandoni to Nsami Dam water project and the resolution of the Giyani water project. At the time of presentation he indicated that raw water is already flowing from Nandoni Dam to Nsami Dam through the Xikukwani Canal.

The state of provincial roads was another area of concern addressed by Premier Mathabatha. He highlighted the urgent need to upgrade the unpaved road network, estimating a budget of R138 billion for the task. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of addressing maintenance needs and upgrading priority gravel roads in Vhembe and Mopani districts.

The Premier also highlighted the province's commitment to job creation and support for local businesses. Through investments in employing local laborers and contracting Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), the province has created over 11,000 jobs, with a focus on empowering youth and women. Premier Mathabatha acknowledged that more work needs to be done, particularly in the Vhembe and Mopani districts, and pledged to provide a detailed briefing on housing needs.

The Premier emphasized the importance of maintaining an accurate provincial asset register and announced ongoing efforts to update and survey State Domestic Facilities (SDFs). He also highlighted the allocation of 70% of the infrastructure budget for maintenance and repairs, with 4% dedicated to acquiring new assets.

Premier Mathabatha reported improved performance in infrastructure planning, delivery, and procurement, with approximately 1,303 projects currently being implemented. As of July 2023, R2.5 billion has already been spent, demonstrating progress and commitment to project completion.

Lastly, the Premier expressed his commitment to creating economic zones as part of the Limpopo Development Plan. The Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone and the Musina-Makhadzo SEZ were highlighted as significant breakthroughs in job creation and industrialisation.

The Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Ms. Reneiloe Rosemary Molapo, welcomed the NCOP delegation and commended their dedication to keeping in touch with developments and challenges facing provinces. She emphasised the importance of assessing progress in service delivery and contributing to addressing community challenges. She further said that the delegation will visit various projects in Vhembe and Mopani on 13 and 14 September 2023, with final feedback to be provided on Friday, 15 September 2023.

Mr. Alec Nchabeleng, the Head of the NCOP delegation, emphasized their role in ensuring accountability and oversight. He expressed the NCOP's commitment to following the allocated budgets and plans, ensuring effective governance and service delivery.

The Premier concluded by expressing gratitude for the visit and the commitment of the delegation to effective governance and service delivery. He expressed confidence in the fruitful discussions that would take place during the visit to the Vhembe and Mopani districts who were represented by the Executive Mayors and accounting officers.

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Issued by the Limpopo Provincial Government

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