

**ADDRESS BY THE MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
RESPONSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MR
THABO MOKONE AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF SENIOR
MANAGERS AT THE RANCH HOTEL, POLOKWANE ON 20 OCTOBER
2023**

Programme Director, Raesetja Hopane

The Acting Head of the Wits School of Governance, Prof Themba Maseko,
The Director General of Limpopo Provincial Government, Mr Nape
Nchabeleng,

Graduates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning! Avuxeni, Thobela, Ndaa, Goie More!

It is with great pleasure and pride that I stand before you today, representing the Premier of Limpopo, Mr Chupu Mathabatha, as we celebrate the graduation of our senior managers. Premier Mathabatha extends his apologies as he would have loved to witness this solemn ceremony. This momentous occasion marks the culmination of a transformative journey, as these individuals have successfully completed the programme facilitated by the partnership between the Limpopo Provincial Government and the renowned Wits Business School.

This partnership, which began in September 2022 and concluded in June 2023, was born out of a shared vision to enhance skills development within our province. We identified a need for capacity building within our Senior

Management Services, and together with the Wits School of Governance, we designed a programme to meet this need.

In today's rapidly changing world, the role of government has become increasingly complex and demanding. The pressures placed on public officials to navigate these challenges and deliver effective governance have never been greater. It is in this context that the importance of building a capacitated and knowledgeable public service becomes paramount.

The programme that our senior managers have undertaken is a testament to our commitment to meet these demands head-on. We recognized the need to equip our public officials with the necessary skills, knowledge, and expertise to navigate the intricacies of governance in the 21st century. And through our partnership with the esteemed Wits Business School, we have taken a significant step towards achieving this goal.

The completion of this programme by our senior managers is a cause for celebration, as it signifies their dedication to personal growth and professional excellence. They have demonstrated a willingness to invest in themselves, to expand their horizons, and to embrace new ideas and approaches. By doing so, they have positioned themselves as leaders who are ready to tackle the challenges that lie ahead.

But this achievement is not just about the individuals who have graduated today. It is about the collective impact that they will have on our province and its people. As these senior managers return to their respective roles, they bring with them a wealth of knowledge and skills that will enhance

their ability to serve the public effectively. They are now equipped to make informed decisions, to drive innovation, and to lead with confidence.

Considering recent pressures on government to build a capacitated and knowledgeable public service, the graduation of our senior managers takes on even greater significance. It is a clear demonstration of our commitment to meet these expectations and to deliver on our mandate to serve the people of Limpopo.

We understand that building a capable public service is not a one-time event, but an ongoing process. It requires continuous investment in the development of our officials, providing them with opportunities to learn, grow, and adapt to the evolving needs of our society. The programme facilitated by the Wits Business School is just one example of our commitment to this cause.

As we celebrate the achievements of our senior managers today, let us also acknowledge the role that each one of you has played in their success. The support, guidance, and encouragement that you have provided have been instrumental in their journey. Your commitment to their development is a testament to your dedication to public service and your belief in the power of knowledge and capacity building.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our senior managers who have graduated from the programme facilitated by the Wits Business School. Your commitment to personal growth and professional excellence is an inspiration to us all. I have no doubt that you

will continue to make a significant impact in your respective roles, driving positive change and delivering effective governance.

To the Wits Business School, I express my deepest gratitude for your partnership and for the invaluable contribution you have made to the development of our senior managers. Your expertise and guidance have been instrumental in their success, and we look forward to continuing this fruitful collaboration in the future.

Together, let us continue to build a capacitated and knowledgeable public service that is equipped to meet the challenges of our time. Let us strive for excellence, innovation, and integrity in all that we do. And let us never forget that our goal is to serve the people of Limpopo and to create a better future for all.

Thank you, and congratulations once again to our graduating senior managers.