

**Opening Remarks by the MEC for Provincial Treasury Mr Seaparo Sekoati on Behalf of the Premier of Limpopo at the Launch of the Border Management Authority, Musina, 05 October 2023**

His Excellency the President of South Africa, Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa

His Excellency President of Zimbabwe, Mr Emerson Mnangagwa

The Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi

Other Ministers accompanying the President

The Deputy Minister Of Home Affairs

My colleagues in the Limpopo Executive Council

Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Dowelani Nenguda

Commissioner of the Border Management Authority, Dr N Masiapato

Ladies and gentlemen,

Distinguished guests,

Good morning and welcome to this momentous occasion as we gather here in Musina, Limpopo Province, to witness the launch of the Border Management Authority by the President of South Africa. It is an honour to have you all here today.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our esteemed President, His Excellency President Ramaphosa, and express our gratitude for gracing us with your presence. Your commitment to the development and security of our nation is truly commendable, and we are honoured to have you here to inaugurate this significant milestone.

Today marks a historic moment for our province and our nation as we establish the Border Management Authority. This authority will play a pivotal role in ensuring the effective management and security of our borders, safeguarding our nation's interests, and facilitating legitimate trade and travel.

Musina, being a strategic location on our country's border, holds immense importance in the context of border management. It serves as a gateway connecting South Africa to our neighbouring countries, fostering economic growth, and promoting regional integration. The establishment of the Border Management

Authority in Musina will enhance our capacity to manage and regulate the movement of goods, people, and services across our borders. The Victims of Crime Survey released in August by Statistician-General Risenga Maluleke found Limpopo residents felt the safest walking alone during the day and at night. Today's event will certainly add onto the level of confidence that our residents have already shown.

The Border Management Authority will not only strengthen our national security but also contribute to the growth and development of our province. It will create opportunities for trade, investment, and job creation, benefiting both our local communities and the broader economy.

Mr President, as the province we have identified Musina as centre for economic development. We have here the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zones that will be the centre of development of our province. The security provided by the BMA will add further to the potential growth this area will witness.

As we embark on this new chapter, I urge all stakeholders to work together in a spirit of collaboration and cooperation. Let us harness the potential of this authority to build bridges, foster regional partnerships, and promote peace and stability within our borders.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our President for his unwavering commitment to the progress of our nation. Your presence here today is a testament to your dedication to the well-being of our people.

Thank you, and may this launch be the beginning of a successful journey for the Border Management Authority.

I thank you.