

MEDIA RELEASE - 05 October 2023

RE: Limpopo Government Excited About the Launch of Border Management Authority in Musina

The Limpopo Provincial Government celebrated a historic moment today, 05 October 2023, when President Ramaphosa launched the Border Management Authority (BMA) in Musina. This significant milestone marks a new era in ensuring the effective management and security of South African borders, safeguarding the nation's interests, and facilitating legitimate trade and travel.

MEC Seaparo Sekoati, who represented the Premier, emphasised the importance of the Border Management Authority, stating: "Today marks a historic moment for our province and our nation. 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."

President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, who launched the BMA, foregrounded the commitment to protect the people and the country by establishing a single authority integrated to secure the borders of the Republic of South Africa. He stated: "The BMA is launched to fulfil a commitment made that we would protect our people and our country by establishing a single authority integrated to secure the borders of the Republic of South Africa. As South Africans, we seek to live in peace and harmony with our neighbours."

President Ramaphosa further highlighted the importance of a more secure border in curbing the movement of human trafficking, illegal goods, and cross-border crime, as well as enforcing immigration laws. He also acknowledged the high number of undocumented foreign nationals and the social and economic problems it has exacerbated, which led to the establishment of the Border Management Authority.

The Limpopo government sees the strategic location of Musina as holding immense importance in the context of border management. It serves as a gateway connecting South Africa to neighbouring countries, fostering economic growth, and promoting regional integration. "The establishment of the BMA will enhance our capacity to manage and regulate the movement of goods, people, and services across our borders. The recent Victims of Crime Survey released by Statistician-General Risenga Maluleke found that Limpopo residents felt the safest walking alone during the day and at night. Today's event will certainly add to the level of confidence that our residents have already shown," continued MEC Sekoati.

MEC Sekoati concluded by underpinning the positive impact of the Border Management Authority, stating, "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. As the province

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

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Issued by the Limpopo Provincial Government

Enquiries: Nдавhe Ramakuela, Provincial Government Spokesperson
Contact: 082 200 5357 or 067 267 206 RamakuelaN@premier.limpopo.gov.za.

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