



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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To All Media

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LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ADDRESSES GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE AT LIMPOPO MEN'S PARLIAMENT

The Premier of Limpopo, Mr Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, delivered a powerful address at the Limpopo Men's Parliament, held at Bolivia Lodge, Polokwane. The sitting, organised by the Limpopo Legislature, brought together young boys and men from various sectors to discuss and address the pressing issues affecting society, particularly gender-based violence and femicide.

“Our goal is to unite individuals from diverse backgrounds and walks of life, strengthening the capacity and coordination of the men's civil society movement in our country's response to the health and social challenges faced by our communities,” said Premier Mathabatha.

Premier Mathabatha further stressed the need for decisive action to combat gender-based violence and femicide, making it impossible for perpetrators to live, work, and socialise among society. He called for the nurturing of young men and women who view each other as equals and partners in development and growth.

During the conference, various social challenges were discussed, including toxic masculinity, patriarchy, mental illness, the socialisation of the boy child, gender-based violence, harmful cultural norms, safe spaces for men, and the alignment of programmes targeting young women and girls with those aimed at young men and boys.

Mr Jonas Mathebula from the Department of Public Service and Administration reminded all present that they are the spokespersons and decision makers to their families, therefore urged them that they should know their role in the society and act responsibly. He further urged men to play a leading role in fighting HIV/AIDS, substance and alcohol abuse. Mathebula cautioned against relying on the status of the partners instead of testing for HIV/AIDS.

On combating spread of HIV/AIDS and promoting healthy community, Mr Petrus Madumo of the South African Council of Churches urged men to change their mindset by taking

advantage of vulnerabilities of young girls through material inducement by inviting them to dinners and lunch with a wrong intention of sleeping with them.

The Premier called for the strengthening of the men's civil society movement, grassroots activism, and engagement in local communities. By collaborating with Takuwani Riime, the government aims to address challenges faced by men and young boys and intensify the pursuit of the men's movement.

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