

MEDIA RELEASE - 15 November 2023

RE: Executive Council Budget Adjustment Lekgotla Highlights Progress and Future Priorities

The Limpopo Provincial Government recently held the Executive Council Budget Adjustment Lekgotla, where stakeholders gathered to discuss the current economic condition of the province and plan.

The Premier of Limpopo Province, Mr. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, highlighted the positive correlation between the recently released Quarter 3 Quarterly Labour Force Survey and the province's economic performance. The survey revealed that Limpopo has created 70,000 jobs in Quarter 3 alone and a total of 202,000 jobs on a year-on-year basis, making it the third largest job creator in South Africa.

“We are satisfied with the reduction in general unemployment which now stands at 30.8%, below the national average. Additionally, Limpopo has more households producing their own food as a proportion of the province's population than other provinces. In stressing this point, the Statistician-General described Limpopo's food security as solid. In the period ahead, we need to further strengthen that through our interventions in agriculture, including through stronger support for co-operatives development and SMEs over and above support for household food production. This is essential in eradicating food poverty altogether. Households producing their own food can exchange their surplus for family income to take care of other needs. This is important for poverty eradication,” said Premier Mathabatha.

The Premier further acknowledged the remarkable transformation in Limpopo's infrastructure and housing, with an increase in the number of dwellings and advancements in roads infrastructure. However, he stressed the need to attract investment, promote entrepreneurship, and create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. Retaining the province's workforce, particularly young people, was also highlighted as a priority.

The Premier discussed the progress made in industrializing the province through special economic zones. The application to designate Fetakgomo-Tubatse as a special economic zone was submitted, and the ongoing work in the Musina-Makhado SEZ was mentioned as instrumental in creating more jobs and driving economic growth.

Addressing challenges, the Premier Mathabatha emphasised the need to prioritise infrastructure development, particularly in the context of the energy crisis and global economic factors. He called for exploration of alternative energy sources and investment in renewable energy projects. Investing in human capital through education and skills development was also highlighted as crucial for economic growth and social development.

Clean governance was another area of focus, with the Premier calling for strengthened systems and processes to prevent corruption and promote transparency. Collaboration and partnerships with the private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders were emphasized as essential for finding innovative solutions.

In conclusion, the Executive Council Budget Adjustment Lekgotla provided a platform to assess progress, address challenges, and plan. The Premier called for collaboration, innovation, and determination to overcome challenges and build a prosperous and inclusive Limpopo Province.

The proposed adjusted budget as well as that of 2024/25 Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework will serve before the Legislature for adoption.

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Issued by the Limpopo Provincial Government

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