

MEDIA RELEASE – 22 February 2024

TO ALL NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

RE: Historic Sod Turning Ceremony Marks the Beginning of the Limpopo Provincial Theatre

Polokwane, Limpopo - In a vibrant and jubilant ceremony held on the R37 Road in Polokwane, Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha led the community in the groundbreaking sod turning of the Limpopo Provincial Theatre. This momentous event marks a significant milestone in the province's commitment to nurturing and showcasing the rich tapestry of artistic talent within Limpopo.

Premier Mathabatha expressed his deep satisfaction with the commencement of construction, stating, "The final appointment of the contractor to begin work towards the end of my term gives me comfort that the dream that has taken long has finally come to reality." He further elaborated on the importance of the theatre, saying, "The vibrant and diverse talents of our artists in Limpopo, spanning across theatre, film, video, craft, poetry, comedy, opera, choral music, and more, have long called for a dedicated and contemporary space to showcase their electrifying performances. Today, we respond to that call."

The Premier emphasised the theatre's role beyond a mere physical structure, envisioning it as "the heartbeat of our creative and cultural industry" and a pivotal development for the arts in Limpopo. "It will be a safer space for electrifying theatre performances, nurturing creative talents, and contributing significantly to the creative economy and the growth of our artists," he added.

Mr. Victor Kgomoeaswana, representing the University of Limpopo, thanked the Limpopo Provincial Government for initiating the theatre project, highlighting its significance for the youth and the broader community. "This facility will be anything but a white elephant if it is not put to good use because the young people who are representing this province across the world come from this place," he remarked.

Kgoshi Masemola, Chairperson of the Limpopo Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, shared a message of support, noting the theatre's anticipated positive contribution to arts and culture. "The development of the Limpopo Provincial Theatre will assist in ensuring that dramas and shows written in vernacular are played here, showcasing the unique talents of our people," she stated.

Mmabulepu Kekana from the Limpopo Arts and Cultural Council praised the groundbreaking as a barrier-breaking event. "We are not just breaking ground; we are breaking barriers, creating a space where the arts can flourish and resonate with the diverse voices of our community," Kekana said. She extended gratitude to Premier Mathabatha for his unwavering support and vision for the arts in Limpopo.

The Limpopo Provincial Theatre is set to become a beacon of artistic expression, enriching the cultural landscape of Polokwane and the entire province. Its strategic location along the busiest route in Africa promises to draw visitors from around the world, eager to experience the traditional and contemporary artistic performances that Limpopo has to offer.

The project 800 seat theatre, worth R300 million, is expected to be completed in 24 months.

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