



# LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **Message of Support by Premier Chupu Mathabatha at the Launch of the Sekhukhune Skills Development Centre, Aquaville, Groblersdal, 03 May 2024**

Programme Director;

Minister of Higher Education, Prof Blade Nzimande;

Member of Executive Council for Limpopo Education, Ms  
Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya;

Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Your  
Worship Cllr Minah Bahula;

Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Municipality, His Worship Cllr David  
Tladi;

Chairperson of Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and  
Training Authority Board, Mr Reggie Sibiya;

The Chairperson and CEO of merSETA;

The Director General of the Limpopo Provincial Government Mr  
Nape Nchabeleng;

Principal of the Sekhukhune TVET College, Mr Tebogo Kekana;

Members of the media;

Ladies and gentlemen:

**Good morning!**

It is with great pleasure and pride that I extend my warmest support to Minister Blade Nzimande, and all stakeholders gathered here today for the official launch of the Sekhukhune Skills Development Centre in Groblersdal, Limpopo.

This momentous occasion marks a significant step towards realising our shared vision of empowering our youth, and addressing the critical need for skilled workers, including artisans in South Africa.

The generous funding of R146 million from the Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (W&RSETA), to establish the Skills Centre within the Sekhukhune TVET College is evidence of our collective commitment to advancing skills development, and supporting government's objectives outlined in the National Development Plan.

The goal of producing 30,000 artisans annually by 2030 is within reach, thanks to initiatives like this.

The Sekhukhune Skills Development Centre not only addresses the lack of training facilities in our province, but also brings valuable skills development opportunities closer to the community of Sekhukhune, and its surrounding areas.

This is especially crucial for our young people who bear the brunt of unemployment in our country.

I am particularly pleased to note that the project includes an incubation programme, for forty-five informal traders and the construction of market stalls, ensuring sustainability and tangible benefits for our community.

This holistic approach to skills development is commendable and aligns with our goal of creating a skilled workforce that can contribute meaningfully to our economy.

**Honourable Minister,**

As the Office of the Premier here in Limpopo, we have been working with various SETAs on key skills development initiatives in the province.

For example, the relationship we have with the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services SETA (merSETA), underscores the importance of strong collaboration and partnerships between government, SETAs and the private sector.

These partnerships are essential in accelerating skills development, supporting economic growth and diversification, and equipping the youth and other unemployed work-seekers to gain access, and participate in the economy.

I am proud to chair the Limpopo Human Resources Development Council, and to work closely with the Limpopo Skills Development Forum to drive skills development initiatives in our province.

The investments made by the merSETA in partnership with the Office of the Premier in Limpopo, have already yielded significant results, benefiting hundreds of learners in various trades and occupations, advancing what this skills development centre will do.

Over and above that, the merSETA has augmented its existing investment in Limpopo, in partnership with the Office of the Premier, through multimillion-rand skills development grants.

In my State of the Province Address in February, I briefly highlighted the targets of one of the merSETA approved grants.

The initiative targets 960 learners across various critical skills, including apprenticeships in motor mechanics, mechanical fitting and turning, welding, and electrical trades.

Equally important, the targets include artisan recognition of prior learning for seventy workers, and learnerships for 250 learners in new venture creation.

This is crucial because not everyone is seeking employment from others.

We have people who aspire to create work opportunities through new venture creation, a paradigm we must actively promote to tackle unemployment on all fronts.

The same initiative aims to support ten co-operatives and small, micro and medium enterprises.

Included in this important focus is product standardisation and technical capacity building.

This initiative further covers short-skills development programmes for 130 workers in green energy, focusing on solar power installation and systems maintenance.

A different initiative focuses on skills development for the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone.

I cannot overemphasise the importance of skills development partnerships.

Thousands of young people and workers will benefit from the initiatives I just summarised, and the contribution that this skills development centre will make.

The aggregate numbers of young people and workers who stand to benefit will increase as we collectively advance the skills revolution.

As we look ahead to the future, Limpopo has immense potential across multiple sectors, including wholesale and retail.

This sector, along with community and public services mainly offered by the government, is a major source of employment in our province.

Agriculture, mining, manufacturing and tourism are part of our key sectors, among others, in terms of both economic production and employment.

By focusing on scarce and critical skills, we can ensure that our workforce is equipped to meet the demands of our economy.

I stand in full support of the Sekhukhune Skills Development Centre, and all efforts to empower our youth, reduce unemployment, and drive economic growth in Limpopo.

Together, we can build a brighter future for Limpopo and South Africa as a whole.

Thank you, Minister Nzimande, for your leadership, and dedication to skills development.

Let us continue to work together towards a more prosperous and inclusive society.

**Ke a Leboga!**