

SPEECH BY LIMPOPO PREMIER DR. PHOPHI RAMATHUBA DURING  
THE DONATION OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND SHOES IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH OLD MUTUAL

30 November 2014

Programme Director,

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee of Health, Dr Chuene Malebana,

Capricorn District Executive Mayor Cllr Mamedupi Tefo,

Polokwane Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr John Makoro Mpe,

Limpopo First Lady Trust Fund, Ms Zokora Khan,

Old Mutual representative, Mr Richard Moabelo

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Thobela, Ndi masiari. Inhlekani, Good day, Goie dag.

It is a great honor to be here today as we witness the positive impact of a partnership between government and the private sector. Today, we celebrate an inspiring initiative in which Old Mutual, a trusted and longstanding corporate partner, is demonstrating its commitment to the socio-economic upliftment of our province. This donation of school uniforms and shoes to our learners here at Maseala Progressive Secondary School is more than just an act of charity. It is an investment in the future of Limpopo.

Programme Director, from our recent Limpopo Investment Conference, we have seen the growing interest private companies have in the socio-economic development of our province. This collaboration resulted in a remarkable pledge of R120 billion, which will be closely monitored to ensure its implementation creates the much-needed jobs for our people.

However, as highlighted in the recent Medium-Term Budget Policy Framework by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Enoch Godongwana, our national fiscus, is under strain. President Cyril Ramaphosa has also reminded us of the need to optimize available resources and seek alternative means to address pressing social challenges.

Programme Director, today's event is a demonstration of the power of partnerships. It reflects how companies like Old Mutual are stepping up to support the government in meeting the needs of our people. These contributions not only address immediate needs but also reinforce our shared commitment to building a better society.

Programme Director, shoes, and school uniforms, as simple as they may seem, hold profound significance. They symbolize the journey of life, marking transitions from one phase to another. Today, we provide shoes and uniforms to young learners with the hope that they will walk confidently toward a brighter future. Among the recipients today are future leaders, doctors, entrepreneurs, and trailblazers.

Old Mutual, your generosity is not just about the material value of these shoes and uniforms. You are giving these children the confidence to dream, the dignity to learn, and the hope to rise above their circumstances. For that, we are deeply grateful.

This initiative resonates deeply with one of the African National Congress's (ANC) key manifesto pillars: Investing in People. This principle compels us to go beyond the provision of basic services and to conscientize ourselves to our collective social responsibilities. While the government provides a social safety net through grants, we know this alone is not sufficient. That is why we need partnerships with organizations like Old Mutual to maximize impact and create sustainable solutions for our communities.

Programme Director, while we are grateful for today's donation, we must also look toward developmental projects that can empower communities to stand on their own. Limpopo is a food-secure province, and we see great potential in establishing community gardens at a way of furthering this sustainability. Projects like these, supported by initiatives such as water tanks and boreholes, can transform our communities by encouraging self-reliance and growth.

We encourage companies like Old Mutual and others to explore such opportunities for investment. By supporting developmental initiatives, you can help us build resilient communities that can thrive beyond the immediate assistance provided today.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we gather here, let us remember the words of Oliver Tambo: "A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth or children does not deserve its future." This event is a clear indication that we, as a society, value our children and recognize them as the foundation of our future.

Every shoe and uniform handed out today is more than just an item; it is a gesture of care, a symbol of hope, and an assurance that these young ones are not alone in their journey. When we extend a helping hand to our communities, we instill a culture of compassion, solidarity, and shared responsibility.

To Old Mutual, thank you for your unwavering commitment to the people of Limpopo. By investing in this future generation, you are contributing to the long-term development of our province and our country.

As a government, we remain committed to fostering partnerships like this one. Together, we can create a society where every child has access to opportunities that allow them to realize their potential.

Let us continue walking this journey together, ensuring that no child in Limpopo is left behind.

I thank you.