

GALA DINNER REMARKS BY LIMPOPO PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA
G20 OUTREACH PROGRAMME, KALAHARI WATERFRONT

07 March 2025

Programme Director, Mr. Tshitereke Matibe,
Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms. Thandi Moraka,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
MECs,
Members of the Provincial Legislature,
Executive Mayors,
Local Municipalities Mayors,
Chairperson of the House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, Hosi Peni Ngove,
Traditional Leadership,
Government Officials,
Business Community,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ndi madekwana, Riperile, Thobela, Good evening, Goie naand

It is an honor to stand before you this evening as we gather to conclude a fruitful day of engagements under the G20 Outreach Programme. This gala dinner tonight has to bring meaningful discussions and also provide an opportunity to forge stronger partnerships that will drive economic development and social progress in our province.

Programme Director, throughout history, nightfall has always been a time for great minds to gather. In the warmth of the evening, under the same sky that has witnessed the wisdom of elders and the dreams of visionaries, people come together to share stories, stories that inspire, ignite possibilities, and lay the foundation for a brighter future.

Tonight, as we sit around these tables, we are not just dining; we are shaping the future of Limpopo, of South Africa, and of the world. May the stories shared tonight lead to investments that uplift, ideas that transform, and partnerships that endure.

Limpopo Province is a land of immense potential, rich in culture, heritage, and economic opportunities. Earlier today, we highlighted some of our most prized tourism attractions, the world-renowned Kruger National Park, the historic Mapungubwe National Park, and the UNESCO-recognised Waterberg Biosphere.

These are just a few of the many breathtaking sites that await visitors from your respective countries.

We encourage you to consider Limpopo not just as a tourist destination but as a region ripe for investment. Tourism is one of the key drivers of our economy, creating jobs and supporting local communities.

However, beyond these well-known sites, we have hidden gems across the province, spectacular waterfalls, cultural villages, and wildlife reserves that remain largely untapped. With your support and investment, we can enhance our tourism infrastructure, making Limpopo a must-visit destination for global travelers.

Limpopo remains largely rural, with over 80% of our land comprising villages and agricultural zones. While our people are resilient and industrious, they face challenges due to underdeveloped infrastructure, particularly our road networks.

Many of our roads remain untarred, making it difficult for businesses, farmers, and communities to thrive.

We believe that investment in infrastructure, particularly in roads, bridges, and logistics, will unlock the full economic potential of our province. When businesses and farmers have access to reliable roads, they can transport goods efficiently, engage in larger markets, and ultimately grow their enterprises.

We invite our esteemed guests and members of the diplomatic corps to explore opportunities in infrastructure development, as we seek partnerships that will transform Limpopo into a well-connected economic hub.

Limpopo is blessed with fertile soil and a climate that supports diverse agricultural activities. We are committed to strengthening our farming industry by supporting small-scale farmers to transition into commercial farming.

By equipping them with modern farming techniques, access to finance, and viable markets, we can ensure sustainable food production while creating employment opportunities.

We recognise the expertise and investment potential from our G20 partners in agribusiness, agro-processing, and technology-driven farming.

Programme Director, tonight's networking session is an opportunity to explore collaborations that can uplift our farming communities and ensure food security for the region and beyond.

As the Limpopo Provincial Government, we are eager to see real commitments emerge from these engagements. We want to witness the signing of trade agreements, the development of new projects, and the establishment of business ventures that will benefit both investors and our people.

Our vision is clear. We want to see the lives of our people, particularly those in disadvantaged communities, change for the better. We can not continue as if the status quo is acceptable. We must act boldly, invest strategically, and implement solutions that address unemployment, poverty, and economic inequality.

Amílcar Cabral once said: "Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories."

This quote resonates deeply with our mission in Limpopo. Our people deserve honesty, action, and tangible progress. We can not afford to claim easy victories while communities still struggle with unemployment, poverty, and underdevelopment.

This evening must mark a renewed commitment to real change, where partnerships forged here will bring lasting impact to our province and its people.

Let us be bold, let us be truthful, and let us work together to build a better Limpopo.

Enjoy the rest of the evening.

I thank you.