

SPEECH BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA AT THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT SERVICES SUMMIT ON 05 MARCH 2026, THE RANCH RESORT

The Director General
Deputy Director Generals
Members of the Senior Management Services

Good morning, Avuxeni, Ndi matsheloni, Thobela, Silotshile, Goie More!

Today, we gather at a critical juncture in our province's journey, a moment that calls for reflection, commitment and action.

We meet at a time when the aspirations of our people demand not just our attention but our unwavering commitment to inclusive growth, job creation, the reduction of poverty and the establishment of a capable, ethical and developmental state.

These priorities are not mere rhetoric; they are interconnected imperatives that require our strategic focus and coordinated action. We must embrace the understanding that economic growth is unsustainable without the robust capacity of our state.

As we embark on this journey, let us remember that poverty alleviation cannot occur in isolation; it must be complemented by an agenda of inclusive industrialisation and job creation.

The work we undertake in this summit is not merely about refining our strategic interventions, but about ensuring their seamless implementation across all levels of government.

In our province, we have identified Mining, Agriculture and Tourism as the cornerstones of our economic development. However, to propel Limpopo into a higher trajectory of growth, we must expand our economic landscape. We must actively explore renewable energy, the digital economy, the creative industries and the waste economy. These are not just theoretical possibilities; they must become our concrete reality through high-impact projects that we can pilot during this term of administration.

Infrastructure is the bedrock of any thriving economy. We cannot achieve sustainable economic transformation without robust logistics and network infrastructure.

Water, roads, energy and ICT must not merely exist as concepts; they must be the very foundation upon which we build our future. This administration will not tolerate delays that cripple development—projects like the Giyani Water Project and other stalled agricultural initiatives must be prioritized and those responsible for inefficiencies, corruption, or extortion will be held accountable.

Governance is fundamentally about trust. To rebuild public confidence, we must consolidate our capabilities at both the provincial and municipal levels.

The latest audit outcomes reflect our collective progress, but we must not grow complacent. Our commitment to clean governance practices must be unwavering and we must ensure that our administrative framework is not only ethical but developmental.

As we reflect on our recent State of the Province Address, there is broad consensus on the direction we are taking. Our people expect us to translate our promises into tangible realities. Your role as Senior Management Service members is crucial; it is upon your shoulders that the mantle of implementation rests. We must continuously assess how our management skills respond to the aspirations of our people.

We are fortunate to witness the stability of our province, exemplified by our leadership in paying contractors within 30 days - a benchmark for good governance. However, we cannot afford a regression in our audit outcomes. The Chief Financial Officers must implement measures to improve our audit results, including the full execution of all SCOPA resolutions.

In this regard, skills development is vital for continuously sharpening our workforce to meet the obligations of our administration. The Office of the Premier will lead efforts in expanding capacity building for Senior Management Service members, with a targeted focus on middle management - a layer of leadership that is essential for future sustainability.

As we have developed the cluster system, each cluster must identify high-impact catalytic projects that will drive economic growth and job creation. Our recruitment and retention strategies must prioritise ethical, skilled, and innovative human capital. We cannot afford inefficiency, indecision, or delays. The time for action is now.

Let us also open doors for meaningful internships and learnerships, utilising these programmes as a potential pool for filling vacancies within our departments. Accountability must be a hallmark of our work and the Heads of Departments must take ownership of the initiatives within their purview.

As we advance our agenda, let us foreground gender transformation and the empowerment of designated groups through procurement and other critical initiatives.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for your unwavering dedication and hard work. I thank the provincial administration, led by our Director General, our Heads of Departments, Deputy Directors General and all public servants for your commitment to our collective goals. I have every confidence that together, we will achieve the implementation of the Limpopo Development Plan and where there is non-performance, we will invoke consequence management to ensure accountability.

Thank you for your attention and thank you in advance for your continued dedication to the service of our people. Let us move forward, united in purpose and resolute in action.

Thank you!