

MEDIA RELEASE

22 April 2025

Exciting Prospects for Socio-Economic Development as Premier Meets University of Limpopo Principal

A ground-breaking meeting between the Limpopo Provincial Government and the University of Limpopo was held today, 22 April 2025, to herald a renewed commitment to socio-economic development for Limpopo.

The engagement focused on collaborative opportunities in education, healthcare, climate change, disaster management and other critical areas that will contribute to the sustainable growth and development of the province.

It has been over a decade since the Premier and Principal of the University and their teams sat in bilateral sessions. The meeting took stock of developments that both parties are engaged in, with the Provincial Government emphasising the need for the University of Limpopo to claim its place in the province by designing suitably adaptable courses that will increase the economic fortunes of the province.

"We recently witnessed growth in the calibre of graduates the university is producing during their autumn graduations. What is of concern to us is that with such quality graduates, this province needs to see more impact in the lives of people we lead," said Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba.

Further commenting on the university's contributions, Premier Dr Ramathuba remarked: "We want to see those PhDs and master's degrees translating into solutions for our own province and country. I can't celebrate having TVETs in our Human Resources Development Council without the university being part of the skills programme; otherwise, we won't progress. We need a strong relationship with the university to ensure complete offerings."

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Limpopo, Professor Mahlo Mokgalong, expressed that the social and economic impact of the university is evident in the growth of Mankweng and its surroundings. He emphasised, "We need more structured interactions that could greatly influence growth patterns within our vicinity and across the province."

Prof Mokgalong further pointed out: "There is certainly no need for Limpopo municipalities to continue receiving disclaimers when we have a prestigious accounting and auditing school competing at the highest level across the country." He highlighted recent infrastructural developments on campus, such as the life sciences building, as signs of the university's stability that can contribute to provincial development.

The university is also finalising the registration of a mining engineering degree, which aims to tap into the province's rich mining resources, particularly in renewable energy.

An agreement has been made to hold a planning session between the two parties in the next three months, potentially extending discussions to water and sanitation, municipalities and other private sector stakeholders that can assist in provincial development.

A high-level delegation was present, including Education MEC Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, Health MEC Ms Dieketseng Mashego, the Director-General of Limpopo Mr Nape Nchabeleng and Heads of Department. The university was represented by Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, Prof Richard Maqadzhe, the University Registrar, Executive Deans of Schools and other senior management team members.

This meeting signals a strategic realignment between educational institutions and provincial governance to address socio-economic challenges and uplift the Limpopo community.

END/

Issued by the Limpopo Provincial Government

For media enquiries, please contact:

Mr Ndavhe Ramakuela, Provincial Government Spokesperson
(082 200 5357 / 067 276 2016) RamakuelaN@premier.limpopo.gov.za

Mr Thilivhali Muavha, Premier's Spokesperson
(066 011 7034) MuavhaT@premier.limpopo.gov.za

#FreedomMonth2025
#LetsGrowLimpopoTogether

For previous media releases please visit our website www.limpopo.gov.za