

Media Statement
To All Editors and Reporters
28 April 2025

PREMIER DR RAMATHUBA CONGRATULATES NETSHITANGANI ON CANNES FESTIVAL VICTORY

The Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has proudly congratulated Murena Emmanuel Netshitangani for his historic achievement of winning the Best African Film award at the 78th Annual Cannes Film Festival in France with his groundbreaking Tshivenda film, LUBUNYU.

Murena Netshitangani, hailing from Makuleni village, Ha-Khakhu, near the enchanting Lake Fundudzi in the Vhembe District, has placed Limpopo and South African filmmaking firmly on the global stage. His victory against strong contenders from major film-producing countries such as Nigeria, is a monumental moment not only for the Vhembe District but for the entire nation.

"This is a defining moment for the creative sector of Limpopo and South Africa. Murena Emmanuel Netshitangani has demonstrated that dreams nurtured in the quiet villages of Venda can echo across the world's grandest stages. We are immensely proud of him for carrying the heart of Venda, and indeed the spirit of Limpopo, to the world," said Premier Dr Ramathuba.

LUBUNYU, a film whose tagline is "A Village Under Terror," was produced in alignment with the Cannes Film Festival 2025's theme of fighting gender-based violence and femicide. Its bold narrative and cultural authenticity set it apart on the international stage.

The Premier also acknowledged the ongoing efforts by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the Limpopo Arts and Culture Council in promoting and developing artistic talent across the province. The completion of the Limpopo Provincial Theatre will give room for artists to explore this and other genres in an area close to their homes.

Murena Emmanuel Netshitangani and his team are expected to land back in South Africa this week.

The Limpopo Provincial Government extends its warmest congratulations to Murena and his entire production team for their phenomenal achievement.

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