



SPEECH FOR THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE AT YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS, LEEUFONTEIN, EPHRAIM MOGALE MUNICIPALITY, SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT

Programme Director
Mayor of Ephraim Mogale Municipality
Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature
Members of the Executive Council
Members of the Provincial Legislature
Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality
Senior Traditional Leaders
Leaders of the National Youth Development Agency
Leaders of the Youth Formations
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen
Youth

Good Morning! Thobela!

Greetings to you, the vibrant youth of Limpopo! It is truly such a special occasion to stand before you today in Leeufontein, Ephraim Mogale Municipality, as we gather to celebrate the 2025 Youth Day.

I am particularly honoured that we are in the municipality of Ephraim Phumuga Mogale, *mogale was bagale* as we grew to know him. Ephraim Mogale was a leader in the struggle against apartheid, representing the fight for freedom and justice. His efforts contributed to the broader anti-colonial movement, reflecting the aspirations of many young people

who yearned for a brighter future. His commitment to fighting injustice is something we can all draw inspiration from today.

The inaugural President of the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) in 1979, the much that we can say about him today speaks a lot about the kind of youth this place requires.

Mogale's vision was not just about political freedom; he understood the power of education in uplifting communities. This is highly relevant for youth in 2025. His emphasis on education and skills development reminds us that our pursuit of knowledge is a vital tool for empowerment and economic participation today. He embodies the spirit of resilience, the drive for education and the pursuit of economic empowerment. He inspires us to not only remember our history but to actively shape our futures, ensuring we continue the fight for a fair and just society. Let's carry that legacy forward and make our mark! If we want the generation of Ephraim Mogale it should not end with creating memorial lectures but ask ourselves what are we doing to fight unemployment.

This day is not just a commemoration of our struggle for freedom; it is a reflection of our journey towards a future where your dreams can soar high. Today, we unite to focus on the theme: "Skills for a Changing World - Empowering Youth for Meaningful Economic Participation."

I must admit, having to address you fills me with a mix of excitement and anxiety. Since 1994, our government has invested significant resources and energy to prioritise youth matters. However, the reality remains stark. Numerous young people are still without jobs, and I share your impatience for real change. Like many of you, I once felt frustrated with the sluggish pace at which promises were delivered. I want you to know that your impatience is heard and it drives us to do better.

The National Government acknowledges that you don't want empty promises. You want real opportunities. This is why we are actively turning plans into action. We've launched

various bold programmes aimed at helping you find work, establish businesses and gain skills essential for today's world as this year's theme seeks us to do.

Let's talk about some initiatives designed to propel you forward:

1. **National Youth Service:** Through the new South African National Service Institute, we're empowering the youth to build skills in agriculture, health, cybersecurity, coding and robotics. These are not just buzzwords; they are your gateway to exciting careers in fast-growing fields for which youth in Limpopo should actively participate in and take advantage.

2. **Presidential Youth Employment Intervention:** Since 2020, this programme has assisted over 1.6 million young people in securing short-term jobs and gaining valuable work experience in schools, government offices and community projects. In 2025 alone the project has over 21000 youth participating in it through the Department of Education. Don't forget, you can register for free on SAYouth.mobi to connect with opportunities near you.

3. **Goat and Sheep Farming Programme:** The national government had been collaborating with training colleges to empower 5,000 young graduates to pursue small-scale farming, including here in Limpopo. You'll receive training, land and resources to help launch your agricultural journey.

4. **Cybersecurity and Drone Training:** As our world grows increasingly digital, we need skilled young minds to safeguard our systems and explore industries like drones. With the right training, you could enter fields ranging from logistics to disaster management.

5. **Young Women in Mining and Energy:** As we transition to renewable energy sources and tap into essential minerals, we're ensuring that young women are not just included but positioned as future leaders in these industries.

History reminds us that leaders like Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Peter Mokaba and the like faced similar impatience and resilience from the youth of their time. They understood the importance of prioritising the youth, for a nation that neglects its young people is destined to fail. Today, I recommit to you and our partnership in developing Limpopo. With a vastly youthful population, we cannot afford to leave anyone behind.

As I speak, since the beginning of this financial year we advertised 367 posts, including a crucial Director for Youth in the Premier's office, who will be dedicated to empowering you. However, our efforts won't stop there. We are forging partnerships with 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) to create robust skill development programmes. MERSETA has already invested R136 million for apprenticeship and learnerships, with 250 spots for beneficiaries opening soon.

A month ago, we launched significant opportunities in Ha-Matsila, aiming to benefit over 36,845 youths through various initiatives worth R446 million. These programmes span across agriculture, IT, hospitality, energy and entrepreneurship. I urge you to visit your nearest labour centre to learn more about these opportunities.

The youth of Leeufontein and Ephraim Mogale Municipality, there is something important I want to emphasise about agriculture in this area: while you may only need a doctor once or a lawyer occasionally, you rely on a farmer multiple times each day. This highlights the significance of agriculture within our Limpopo Development Plan. By embracing farming, we can collectively tackle unemployment and create a thriving future for all.

As you know, our current economic landscape poses significant challenges. President Ramaphosa's recent visit to the US highlighted the necessity for us to develop our industries and reduce reliance on foreign markets. We need a skilled population to drive this industrialization agenda.

We are in Sekhukhune, a place full of mines across the Dilokong corridor and other areas. We are finalising the establishment of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone

that will become a bastion of activities for economic development. We currently have the mining input supplier park in the area that is sup

Our mining input supplier park is already operational, providing essential services to the mining sector. I encourage you to think creatively about the businesses you can establish, fostering growth and creating jobs in our communities.

There is a point I would also like to emphasise, that we as government are not mute to societal call for youth representation at all levels, include youths in Boards of state-owned entities, municipalities and provincial government.

In closing, I want to echo the inspiring words of our singer Shandesh: “Ba re beetse melaba, ba nagana re ka se fofe, byale re fofile, modimo o re derile dichoper.” Move forward with resolve and confront any circumstances that may come your way.

Together, let us empower our youth and transform Limpopo into a land of opportunity.

Thank you!