

MEDIA RELEASE

14 July 2025

TO ALL MEDIA

RE: PREMIER DR RAMATHUBA CELEBRATES DR RATHUMBU'S REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT

Limpopo Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba is filled with joy and pride as she congratulates Dr Matodzi Rathumbu on attaining his Doctor of Philosophy, officially conferred by the University of Witwatersrand today, 14 July 2025.

As the Head of the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) since 2024, Dr Rathumbu has proven himself as a dedicated leader committed to the advancement of our province.

"It is truly uplifting to witness our departmental leaders enhancing their expertise by achieving significant qualifications. Dr Rathumbu's PhD aligns perfectly with our goals for inclusive growth and job creation in Limpopo. His research addresses key issues such as trade and tariffs, which are crucial in navigating the complexities of the global economy," remarked Premier Dr Ramathuba.

Dr Rathumbu's thesis, titled 'The Effects of Trade Barriers on Southern Africa Development Community Regional Integration,' offers valuable insights into how domestic policies impact trade throughout the region. With Limpopo strengthening its economic relationships with neighbouring countries like Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, the findings of this research hold great potential for fostering regional collaboration and economic resilience.

Premier Ramathuba expressed her enthusiasm: "Congratulations to Dr Rathumbu for balancing the responsibilities of his role while pursuing such an impactful academic goal. This is a moment of pride for our province and I eagerly anticipate the implementation of his insights so that their benefits can be enjoyed in our lifetime!"

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Issued by the Office of the Premier

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