

ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA, DURING THE
LIMPOPO INVESTMENT CONFERENCE MEDIA BRIEFING, 01 OCTOBER 2025, ATRIUM
BOUTIQUE HOTEL, POLOKWANE

Programme Director, Mr Ndavhe Ramakuela

Member of the Executive Council for Limpopo Department of Economic Development,
Environment and Tourism (LEDET), Mr Tshitereke Matibe

Chairperson of the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), Mr Chris Lithole

Head of the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and
Tourism, Dr Matodzi Rathumbu

Interim Group CEO of Limpopo Economic Development Agency, Ms Lutendo Mavhusha

Other staff members from LEDET, Limpopo Tourism Agency, and the Office of the
Premier

Ladies and Gentlemen

Members of the Media (my most distinguished guests today)

Good morning, Ndi matsheloni, Thobela, Avuxeni, Goie More.

As we gather here at the dawn of October, we stand united in a moment symbolising hope, renewal, and potential. This month is cherished in our local cultures; in Tshivenda, we call it Tshimedzi, a time for planting. In Northern Sotho, we refer to it as Diphlane, a period marking the emergence of the first flower shoots of the Boophone disticha plant. The Vatsonga celebrate Nhlangula, the time when the Nhlangula tree bears fruit, offering nourishment and sustenance.

October embodies a spirit of growth and connection - a reminder that from the earth, with care and dedication, new life can flourish. Just as our ancestors tended to their mealie fields, preparing the soil for the anticipated rains, we too must cultivate our landscape with intention, aligning our efforts for fruitful outcomes.

When our foreparents prepared their fields by clearing away acacia thorns and overgrown mopani trees, they embraced a vision of abundance and alignment, knowing that the seeds they sowed would pay dividends when nurtured by nature's grace.

In this very essence, I stand before you as the Premier of Limpopo and the Members of the Executive Council, leading the 7th administration of our vibrant province. We carry the collective dream of our people and with every endeavour, we ensure that the aspirations of our communities are met with dedication and purpose. Our administration is committed to fostering an environment where these dreams can take root and grow into reality.

At the forefront of our mission is the imperative of Limpopo's Investment Growth and Industrialisation. This objective is underscored within the ambit of the Limpopo Development Plan of 2025-2030, a strategic roadmap set to guide our province toward sustainable growth, economic resilience and social upliftment.

Limpopo's rich natural resources continue to establish us as a significant contributor to South Africa's economic landscape, yet we are still faced with the high unemployment rate of 35%. This is a challenge that we must address.

Over the past four years, the Limpopo Investment Conferences have successfully generated a combined pledge of R282.34 billion, with R66.76 billion (23.6%) being realised in actual investments across various sectors. This initiative has led to the creation of 20,084 jobs, demonstrating a significant impact on our economy.

Let's take the 2024 Limpopo Investment Conference for example. It catalysed R120.3 billion in new investment pledges, showcasing the growing confidence in Limpopo's investment climate. Currently, projects worth R19.2 billion are progressing well, including notable developments such as Ivanplats and Generic Core Sustainable Energy, which exemplify our province's potential in mining and renewable energy sectors.

Furthermore, R9.9 billion in projects are awaiting regulatory approvals, which, once granted, will positively affect local economies. An impressive R52.8 billion of pledged investments hinges on the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), highlighting the need to expedite their establishment to attract further industrial investments.

Despite facing challenges, including R4 billion in stalled projects like Zebediela Nickel due to operational issues and R30.8 billion linked to governmental bottlenecks - such as delays affecting the Giyani Solar Project - strategic action is being prioritised to overcome these hurdles.

In our transition from reliance on primary sectors to industrialisation, we aim to unlock the province's potential in alignment with the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) framework.

Our upcoming 5th Limpopo Investment Conference, themed "Limpopo Rising - Africa's New Investment Frontier," scheduled for 30 to 31 October 2025, stands to signify to our commitment to sustaining growth and development in Limpopo.

This conference will also unveil the Limpopo Investment Book 2025, which will outline over R32 billion in investment opportunities across diverse sectors, reaffirming Limpopo's readiness as a prime investment destination.

The seed we planted is now sprouting opportunities for investment, which we intend to nurture further as we prepare for our 5th Limpopo Investment Conference this October. The theme, "Limpopo Rising - Africa's New Investment Frontier," serves as our banner of progress, illuminating the path we tread toward collective prosperity.

This October, as we celebrate new beginnings, I invite you - our esteemed journalists and other media channels - to join us in framing the narrative of growth and positivity within our province. Your role in shaping perceptions cannot be overstated; together, we

can cultivate stories that shine a light on our achievements and the spirit of resilience that characterises Limpopo.

This conference not only acts as a platform for attracting vital investments but also reinvigorates our collective belief in the promise of a brighter future. Each story you write, each feature you produce, can help plant the seeds of optimism in the minds and hearts of our communities.

In conclusion, as we embrace October - the month of planting and growth - let us collectively inspire faith in the resilience and potential that Limpopo embodies.

May your narratives reflect the vibrancy of our province, encouraging others to share our vision and commitment to fostering a flourishing future for all. Together, let us rise and cultivate the narrative of growth, opportunity, and hope that awaits us in Limpopo.

Thank you.