



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**SPEECH BY LIMPOPO PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA AT THE
EXXARO GALA DINNER**

MACHAUKA LODGE, LEPHALALE, WATERBERG DISTRICT

12 NOVEMBER 2025

Programme Director,

Chairperson of Exxaro Social Ethics and Responsibility Committee, Ms
Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi,

MEC for Education, Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya,

Executive Mayor of Waterberg District Municipality, His Worship Cllr Jack
Maeko,

Mayor of Lephalale Municipality, His Worship Cllr Aaron Mokgetle,

Traditional Leaders,

Faith-Based Leaders,

Business Community,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thobela, Ndi madekwana, Riperile, Good evening, Goeie naand.

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to stand before you this evening at this prestigious Gala Dinner, an evening where captains of industry, leaders of government, and visionaries from the business community have gathered under one roof.

There is a proverb that says: “When great minds meet, a new way of thinking is born.” This proverb perfectly captures the spirit of tonight. When leaders with shared purpose converge, ideas turn into plans and plans become real, life-changing action. I am confident that tonight confirms deeper partnerships that will bring continue to bring even greater prosperity to our province.

Programme Director, allow me to begin by commending Exxaro Resources for its outstanding commitment to social and economic transformation. Exxaro is not only one of South Africa’s leading mining companies, but also a true development partner, a community builder and a trusted friend of the people of Limpopo.

At a time when corporate social responsibility has become a measure of genuine leadership, Exxaro continues to lead by example. Its footprint across Limpopo through initiatives in education, agriculture, SMME development and infrastructure speaks volumes about its dedication to uplifting lives and driving inclusive growth.

We have noted the economic empowerment initiatives such as the Mineral Succession Programme and the Mutale Agri-Industrial Development

Project, which are helping emerging farmers thrive and proving that mining and agriculture can coexist for shared prosperity. From improving infrastructure and water systems to strengthening the health sector, they stand as a shining example of what responsible and progressive corporate citizenship truly means.

Equally commendable are the company's contributions to infrastructure and health, the refurbishment of the Marapong bulk water pipeline, support for the Mokolo-Crocodile River water augmentation scheme, and collaborations with the Limpopo Department of Health, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These initiatives collectively reflect Exxaro's deep and enduring commitment to sustainable development, community well-being and a prosperous future for Limpopo.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When companies such as Exxaro choose to do business with purpose, the ripple effects are felt far beyond the mine gates. They touch classrooms, clinics, small businesses and farms. They help build confidence in the economy and inspire other corporate players to do the same.

To the broader business community gathered here tonight, we want to say: the government of Limpopo is open for partnership. The 7th Administration has prioritised key areas that will change the face of our province including water provision, roads, crime reduction, youth employment and inclusive

economic growth. But the government alone cannot achieve this vision. We need you, our social and business partners, to walk this journey with us.

According to the latest report from Statistics South Africa, Limpopo's economy recorded a growth rate of 0.9%, making it the fastest-growing province in the country. This performance outpaced the national GDP growth of 0.5%, underscoring Limpopo's increasing contribution to South Africa's overall economic resilience and recovery.

Just last month, we hosted the Limpopo Investment Conference, where commitment worth R170 billion were secured. This is not just a number; it is a clear expression of confidence from investors in the direction that Limpopo is taking. It is a sign that our collective efforts to create a stable, enabling environment for business are yielding results.

Programme Director, the recent official statistics, 3rd Quarter Labour Force Survey reveals that the unemployment rate decreased in seven provinces between the second and third quarters of 2025, with Limpopo recording the most significant improvement. The province's unemployment rate dropped notably from 35.0% to 29.8%, reflecting the positive impact of ongoing economic initiatives and investment efforts aimed at creating sustainable jobs and stimulating growth.

Our focus remains simple: to build a province where growth is shared, opportunities are inclusive, poverty defeated and communities are not left behind. That is why partnerships such as the one we celebrate tonight are

so important and they are proof that when business and government work together, progress becomes inevitable.

To Exxaro, your story of impact in Limpopo is one of sustainability, accountability, and compassion. You have understood that mining is not just about extracting minerals from the ground, but about extracting potential from people. You have proven that profit and purpose can coexist and that true success is measured not just in tons mined, but in lives changed.

Let us, together, build a province where every child has access to quality education, every young person has an opportunity to work, and every community has access to clean water and sustainable livelihoods.

Nelson Mandela reminds us: “As long as poverty, injustice, and gross inequality persist, none of us can truly rest.”

Tonight, let us commit ourselves once more to that mission to build a Limpopo that works for all its people.

I thank you.