



## **Office of the Premier**

North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY NORTH WEST PREMIER, PROF TEBOGO JOB MOKGORO AT THE PROVINCIAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT CONFERENCE HELD IN BOJANALA ON 14 MARCH 2019**

Programme Director

Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies,

Member of the Executive Council responsible for Finance, Economic and Enterprise Development, Mme Wendy Matsemela,

Other Members of the Provincial Executive,

The Executive Mayor of the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality, Cllr Fetsang Mokati,

The Mayor of the Moses Kotane Local Municipality, Cllr Ralesole Diale,

All other Mayors present,

The Provincial Executive of the South Local Government Association,  
Councillors,

Chairperson of the North West House of Traditional Leaders,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Chairpersons and Chief Executive Officers of State Owned Entities,

Chambers of Commerce,

Organised Labour,

Members of the media,

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning and welcome to the first North West Trade and Investment Conference; making us the second Province to achieve this milestone after KwaZulu-Natal; in response to the President's clarion call to open our country, province and localities to investment aimed at stimulating our ailing economy.

This is our answer to that call and I am of the sincere belief that, by the end of this conference, our investment book will be ready for submission to the President – confident in the comfort that the North West is ready for investment.

In the 2019 State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa clearly indicated that Government has identified the following five most urgent tasks that need to be undertaken to improve the lives of our people;

- Firstly, we must accelerate inclusive economic growth and create jobs;
- Secondly, our history demands that we should improve the education system and develop the skills that we need now and into the future;
- Thirdly, we are duty bound to improve the conditions of life for all South Africans, especially the poor;
- Fourthly, we have no choice but to step up the fight against corruption and state capture; and
- Fifthly, we need to strengthen the capacity of the State to address the needs of the people.

It is therefore imperative that we incorporate all these tasks in our quest to stimulate and grow our economy; the first step being the hosting of this Provincial Trade and Investment Conference.

It is against that background and commitment to economic stimulus and growth that we welcome all potential investors to our beautiful province.

We are not going to be afraid to let you know, from the onset, that we are in need of your capital injection, your expertise and investments aimed at turning the economy of this province in the right trajectory.

We are looking forward to your fruitful engagement and support in forming long lasting economic relations with all critical stakeholders in our province.

Fellow delegates, the President has urged provinces to open up to Foreign Direct Investment and through this form of encouragement, the North West Province can gain access to technology, knowledge, and managerial expertise from abroad, and trigger vertical and horizontal integration and the development of supply chains.

Clearly, we should create a platform that seeks to position us an attractive destination for long term and sustainable investment.

It is very fundamental to note that one of the key components of our economy as a province remains mining.

Mining generates more than half of the province's gross domestic product and provide jobs for over a quarter of the province's labour force.

It is a very vital sector of the economy and in our quest to rebuilding and repositioning the Province's economy, we want to partner with all relevant role players in that sector as Government.

As a matter of fact, we will be convening a roundtable with the mining houses doing business in our province in the next three weeks from today, with the explicit intent to intensify our economic relation as well as joins hands in

bringing about stability and confidence in this sector and continuous cooperation between government, mining houses, organized labour as well as communities affected by mining activities.

Ladies and gentlemen, China is the leading trade partner for South Africa and accounts for 9.2% of South Africa's total exports to the rest of the world; with most of the exports to China being mineral products and a significant portion of those products are from this province.

Fellow delegates, it is through this Trade and Investment Conference as a vehicle towards a stable economic growth path that we are determined to accelerating progress in building a more prosperous and equitable society.

Ladies and gentlemen, we will be showcasing the Platinum Valley Special Economic Zone opportunities; which has become our main economic investment draw card as part of our efforts to bolster industrialization as well as create non-core mining businesses informed by beneficiation.

Like we said during the State of the Province Address, the Platinum Valley SEZ is the North West Province's contribution to the Economic Stimulus implementation as declared by President Ramaphosa; with the sole intention of creating the much needed skills and sustainable employment.

The implementation of the SEZ Programme, already underway, will create a new mining supply hub that speaks directly to capital equipment manufacturing, renewable energy, an agro-processing zone and general manufacturing in the Mogwase Industrial Area; situated a few kilometers from here.

This SEZ investment initiative is expected to yield investment opportunities in excess of R5-billion over the MTEF period and will create an estimated 7000 jobs of which 1000 are direct and 600 are indirect; through agro-processing, general manufacturing, mining, mineral beneficiation, tourism, green economy and ICT.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is proof enough of our resolve to be at the forefront of economic acceleration and growth resulting in more job creation, sustainability, innovation and prosperity for all.

Fellow delegates, with the evident rise in investor confidence and the positive public sentiment in the past year, it can only be a step in the right direction that all social and economic partners join hands with each other to accelerate growth in the economy.

We believe that this is the right time to attract global investors as we are ready to host more conferences of this nature to boost the economy of our Province.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has, since the beginning of 2018, embarked on an extensive investment drive in an effort to boost the economy of the country and in that process, made increased investment, the creation of an inclusive economy and good governance into his and the country's major areas of focus.

The President begun by setting a target of attracting \$100 billion into the South African economy by 2023 and as also appointed a diverse but well balanced and strong team of investment envoys to lead those investment initiatives to major economic hubs and capitals of the world; to reassure investors that South Africa is still a safe investment destination.

Ladies and gentlemen, the North West Province hold enormous potential for private investors and investment and we need to have mechanisms of how to turn that potential into real progress that can be measured in development and improvements in the quality of life and well-being of our people.

To this end, through the North West Development Corporation, we have made great strides in advancing the agenda and mandate of economic development, job creation and empowerment within the North West Province.

It still remains our goal and driving passion to be at the forefront of economic acceleration and growth resulting in more jobs being created, sustainability, innovation and prosperity for all.

We are very serious and determined to address youth unemployment as well as youth inclusivity in the mainstream of our economic growth and development.

As a result, 120 unemployment graduates in the agricultural sector have been placed in farms as part of experiential training and learning on a three year programme.

As this conference looks at the role Agriculture in the economy of our province, it is very important that the role of TVET and Agricultural Colleges as strategic partners towards economic growth be given thorough attention as well as their contribution to in terms of student and research output.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is also informed by the announcement that we made at the State of the Province address last month that we are currently implementing a Memorandum of Agreement with the Taletso and Vuselela

TVET Colleges to jointly ensure that continuously provide in-service training and internships to students who complete their studies in Agriculture.

We are investing in human capital and our young a key component of that long term investment; therefore do not shy away to invest in our province because one thing I know is that the future looks bright.

**The North West Province has over the past 25 years of democracy contributed significantly in the dismantling of apartheid institutional divisions by providing decent houses, clean drinking water, electricity and improving access to quality education and health care services.**

We will be spending R14-million in the first year of the current MTEF to implement the **Sanitary Dignity Project** aimed at all girl children but with special focus on learners in Grade 4 and upwards. **We, therefore call on all our social partners – especially the Private Sector in the Platinum Belt and elsewhere in the province – to partner with us to roll out this Programme throughout the length and breadth of our province.**

We have put aside R91-million for the next three years aimed at implementing the roll-out of Agri Parks in all our 22 municipalities to the challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality as well as food security.

An estimated amount of R4 billion has been set aside to complete all delayed road projects, ensure sustainability of the existing road network through continuous maintenance and rehabilitation.

Tourism has been identified as an important driver of future growth and investment in our Province.

The stimulation of economic growth will not be complete without tourism; we should strive to become the preferred destination of choice for tourists and we need increased investment into that sector.

Programme Director, I am pleased to announce that the Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) and the Standard for Infrastructure Procurement and Delivery Management (SIPDM) will be published for implementation in the next financial year by Government including all departments, municipalities and their entities.

Notwithstanding the fiscus available to us, we would like to assure our investors that services will not be compromised.

Our focus remains:

- Improving education, training and innovation
- Inclusive economic growth and job creation
- Strengthening good governance and building of safer communities
- Promotion of culture and creative industries
- Strengthening of Traditional Leadership.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to also launching the North West Province Investment Conference booklet; in line with what is expected of us to contribute the National Investment Book.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt gratitude to President Ramaphosa for granting us the unique opportunity to host this Conference, the first of its kind in our Province.



The booklet gives a synoptic overview of the provincial economy, highlighting the many unexplored trade and investment opportunities in our province.

To facilitate your decision-making processes, we have packaged more than 35 bankable projects covering the areas of agriculture and agro-processing, manufacturing, infrastructure, mining and mineral beneficiation as well as tourism.

We believe that this booklet will enhance the ease of conducting business with the North West Province.

Distinguished guests, I have no doubt that in cementing our relationship with all our investors present here today, the insights of this book would become valuable.

I thank you

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