

**SPEECH BY**  
**PREMIER LAZARUS KAGISO MOKGOSI**  
**ON THE**  
**OFFICIAL OPENING**  
**OF THE**  
**NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**  
**MAHIKENG**  
**25 JULY 2024**  
**09:00**

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OFFICIAL OPENING ADDRESS OF THE NWPL BY PREMIER L.K MOKGOSI

Madame Speaker, the Honourable Desbo Mohono,  
Deputy Speaker, Honourable Tshepo Khoza  
Chief Whip of the majority party, Honourable Motlalepula Rosho,  
Chair of Chairs, Honourable Tebogo Modise  
Honourable Members of the Executive Council,  
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature,  
Honourable Members of Parliament present here today,  
Our permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces,  
The Judge President of the North West Division of the High Court, Judge Ronald  
Hendricks,  
Chairperson of SALGA, Councilor Khumalo Molefe,  
Chairperson of the House of Traditional and Khoi-SAN Leaders, Kgosi Thari Maotwe,  
Executive Mayors and Mayors of North West Municipalities,  
The Treasurer General of the governing party, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa, and the Provincial  
Chairperson of the governing party, Nono Maloyi  
Leaders of Political Parties,  
Former Premiers of the North West,  
Leaders of Faith-Based Organizations, Trade Unions and Civil Society,  
Vice Chancellor of the North West University, Professor Birmsmack Tyobeka  
The Provincial Commissioner of the SA Police Service, Lt General Sello Kwena Heads of  
our Security Services,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Bagaetsho Dumelang,

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**Honourable Members**, I am indeed privileged and honoured to be standing before you today to mark the official opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> administration of the Provincial Legislature of the North West.

As we open the North West Provincial Legislature following the recent national elections, we are filled with renewed purpose and a profound sense of responsibility centered on service to humanity as once espoused by the founding Father of our nation Nelson Mandela.

Chinua Achebe, a revered author, academic and one of the founding fathers of African Literature, opines at a speech delivered in 1998 in Paris that; **"Our humanity is contingent on the humanity of our fellows."**

**"Motho ke motho ka batho"**

**Bagaetsho**, today, we come together at a crucial moment in the history of our province prepared to begin a transformative path of rebuilding and rejuvenation.

As we enter this new chapter, we find inspiration in the unwavering spirit and visionary leadership of our ancestors—Kgosi Montshiwa and Kgosi Ramotshere Moiloa, and many others who fought relentlessly for justice and equality.

**The legacy they left behind motivates us to strive for a brighter future.**

We honour the unsung heroes and heroines of our province whose contributions have shaped our identity and paved the way for progress.

We pay tribute to the likes of Gertrude Mphekwa, a trailblazing activist who mobilised the women of Dinokana in resisting the apartheid government's introduction of passes for women; Ngaka Modiri Molema, a visionary leader and advocate for our people's rights; Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, a tireless activist and champion of social justice;

Victor Thebe Sifora, a stalwart of the struggle; J.B. Marks, a pioneer in labour rights; Moses Kotane, a leader of profound wisdom; Rita Alice Ndzanga, an advocate for women's rights; Onkgopotse Tiro, a fearless student leader; and the Gopane Four, whose sacrifices remain etched in our collective memory.

**Their achievements continue to inspire us.**

We do not take for granted the immense trust placed on us, and we pledge to work tirelessly to create a province where no citizen is left behind.

The representation of different political organisations and ideologies in this Legislature offers us yet another opportunity to live to the ideals of our forebears who through the adoption of the Freedom Charter in Kliptown in 1955 proclaimed that:

**“We, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people.”**

The make-up of this legislature is based on the will of the people who expect us to be above **reproach, ethical, incorruptible, and accountable.**

**Bagaetsho**, today we are honoured to be joined by **Dr Masego “Easy” Matjila** who was recently conferred with an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities by the North West University for his promotion of Setswana.

Bra Easy as affectionately known was instrumental in making sure we achieve our **Nation Building Project** through equitable representation of African Languages on SABC platforms.

Dr Matjila's humility and modesty is a shining example and embodiment of who we are as a people. He inspires all of us to be like him, and to be him.

## **Gompieno re bantle rotlhe!**

**Bagaetsho**, re fitlheletse go le gontsi mo dingwageng di le some a mararo tse di fetileng go fetola matshelo a batho ka go aga matlo, go tlisa metsi, motlakase, thuto le tlanelo ya pholo.

Mme go santse go le gontsi go re tlhokang go go dira go feleletsa tiro eno ya go tlabolola matshelo a bagaetsho botlhe.

Botlhoka tiro le lehuma bo sa le ko godimo e bile bo a oketsega mo nageng ya rona.

Batho ba feta seripa-gare sa baagi ba North West ga ba dire jaaka go kailwe mo dipalopalong tsa kotara ya bone ya dipatlisiso tsa botlhoka tiro mo ngwageng ono.

Seno se ama thata basha le basadi go gaisa batho botlhe.

Ditlamo di le dintsi di tshosetsa go kgaola dipalopalo tsa badiri jaaka ditlhwathwa tsa dikabo tsa ntsho dikuno di wela tlase.

**Madam Speaker**, In the last few months, the prices of palladium and platinum fell by 40% and 15% last year, respectively, mainly due to weak demand.

Extreme weather conditions such as veld fires and heavy rains have in the past few years affected industries such as Tourism and Agriculture thereby delaying the recovery process.

**Honourable Members**, we have appointed the **Economic & Investment Advisory Council**, consisting of members of the Executive Council, Economists, Industry Experts, Organized Agriculture, Labour, Tourism Sector, Mining and independent Experts.

The first meeting of the Premier's Economic & Investment Advisory Council will be convened in the second week of August, followed by the Premier's Infrastructure

Coordinating Council which will drive the Mega Cities programme for the Province through the North West Housing Corporation.

The work of the **Economic & Investment Advisory Council** (EIAC) will be to guide the provincial government in the implementation of the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS) and to develop sector-based plans to drive inclusive growth, reducing unemployment and inequalities in line with the objectives of the National Development Plan (2030).

**Hon Members**, the equitable share formula which is the foundation of our fiscal resource allocation has served the country well over the last thirty years.

We support its institutional foundation; however, we are of the view that the time has come for it to be reviewed.

We will use the inter-governmental forums through the President's Coordinating Council and the Budget Council to motivate for a review of the current budgetary and fiscal resource allocation to consider developmental needs of rural provinces like the North West.

**Hon Speaker**, our vision for the North West is a place of abundant opportunity, inclusive and vibrant economy and sustainable growth supported by strong infrastructure to drive our manufacturing and industrialization.

Our province has an abundance of talent of our youthful population to inspire innovation and entrepreneurship.

Government will make resources and tools available to ignite the potential of the people of the province to drive growth and the creation of jobs.

**Hon Members**, the Bojanala Platinum District contributes 52.1% to the North West Province's GDP, with Rustenburg alone accounting for 41.9% of the district's GDP.

The significant growth in Rustenburg is largely attributed to the impact of the world's largest mines in the immediate vicinity of the town.

These mines include Impala Platinum, Anglo American, Stillwater/Gold, Bakubung Platinum, Royal Bafokeng Platinum, Tharisa Minerals, Glencore and many others.

Approximately 97% of the total platinum production occurs in Rustenburg, with the mining sector providing around 50% of all formal employment.

**To harness this potential, however, we must invest in our people.**

We are collaborating with the North West University, the Departments of Higher Education and Minerals and Petroleum Resources to establish an Engineering Faculty in Rustenburg to respond to the demand for technical and engineering specialities needed to meet the demand in the mining and related fields.

The 7th administration has already started consultations with the Minister of Trade Industry and Competition to remove all hurdles preventing the Cabinet from approving the issuance of the license for the formal proclamation of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Mogwase.

We have now appointed a full time CEO for the North West Development Corporation who will work with the Board to appoint the rest of Executive Management Team.

The NWDC will be restructured to be fit for purpose to drive our economic and industrialization programme.

We are continuing with work in the SEZ to renovate existing structures and the construction of Phase 2 of the project.

The main hub of the Platinum Valley SEZ will be housed in a 100-hectare site at the Bodirelo Industrial Park, located near the town of Mogwase.

The site will be developed in three phases, comprising a logistics park, light manufacturing space and heavy industries manufacturing space.

**We have so far garnered investment commitments to the tune of R164 billion for the Special Economic Zone.**

Eleven of these are at an advanced stage with three having signed pre-lease agreements.

These commitments are a culmination of the investment initiatives of the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration to create over **five thousand job opportunities** for our people.

**Hon Members** our province is home to Phelindaba, South Africa's main nuclear research centre, and with the new Electricity and Energy Minister's vision for a 2500MW nuclear plant, we have the potential to become an investment destination of powerhouse in the energy generation sector.

Nuclear energy has a catalytic potential across sectors like nuclear medicine, energy and human resource development to develop new rare skills and specializations which are in high demand.

**Hon Speaker**, all these priorities require coherent policy direction and coordination from government to guide interventions and direct sector contributions towards a common goal.

**Hon Speaker**, the presidency has delegated the Lanseria Smart City Development to the Gauteng Provincial Government as an implementing agent.

We have started discussions with our colleagues in Gauteng to convene a joint EXCO meeting to finalize a memorandum of understanding between the two provinces for the implementation of the smart city development.

The North West Housing Corporation will be assigned to incorporate the Lanseria Smart City mandate into the existing Mega Cities programme to achieve synergy and integration.



**Hon Members**, the Mega and Smart Cities programme will unlock investments in key focus areas such as housing, infrastructure, transport and logistics, education, leisure and tourism, healthcare etc.

Furthermore, three mega infrastructure projects in the region of nineteen billion rand will be rolled out this year.

These are twenty-nine water and sanitation projects, seven roads infrastructure projects and the Matlosana Smart City Bulk Infrastructure.

These projects have been submitted to Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) located in the Presidency and have all passed the initial stage of the Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) evaluation process.

**Through these projects sixty thousand (60 000) job opportunities will be created targeted mainly at the youth and women.**

As part of building an Ethical, Capable and Developmental State we will be looking at insourcing certain services.

This will include the refurbishment of abandoned government buildings for occupation by our NGOs and NPOs for occupation through affordable lease agreements.

We will extend our support to Community Media to ensure diversity and plurality of information dissemination on government programmes.

**Hon Members**, our State-Owned Enterprise are critical in ensuring economic growth to meet the developmental objectives of our province.

In executing this mandate, it is therefore imperative that we remodel and reposition them to drive our industrialization agenda.

This will be done through direct investment, private-public partnerships, and capitalization.

To see to the success of this pronouncement particularly in rejuvenating our tourism sector and in particular our parks and resorts we will be establishing the **North West Development Fund** which is intended to be rolled out in partnership with private sector role-players.

The fund is also intended to finance various initiatives such as the resuscitation of the George Dick Montshioa and Pilanesberg Airports.

**It will extend to fund agro-processing and mineral beneficiation industries as well as innovation hubs in the form of Information Communications Technology.**

In relation to the latter infrastructure is already being assembled through broadband connectivity across the province.

Three hundred and thirty-two facilities at Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati which has been identified as a pilot are earmarked to benefit from this project.

This infrastructure will be deployed to over two thousand and nine hundred Community Wi-Fi Hotspots in Rustenburg, Zeerust and Kopfontein.

**Hon Speaker**, we have created a dedicated Agriculture Working Group as part of the Economic and Investment Advisory Council comprised of industry and strategic commodity role players.

We would like to hold hands with the private sector to review the Agriculture Master Plan to be in line and drive new growth paths for the province.

We are convinced that it is possible to facilitate the commercialization of small black farmers and to open new markets without affecting the profitability of existing commercial farmers.

We want to revive and scale up the Mega Farms programme in all four districts to multiply successes such as the KMF Farm Holdings which is in Ditsobotla Local Municipality and operated by Dr Obakeng Mfikwe.

This includes the Jantjies Boerdery owned by Tshepo Jantjies from Taung which provides an array of services that benefit other emerging farmers.

Just recently a delegation of officials from the Omaheke Regional Council in Namibia visited him for benchmarking purposes.

**Hon members,** furthermore later this year the Premier will lead a delegation of Agri-North West and Grain-SA to Taung to discuss the resuscitation of the Taung Irrigation Scheme.

I have full confidence that these intervention measures will contribute immensely in repositioning the commercialization of the agricultural produce of emerging farmers.

**Hon Members,** rural roads are critical to facilitate access to public services like health, schools and movement of commodities to the markets.

We are considering new building technologies for our rural roads as an alternative to alleviate budgetary pressure for the road's construction and maintenance programme.

We will continue to assist municipalities with road resealing projects as well as well as pothole patching.

**Bagaetsho,** we are in the process of rolling out phase 2 of Nelson Mandela Drive which includes the expansion of the Danville bridge.

This would include major rehabilitation of the road by upgrading it into dual carriageway all the way up to the Danville circle.

We have commissioned work to look at initiating the Ramatlabama Freight Corridor through the creation of a Northern bypass from Rooigrond through Buurmansdrift to the Ramabatlama Border gate.

This project will unlock the economic potential of Mahikeng and relieve the CBD of traffic congestion.

**Honorable Speaker**, a stable local sphere of government is critical to ensure provision of services and infrastructure to attract investments and contribute to Local Economic Development.

Many of our municipalities are in financial distress unable to collect sufficient revenue to fund their operations and drive development.

Regrettably, in some cases poor financial management and questionable procurement and tendering processes are responsible for the collapse of governance systems.

We have directed the Provincial Treasury to conduct financial assessment on the 2024/25 draft budgets of municipalities to assess the credibility and funding of municipalities.

The Premier will convene the North West Premier's Coordinating Council with all Mayors to present the outcome of our assessment and demand accountability from municipalities to improve their financial management.

In addition, the Executive Council has adopted preemptive implementation of Sections 139 (5) & 154 of the Constitution to assist Municipalities meet their Financial Recovery and support governance.

We have seconded senior managers to Bojanala, Tswaing, and Ditsobotla to assist with Institutional Capacity.

The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs has appointed a Turn-Around team of experts in the fields of engineering, finance, town planning and information technology to help change the face of local government.

The Skills Audit Project in all municipalities is now complete with only Naledi and Ngaka Modiri Molema as outstanding municipalities.

The audit will be ready for implementation by beginning of September 2024.

The Fourth Phase of the **Accelerated Service Delivery -Thuntsha Lerole** will be launched in August to further expedite provision of services in municipalities.

**Hon Speaker**, by the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 100% of our Heads of Provincial Departments had submitted their financial disclosures to the Public Service Commission.

As required the report of the Public Service Commission will be tabled in this House.

**I would like to assure you Hon, Members, that we will act against all senior managers who failed to disclose their financial interests.**

**Bagaetsho**, several high-profile cases are before the courts for prosecution and we will continue to work with Chapter 9 institutions and in particular law enforcement agencies to clamp down on corruption, maladministration, fraud and other cases of malfeasance.

**We are firm in our determination to professionalize the public service.**

**Hon Members**, the apex priority of the 7<sup>th</sup> administration is Job creation for the youth.

We want to get our young people to work and contribute to the development of the province.

We can report that legal processes to pave the way for the rollout of the Labour Activation Programme are nearing completion to unleash 27 000 work opportunities and training to unemployed people and the youth of our province.

The Office of the Premier has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Skills Fund to finance critical interventions in the province across departments.

The National Youth Service will implement training and skills development opportunities that will benefit over one thousand two hundred (1200) young people at the Department of Public Works and Roads, Social Development, Human Settlement as well as Arts, Culture Sports, and Recreation (ACSR).

We have directed the Department of Public Works and Roads to table a proposal for the new model for the implementation of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to ensure that the full complement of available 15 000 work opportunities are made available, and the programme is enriched to give value and dignity to the beneficiaries.

The Victor Thebe Sifora Provincial Bursary Scheme will later this year pronounce a new intake of over one hundred students for the 2025 academic year.

**Mmusa-kgotla, re tshwenyegile thata ka tiriso e botlhaswa ya diritibatsi ke basha ba rona.**

We will be opening two new rehabilitation and treatment centers in Ngaka Modiri Molema and Bojanala Districts to help our young people grappling with challenges of drugs and substance abuse.

During their treatment they will be undergoing various skills development programmes through our partnership with TVET Colleges, SITAs and the University.

As part of our community outreach programmes in addressing this scourge we will be working with faith-based organisations through our moral regeneration programme.

**Hon Members**, we are turning the corner in the school building programme in the Department of Education to finish all projects that have been delayed and to unlock challenges from our implementing agents.

The construction of over ten schools across the four districts of our province is currently underway and will be completed in no time.

These projects have collectively cost five hundred and eighty-three million rand (R5 83 000 000,00) and have created well over 2340 jobs.

The Department is now geared towards positioning the North West as a consistent top three (3) best performing province in the country.

We will introduce interventions to expand the early childhood development education, increase the reach for universal grade R inclusion in all public schools and improve the quality and qualifications of ECD practitioners.

We want to close the resource gap in all our schools to give each child equal opportunity to reach their full potential.

**Hon Speaker**, services provided by the Department of Social Development are critical for a rural province like the North West.

We want to improve systems in the department to introduce technology and digitization to improve record management, improve efficiency in payment of grants to NGO's, expand access and efficiencies to the rest of the population.

We have modelled and understood what is required to achieve equitable allocation and distribution our services to all wards in the province.

The Department will build its research and monitoring capacity to rid the sector of unregistered and illegal operators who exploit our vulnerable population to benefit from grants paid by the department.

**Bagaetsho**, the province has done well in expanding the provision of health services and working harder to continuously improve the quality of the service.

The distribution of health infrastructure across the population is comparable to similar environments in the country.

An increased number of our community health centers and clinics now operate 24 hours and more will be added as resources become available to expand these services.

The province will be collaborating with the North West University through the Medical Schools and with other Institutions like Sefako Makgatho, Wits and North West Universities to increase the number of health professionals and specialists in our public hospitals.

Our plan is to increase access to tertiary health services and expand the services to Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati and Ngaka Modiri Molema districts.

We will continue to prioritise infrastructure development as part of broadening access to health care to achieve the Universal Health Coverage goal through the Implementation of the National Health Insurance (NHI).

Several key infrastructure projects are prioritised for the 2024-25 financial year and they include: construction of Uitkyk, Boitekong, Magogoe, Colour Block, Fafung, Koffieekraal, Mothathanyane, Shiela, Lobatla, Cokonyane, Logageng, Kabe, Matshepe and Modimola Clinics.



**Bagaetsho**, tlhabololo ya metse e ka fa tlase ga tsamaiso ya Dikgosi e botlhokwa thata go lwantsha lehuma le go ribolola bokgoni jwa itsholelo le ikonomi ya poferense ya rona.

Dikgosi tsa rona ke tsone di itseng boima jwa tlala le lehuma le baagi ba rona ba tshelatang mo go lona.

Dikgosi ke tsona di tshwanetseng go kaela mafapha a puso gore ditlhabololo di tlhokagala kae mo metseng ya bona.

Re ikemiseditse go fetsa mokgwa wa go tlisa diporojeke tsa puso ko metseng re sa rerisa Dikgosi le go kopa kgakololo mo go bona.

Ke rata go netefaletsa Kgosi Maotwe jaaka Modula Setilo wa Ntlo ya Dikgosi gore Letlole le la Tlhabololo le ke le kaileng, e tla nna la go tlhabolola metse selegae segolo bogolo.

**Bagolo ba rona ba imetswe ke bosenyi le bogodu jwa leruo, go bolawa ga bagodi, basadi le bana ba basetsana.**

Re tla buisana le sepodisa sa rona sa porofense gore re tlhome lenaneo la porofense la tshireletso le go lwantsha bosenyi mo metseng ya rona (Provincial Rural Safety Strategy).

Lenaneo le tla ikaega thata ka go fedisa bogodu jwa leruo, tshireletso ya bagodi, bomme le bana ba basetsana le go tlisa ditheo tsa sepodisi ko bathong botlhe ba bokone Bophirima.

**Hon Members**, earlier this year we met with the Border Management Authority to discuss challenges of irregular migration and cross border crimes.

We are happy to report that the BMA has assured us that the Ramatlabama border will be receiving attention and the possible formalization of the Mabule and Phitsane crossings.

The people of Matlosana are terrorized by Zama Zama criminals who have extended their criminal enterprise to the rest of the local municipality by shooting and killing people daily.

**We are working with the police to stop this criminality.**

**Hon Speaker**, we have shared with you and the public the direction the 7<sup>th</sup> administration is taking in advancing the provision of services in the coming five years.

A lot has been done but much more still needs to be achieved.

We take to heart the impatience expressed by many of our people.

We note the destructive messages of our detractors.

This is the time to build and not destroy.

We will not achieve everything at once, but we will keep trying until we get it right.

We take solace from the wisdom of Nelson Mandela when he said; ***“Only armchair politicians are immune from committing mistakes. Errors are inherent in political action. Those who are in the center of political struggle, have to deal with practical and pressing problems, are afforded little time for reflection and no precedents to guide them and are bound to slip up many times.....but in due course they will acquire the necessary experience and foresight that will enable them to avoid the ordinary pitfalls and pick out their way ahead amidst the throb of events”***



