



**REMARKS BY PREMIER LAZARUS MOKGOSI ON THE OCASSION OF A  
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY.**

**Date: 16 April 2025**

**Time: 15:00**

**Venue: Sun City, Moses Kotane Local Municipality**

Members of the Executive Council present here today,

Heads of Departments,

Executive and Senior Management present here today,

Industry Leaders and Representatives of various business entities present here today,

Esteemed Guests,

Bagaetsho Dumelang,

**Programme Director**, it gives me great pleasure and honor, to stand before you this afternoon and address this important gathering.

We are hosting this initiative at the backdrop of a number of challenges, impeding our development plans.

Economic growth in the country remains sluggish, and it is estimated to grow by just 1.6 percent this year.

This situation is further exacerbated by the high unemployment rate in our province, sitting at around fifty-two percent (52%) with half of the population inundated by high levels of poverty.

Designated groups such as women, youth, people with disabilities, the rural poor and the unemployed where there is vast economic activity such as mining, continue to be at the receiving end of low income levels and inequalities.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**, today's initiative is a culmination of our ongoing efforts by government to solidify and strengthen relations with business to envision a province where our people can see their lives changing for the better.

But critically to foster relations with all stakeholders in finding solutions to matters of poor infrastructure such as water, energy and roads.

Last month I tabled the provincial policy statement where I was frank about the high levels of poverty, unemployment and dilapidating infrastructure in our province.

I equally listed the intervention measures we are employing in luring investments to resuscitate our ailing economy, address infrastructure backlogs and create jobs.

These measures are centered on key priorities of the **Statement of Intent** by **Government of National Unity** (GNU) through the implementation of the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP-2025-2030), and they encapsulate the following;

**a) Driving inclusive growth and job creation**

**b) Reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living**

**c) Building a capable, ethical and developmental state**

**Programme Director**, as His Excellency President Ramaphosa remarked in the State of the Nation Address, the MTDP seeks to contribute to sustainable and rapid economic growth through an inclusive and transformational economic trajectory.

This includes the implementation of a well-coordinated infrastructure roll-out plan, that should at the same time contribute towards service delivery and job creation.

These issues have been elevated by our people as their apex priorities.

They want solutions to their challenges and a government that works for them working hand in glove with the private sector.

Our plans mirror the three key priorities of MTDP as explained in the 2025 Policy Statement and as extrapolated in our Provincial Growth and Development Strategy.

**Ladies and Gentlemen** in seeing to the full implementation of this strategy we have appointed the Premiers Economic and Investment Advisory Council and Panel of Experts.

This includes the Premier's Infrastructure Coordinating Council which is primarily aimed at addressing backlogs in the provision of water, housing and roads.

In relation to the latter the Department of Public Works and Roads has been mandated to initiate the province's Road Agency to enable pragmatic management and maintenance of our road infrastructure.

This will be done in partnership with the private sector, professionals and experts.

Several mining companies have expressed interest in this regard and are already assisting government to refurbish a number of roads in the province.

Over four hundred million has been committed for the construction and rehabilitation of road networks in and around the villages of Moses Kotane Local Municipality and Phokeng at Rustenburg in this District.

While we appreciate these measures we want to make an appeal and urge mining companies operating in our province to consider Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati in their various developmental initiatives as part of Social Labour Plan and Corporate Social Investment Programmes.

Greater Taung Local Municipality in particular, remains one of the largest labour sending areas yet there is less Corporate Social Investment when compared to other regions in the country.

I have no doubt that these investments will unlock various economic opportunities for locals particularly in the areas of cattle and livestock breeding and beef beneficiation.

**Programme Director**, these investments will not go in vain as we already have a working relationship with the North West University through the newly launched North West Agri-Hub which has been tasked with repositioning the sector through research, innovation and mentorship.

Our province with its vast tracts of arable land which now lie fallow is strategically positioned to reclaim its hegemony as a producer of maize and beef becoming a national leader in agri-preneurship.

In seeing to the full realization of this objective our goal is to create five hundred (500) new market-ready entrepreneurs in agriculture in the next five years.

**Ladies and gentlemen**, the diversification of our economy includes partnering with the private sector for the rejuvenation of our game reserves and in due course we are going to issue an expression of interest in this regard.

The Pilanesberg International Airport which has been earmarked for travel and tourism will be given a facelift of twenty-nine million rand.

A further one hundred million of private investment will help reposition the George Dick Montshioa Airport as a Cargo Hub which will serve as a gateway to SADC and the entire continent.

**Programme Director**, we have equally started the Province's Development Fund with an allocated budget of one hundred million rand to attract private investment initiatives.

Furthermore, the North West remains largely untapped on investments such as broadband connectivity and artificial intelligence.

To this end, we have two innovation hubs serving as pilot spaces for Financial Technology, and Digital Literacy training and they are supported by the Department of Science and Technology and North-West University.

The training of young people from these two centers will serve as a catalyst in creating an enabling environment to host data and call centers in our province.

**Programme Director**, plans are already in motion for the initiation of the School of Mining Engineering where skills in artisanal training will be nurtured.

Critically the envisaged Medical School Campus of the North West University due to be opened in the next four years will create multiplier advantages in retail and human settlement.

However, these noble intentions will not materialize into anything tangible without your participation.

So I want to urge you to traverse this journey with us.

Together we can do more and grow our beloved province.

**I thank you!**