



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM**

**ADVANCING OUR COLLECTIVE INTERVENTION TO ADDRESS YOUTH  
UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY**

Programme Director Hon. Ms SE Lucas

Chairperson of the NCOP, Hon. Mr A Masondo

Ministers present here

Premiers

Distinguished guests, friends and comrades;

Ladies and gentlemen, in recent weeks we have seen violence and criminality that sought to destabilize our economy. Experts cite a mix of multilevel factors in explaining the violence and looting. They highlight particularly, disillusionment, exclusions, unemployment and poverty especially among the youth in the economy as the root cause. Covid19 Pandemic, technical recessions and unsteady commodity prices put even more pressure on the economy.

**Programme Director:**

In Limpopo province, youth (35 years and younger) make up 66% to the total population of almost 6 million. As a province we have a comparative demographic advantage relative to other economies. But to enjoy demographic dividend, we need skilled and healthy youth workforce. Conversely, in the province, 90% of the people aged 20+ have matric or less as their highest qualification. Increasingly jobs are being created in the skill-intensive services sector of the economy.

**Programme Director:**

Youth unemployment continues to be problematic in the province and is at a frightening level. 54,6% of young people aged 15 – 24 cannot find jobs in the province. There is a need for a nuanced approach to resolving youth unemployment and poverty.

**Programme Director:**

As a province we are advancing interventions contained in the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) which will focus on the growth and enrichment of the potential strengths, of the Province: agriculture, tourism, mining, manufacturing, construction, and the waste economy.

The key intervention for each sector to address youth unemployment and poverty

**Agriculture**

- Introduce agricultural support programmes to enhance productivity

- Establish linkages between small-scale farmers and retail outlets/factories to support localization
- Partner with academia and research institutions to conduct research, share information and conduct training in climate-smart agriculture
- Fund and implement a climate change awareness and skills-building programme within the Province

### **Tourism**

- Protect and rejuvenate tourism assets
- Commercialise state-owned properties, especially nature reserves

### **Mining**

- Engage meaningfully with mining companies in forums, where relevant, and act as mediator between communities and mining companies
- Support improved efficiencies and competitiveness

### **Manufacturing**

- Increase beneficiation in all sectors; cluster cities, towns, and two SEZs
- Provide support to local SMMEs
- Increase the Green Economy

### **Waste economy**

- Improve waste management service delivery through partnerships

- Improve compliance and monitoring at licenced waste management to enable better decision-making
- Aggressively ramp up recycling
- Support capitalisation on waste-related economic opportunities

#### **4IR/ ICT**

- Install enabling information and communications technology (ICT) network
- Adapt curricula for the digital economy and the 4IR
- Implement Digital Hubs
- Develop and roll-out Limpopo 4IR Strategy

#### **Programme Director,**

It is indeed exciting to participate in this platform in our attempt to arrive at a program of action and long-lasting solutions as a response. I'm positive advancing our collective intervention will address youth unemployment and poverty in our Country

Together we can indeed do more. **Thank You**