



No. 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Ext 2, Mbombela, 1200, Mpumalanga Province, Private Bag X 11291, Mbombela, 1200
Tel: +27 (0) 13 766 2027, Int Tel: +27 (0) 13 766 2027, Fax: +27 (0) 13 766 2494, Int Fax: +27 (0) 13 766 2494

PREMIER MP NDLOVU's KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE DESTINY EXCLUSIVE HOTEL AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

STEVE TSHWETE MUNICIPALITY

4 SEPTEMBER 2026.

Programme Director, **Mathawe Matsapolo**

Member of the Executive Council Ms **Jesta Sidell**

Executive Mayor of Nkangala District Municipality **Cllr TD
Ngwenya**

Executive Mayor of Steve Tshwete Municipality **Cllr Mhlonishwa
Masilela**

Director General **Ms M Skosana.**

Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency CEO **Mr Isaac Mahlangu.**

Municipal Employees Pension Fund Chairperson **Mr Peter
Modike.**

Akani Group Chairperson **Dr Zamani Letjane.**

Principal Chief Executive Officer of MEPF **Mr Gift Motsepe.**

Senior Officials from the national, the province and the Local
Municipalities; Business leaders, community representatives,
distinguished guests,

Good afternoon.



1. I stand before you this afternoon with a sense of pride and joy as we gather here not merely to cut a ribbon and unveil a new building.

2. The rate of unemployment here in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality stands at 19%, while youth unemployment is at 27%, with 16% of households classified as indigent.

3. These figures remind us that, despite the progress we have made, much more must be done to create sustainable economic opportunities for our people, particularly our young people and vulnerable households.

4. It is against this backdrop that we welcome this investment.

We are celebrating an investment in the future of Mpumalanga, an investment that creates jobs, stimulates local economic activity, strengthens our tourism offering and positions our province as a destination of choice for visitors and investors alike.



5. We are confident that the Destiny Exclusive Hotel and International Convention Centre will contribute to reducing these unemployment figures by creating direct and indirect employment, opening opportunities for local SMMEs and suppliers, and increasing economic activity across Middelburg and the wider Steve Tshwete Municipality.
6. This is precisely the kind of investment that can help us move from statistics of unemployment to a future of opportunity, dignity and sustainable livelihoods.
7. Our province ranks fifth nationally among the South Africa's nine provinces for domestic tourism volume bringing in approximately 3.2 million domestic visitors annually and as the second most visited province by international tourists after Gauteng.
8. This hotel is a beacon of hope and opportunity for our people and for Mpumalanga to increase both domestic and international visitors.

9. Our international tourists will now have a perfect rest at destiny exclusive hotel before proceeding to our famous and most visited Kruger National Park.
10. Not far from here is the Loskop Nature Reserve, which we are working to revive and reposition as an important tourism attraction in the province. As we restore and enhance this magnificent destination, visitors will be able to use this hotel as a convenient base and halfway stop when exploring the reserve and other attractions in the region.
11. This creates an opportunity for us to link business tourism with leisure tourism, ensuring that visitors who come to Middelburg for conferences, meetings and events are also encouraged to experience the natural beauty that Mpumalanga has to offer.

12. This hotel is strategically positioned in the mining and energy economic hub of our province with Steve Tshwete local municipality being the third major contributor to our provincial GDP.

13. To us, this hotel is a powerful reflection of the confidence that the private sector continues to place in Mpumalanga, in our people and the immense opportunities that our province presents.

14. We welcome this investment as an important partner in our collective efforts to build a growing, inclusive and sustainable provincial economy, one that creates jobs, expands opportunities for our people and ensures that the benefits of economic growth reach communities across Mpumalanga.

15. The official opening of the Destiny Exclusive Hotel and International Convention Centre here in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality will position Middelburg as a destination



for business tourism, conferences, exhibitions and major events.

16. Every conference delegate, tourist and visitor who comes to Middelburg creates opportunities for local restaurants, transport operators, retailers, tourism establishments, informal traders and other small businesses. The economic benefits therefore extend far beyond the hotel itself.

17. This magnificent R350-million landmark development is a direct response to the core mandate given to us by our people, to drive spatial justice, kindle rural and peri-urban economies, and build sustainable, high-value infrastructure outside traditional metropolitan monopolies.

18. Akani and the Municipal Employees Pension Fund (MEFP), you have delivered a world-class economic engine built right here, in the heartland of the working class.

19. For far too long, the retirement savings of African workers have been used to develop massive buildings in Sandton or foreign financial markets, leaving the communities where those workers live and work without infrastructure development.

20. Today, we salute the revolutionary foresight of the MEPF that backed this mega-project. The MEPF has demonstrated the true definition of "capital with a conscience".

21. This is a worker-led development. The very people who keep our municipalities running, our clerks, our technicians, our administrative staff. They are now the physical owners of a five-star hospitality holding.

22. This facility aligns smoothly with the strategic vision of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government's 7th Administration. Our administration is steadfastly focused on driving

inclusive growth, boosting domestic investment, and achieving our provincial investment pledge goal of R50 billion.

23. We cannot achieve our R50-billion investment target, if we do not possess the infrastructure to host the investors, and innovators who will bring that capital to life.

24. While our boasts breath taking natural beauty, game reserves, and localized meeting venues, the Destiny International Convention Centre stands as the premier, large-scale, world-class ICC of this calibre ever to be built on the N4 economic corridor. It's a first for our province, it is indeed a treasure.

25. As I conclude, let this opening serve as a clarion call to all institutional investors, state-owned enterprises, and private sector partners that "Mpumalanga is officially open for business".

26. The Destiny Exclusive Hotel and International Convention Centre is a living, breathing proof of a plan. It proves that our municipality is stable, our province is ready, and our partnerships are rock-solid.

27. We have the land, we have the political will, we have the peace and stability, and we have an industrious workforce eager to build our country.

28. Let us protect this prime investment, let us utilize these convention halls to their absolute peak, let us fill these rooms with global summits, industrial roundtables, and policy conventions that will shape the future of our continent.

29. It is now my honour and political privilege to declare the Destiny Exclusive Hotel and International Convention Centre officially open.

Thank you.

