



# LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department  
SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE  
OFFICE of the MEC

## REMARKS BY MEC KEKANA ON LAUNCH OF THE PROVINCIAL LANGAUGES COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, 14 March 2023**

Credits

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Ladies and gentlemen,

The Limpopo Provincial Language Committee (PLC) is one of the several statutory and non-statutory bodies that are charged with the responsibility to assist us in the execution of our mandate.

The province is looking at this committee to highlight the importance of inclusiveness by language and remind and encourage government its policy when it develops service delivery programmes.

It is in the process of working in this committee, will you assist government in preserving indigenous languages, which is crucial to ensure the protection of the cultural identity and dignity of indigenous people and safeguard their traditional heritage.

The committee is appointed in terms of the Northern Province Languages ACT no.7 of 2000. Government is currently reviewing it, with work done through your good selves, the Office of the Premier, the National Assembly and work is well advanced to finalise the introduction of Sign Language as the 12<sup>th</sup> official language. Although the act is under review, but it is still valid and enforceable.

Your predecessors have already determined the official languages in Limpopo, and there must be regulation and monitoring of the use of those very languages.

National Language Policy Framework strongly encourages the utilisation of the indigenous languages as official languages in order to foster and promote national unity. It takes into account the broad acceptance to linguistic diversity, social justice, the principle of the equal access to public services and programmes, and respect for language rights.

Your mandate, among other activities, is;

- To promote and create conditions for the development and use of o all the official languages of the province.
- Make recommendations with regard to any proposed or existing legislation, practice or policy dealing directly or indirectly with language matters with regard to any proposed amendments.
- Make recommendations at all levels of government where it considers such action advisable for adopting performance measures aimed at promoting multilingualism within the framework of the Constitution.
- Actively promote an awareness of multilingualism as a national resource
- Actively promote the development of previously marginalised languages
- Initiate studies and research aimed at promoting and creating conditions for the development and use of the official provincial languages and the South African Sign Language.

Ladies and gentlemen. As I conclude, please bear in mind that Promotion of the development of literature is equally key among your responsibilities. I urge you to create conditions for the preservation and promotion of South African literary heritage and media in our official languages, and in the process, accelerate the production of literary and media products, and inculcation of the culture of reading and providing support to authors and media practitioners, so that they excel “ka maleme a bo bona”.

Kea leboga.