



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

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Office of the Executive Mayor

**SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR
MINAH BAHULA ON THE OCCASSION OF THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF LEEUWFontein CROSSING
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 29th MAY 2025 AT
LEEUFONTEIN, EPHRAIM MOGALE LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY.**

Master of Ceremonies, Mr Paul Nonyana,

Kgoshi Matlala Rahlagane le bao ba mo farafarilego,

Honourable Mayor of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality,

Cllr Given Moimana,

Pastor Mahlangu and other religious leaders present,

Members of the Mayoral Committee and EXCO here
present,

Friends from the Media,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Master of Ceremonies,

We have gathered here today to bear witness to the historic opening of Leeufontein Crossing. The official opening of the mall today ushers in the new era to the people of Leeufontein and the surrounding villages. The economic situation of Leeufontein, Ephraim Mogale local and Sekhukhune district will never be the same. Our country is struggling to fight triple challenges of inequality, unemployment and poverty. As government we applaud any innovative initiative that assist in fighting the triple evils and encourage our businesspeople to think outside the box as history has shown that our conventional methods of doing business are no longer sustainable.

Master of Ceremonies,

Leeufontein Crossing is going to create 300 permanent jobs as it has created over 400 jobs during construction.

The mall is also going to create both formal and informal business opportunities, while also bringing services closer to the people. It is situated at the heartland of our farming community. The mall is providing an excellent platform to sell your farming produce. This mall is our economic inheritance, and we all have a revolutionary responsibility to protect it for future generations. We are all going to benefit from the mall in different ways. Services are brought closer to the people. The local people as the immediate and direct beneficiaries must jealously guard against criminal activities. We don't want our mall to become a white elephant as criminal activities have got a potential to chase away the investors.

Master of Ceremonies,

The official opening of the mall is taking place during the Africa month. Africa day is celebrated annually on the 25th of May. This year, the day is celebrated under the African Union theme "Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations". The African people endured profound sense of suffering and pain due to

exclusion in the mainstream economic activities. Our forefathers used to travel to Groblersdal and Marble-Hall barefooted to buy groceries.

Master of Ceremonies,

Unity is strength. We must never allow our individual selfish interests to derail economic benefits of the mall. We don't have to compete for the economic and business opportunities provided here but we must sit down and discuss as the local people on how best we can benefit from the mall. I was seriously disturbed yesterday when I heard that there was a misunderstanding between taxi associations because of the mall. I got relieved late in the evening when I was told that an amicable solution was reached. South Africa is a model country because we believe in dialogue and subscribe to the rule of law.

Master of Ceremonies,

In conclusion, I want to send special words of appreciation to the owners of the mall for investing their

monies in the development of rural communities. Unemployment and poverty are high due to low economic activities in our rural communities. We always appreciate any contribution from the private sector in fighting unemployment and poverty as government. Our communities will never be the same as 4 students have already benefitted by receiving investment skills development through internship programme during the construction phase of the mall. Keep up the good work.

(Cutting of Ribbon)

I formally declare Leeuwfontein Officially Opened!!!!

I thank you.