# DR MODJADJI MELIDAH MALAHLELA

*An epitome of dedication and hard work*

Acting Head of Department | Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs

Dr Modjadji Melidah Malahlela was born in Ga-Mothiba, near Polokwane, 51 years ago. She holds a Doctorate in Public Administration from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, obtained in 2010. The newly appointed Acting Head of Department (HOD) for the Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) has steadily progressed through the ranks of public service, beginning her career as an educator at Masopha High School, where she worked from 1992 to 1999.

In 1999, she was appointed Assistant Director: Planning Coordination in the Limpopo Office of the Premier, a position she held until 2001. During this time, she coordinated the alignment of sectoral plans and reports, monitored the implementation of resolutions of the Presidential Coordinating Council and other intergovernmental relations (IGR) structures, and served as Secretariat of the Provincial Planning Forum. In 2002, she was appointed Deputy Director in the same unit, continuing this work at a higher level of responsibility.

Her growing expertise led to her appointment as Director: Planning and Development at Polokwane Municipality in 2003. Until 2008, she managed Local Economic Development and Integrated Development Planning. Her responsibilities also included spatial planning and land-use management, as well as housing and building inspections.

In October 2008, Dr Malahlela moved to Pretoria after accepting the position of Regional Executive Director at the City of Tshwane. Until January 2011, she managed the Municipal Regional Office, coordinated development planning and service delivery in the region, monitored departmental performance, and facilitated stakeholder management and partnerships.

In February 2011, she was appointed Chief Director: Development Planning at the National Department of Cooperative Governance. In this role, she supported provinces in coordinating and monitoring integrated development planning in municipalities and mobilised national support for municipal development-planning matters. After a year, she moved to the department’s Urban Development unit.

From 2012 to 2016, Dr Malahlela facilitated the development of South Africa’s urban policy framework, promoted partnerships between South African cities and international cities, and served as convener of the BRICS Friendship Cities and Urbanisation Forums, representing South African participation.

In October 2016, she returned to Limpopo after being appointed Deputy Director-General: Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in the Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. In this capacity, she has worked closely with municipalities, providing support and oversight to municipalities and the institution of traditional leadership, as well as supporting municipalities on development-planning matters.

Since 2019, she has also been nominated to represent Limpopo Province on the Statistics South Africa Council.

Dr Malahlela’s career reflects a sustained commitment to public service, municipal governance and development planning. Her extensive experience, dedication and hard work have contributed to her continued leadership within Limpopo CoGHSTA and stand as an example of what can be achieved through perseverance and service.