

ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, AMBASSADOR CHUPU MATHABATHA ON
THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF D4253 ROAD.

12 October 2021

Programme Director

Mong-mabu, Kgoshigadi Masemola and members of the Royal Council;

MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Ntate Namane Masemola;

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr. Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila;

The Mayor of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Cllr. Minah Bahula;

All Councillors present here today;

Members of the media;

Ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you very much to all of you for honouring our invitation to be witnesses to the opening of this beautiful road.

The completion of this road, which stretches over five kilometres is an important milestone for the people of this area.

This road is an access road that connects the people of Ga-Masemola to R33 road in the Sekhukhune area.

We have come here in the land of Kgoshigadi Masemola to share with you the fruits of our hard-earned democracy.

Democracy is indeed about taking services to the people.

Democracy is about building schools, building clinics, building roads such as this one and making sure that all the people are receiving basic services.

Sometimes people say that this democracy does not work for them.

In most instances, this is because we refuse to see the massive developments and service delivery happening around us.

Everywhere you go in this province, you will see democracy in action. You will see our people harvesting fruits from the tree of freedom.

We have built RDP houses, we have electrified households, we have provided clean drinking water, and we are providing our children with quality and accessible education.

I am saying this because there are those who conveniently lose their sight, and can no longer see, simply because it is an election season.

During an election season, even someone who woke up from an RDP house will believe that the government is not building houses;

A parent whose child is at university or college, funded by NSFAS will believe that this government is doing nothing to improve access to higher and further education.

Even those whose children are attending at no-fee schools, receiving free meals every day, will believe the lie that this government is not doing anything to support the poor.

Suddenly but unsurprisingly, these people can no longer see all these good things that the ANC government is doing.

Some unscrupulous politicians would be driving on the roads built by these government to come and tell you that this government is doing nothing for you.

Programme Director

Road infrastructure continues to play a significant role in the economy of the province and the country as a whole.

It is for this reason that this ANC government has over the past five years focused more on the rehabilitation and maintenance of aging road infrastructure, including those that connect our villages.

In the past few years, we have set aside billions of resources to roll out major road infrastructure projects across the province.

Part of the work that we do in this regard, include construction of bridges, upgrading of gravel roads to tar and the rehabilitation of old tarred roads.

I must say that we are indeed making lot of progress across the province.

As the ANC government, we have come to this area of Ga-Masemola, under the leadership of Kgoshigadi Masemola, to unveil the delivery of the commitment we have made a few months ago.

We said we would build a road in this area, and we have built a road.

This is a beautiful and quality road that we are proud to hand to the people of this area.

I want to take this opportunity to commend the traditional leadership in this area and all our Councillors for the selfless efforts that made it possible for this project to be completed.

We want to thank you for your spirit of cooperation and partnership.

It is only when we work together that we can achieve more.

Working together as politicians and traditional leadership strengthens our capacity to take services to our people.

I am confident that this road will be taken care of and protected against vandalism and destruction.

We rely on all of you to protect this beautiful road against anarchists who destroy property simply because they have this-or-that grievance.

This road belongs to the people of this area, it is your collective heritage.

I am confident that the completion of this road has come as a huge relief to the people of Ga-Masemola as a whole.

The completion of this road come with exceptional benefits to the motorists, pedestrians and all road users in this area.

This road will definitely make the lives of our people in this area a lot easier. This project will also go a long way towards boosting the development of the local economy.

The local taxi industry will also harvest some benefits upon the completion of this project. Even the need to service their kombis will be less frequent.

Our approach is to build this type of infrastructure not only in the cities, but everywhere, be it in the cities, township or a rural area like this one.

We want to make sure that our people enjoy the fruits of this democracy because you are the ones who have voted for this democratic government.

Our commitment is to create an infrastructure that makes life easy everywhere, not just in the big cities.

This is exactly what we are doing.

Everything we do in this government is to make sure that our freedom and democracy is more meaningful to all our people, including those in rural areas.

There is no government that is so much committed to rural development than the ANC government.

Programme Director;

The completion of this road will definitely lessen accidents on this road. More importantly it will reduce the travel time.

This means that our people will spend more time in their homes with their loved ones, as opposed to spending hours and hours on the road.

However, I need to warn that this road is not and should never be used as a race track.

Those who use this road must always be considerate of other road users. By road users I also include pedestrians – the road does not only belong to those who use cars, it belongs to all of us.

We have ensured that there is enough signage on this road, including signage indicating the allowable speed.

This is not Khayalami race track, this is a road used by all sorts of road users, including the elderly.

Let us respect all those who will be using this road.

Programme Director;

I can say, without any fear of contradiction, that everyone in this area has a reason to celebrate the completion of this road.

The completion of this road is part of the good story we continue to tell.

Today is indeed better than yesterday, and tomorrow will surely be better than today.

But before I can conclude, I want to once again, make an appeal to the people of this area to take care of this road.

As I said earlier, we have seen in other areas where people dig holes on the roads and burn tyres on the roads simply because they are unhappy with this and that. For me that type of behaviour is like cutting your own nose just to spite your face. It is a self-defeating exercise.

I am saying this because, government does not have unlimited resources. If you destroy this road tomorrow, it would probably take you years to have this road rehabilitated because the demand for roads is not only in this area.

We simply have to find acceptable ways of expressing our concerns without resorting to the destruction of public assets such as roads, clinics, libraries and schools.

These are our collective assets; we need to take care of them.

Lastly, I wish to thank all the stakeholders who cooperated to ensure that this project is not delayed unnecessarily.

Everyone from the Traditional leadership, Councillors, Project Steering Committee have played their role to ensure that the contractor is well supported and does the job according to agreed standards.

We thank you for that.

To our municipality and government at large, please ensure that this beautiful road is maintained at all times.

This message is critical because often we travel on roads that have been tarred, only to find unfixed pot holes, sands and other unwanted materials hindering the smooth ride.

Traditional Leaders, Indunas and Councillors must ensure that reporting foreign objects on our roads are their major priorities.

I hope this message is amplified across the length and breadth of our beautiful province.

Programme Director

Let me take this opportunity and officially declare this D4253 Road opened.

Before I take back my seat I want to remind everyone that Covid-19 is still with us.

The virus remains vicious and alive.

The best way to protect ourselves from this virus that is continuing to kill our people is through vaccination.

I want to urge those who have not yet vaccinated to go and take their jabs. Vaccines saves lives.

Kea Leboga
I thank You All!