

SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO MR CHUPU MATHABATHA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE MANYOGA CLINIC AND HANDOVER OF AMBULANCES.

11 April 2019

Programme director, MEC Phophi Ramathuba;  
Mong-mabu, Kgoshi Kekana;  
Mayor of Mogalakwena Local Municipality, Cllr Andrina Matsemela;  
Executive Mayor of Waterberg District Municipality, Cllr Mories Mataboge;  
HOD for Health, Dr Mhlongo;  
Leadership and the staff of the Manyoga Clinic;  
Our hardworking officials in the Department of Health;  
Our friends in the media;  
Ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you very much for joining us on this special day as we mark the official opening of the Manyoga Clinic. As you know, we are also here to handover some modern and well equipped ambulances to the people of this community.

Our work here today is in line with our commitment to bring quality healthcare services to our people. We are here to add meaning to the concept of democracy.

When some of you or your parents voted in 1994, they were laying a foundation for a government which would take services to the people.

When most of you voted in 2014, you were voting for the acceleration of services such as electricity, access to education, and improved access to quality healthcare services.

It is for this reason that we are here today to officially mark the opening this clinic and to handover these ambulances. These are the fruits of democracy.

The most important thing about the clinic we are opening today is that this clinic is going to operate for 24 hours.

As I have said, today we mark yet another important milestone in our commitment to strengthen and capacitated the provincial public health system.

As I always say; our dream of a better life for all will be deferred to eternity if we do not take care of the health of our population.

The work we are doing today is in line with our adopted Health Turnaround Strategy. This Strategy is aimed at addressing the many challenges which we were experiencing in the past.

Those challenges included, dilapidating healthcare infrastructure, shortage of health professionals and the lack of crucial medication.

The Strategy also targeted to address situation of long and discouraging queues in our hospital and clinics.

Today I can confidently say that we are on track with regard to the implementation of the Strategy. The work we are celebrating today is evidence to that fact.

In purchasing these ambulances we wanted to bring about a necessary and much relief to Emergency Medical Services in this region of Waterberg.

Our motivation is to save more lives.

Beyond these ambulances, the government has spent millions of Rands to purchase and repair critical equipments for the hospitals in need.

These include boilers, autoclave machines, laundry machines, theater equipment, mortuary and kitchen refrigerators, and so on.

This work is in line with our government's commitment to the provisioning of a comprehensive health service that promotes good health, prevent illness, and provide care and rehabilitative services to the ill and people with disabilities.

Programme director;

This clinic is a valued asset of this community. This clinic will assist to deliver our bundles of joy - it will be there to offer treatment to the sick and the injured and above all, it will be there to provide health advice.

I also urge our young people to use this facility for preventative services.

We do not want to see young children falling pregnant simply because of lack of knowledge about issues relating to prevention and family planning. It is the role of this clinic to offer such services.

This clinic is also expected to play a vital role with regard to information and programs relating to the prevention of HIV and AIDS.

This clinic is here to improve the quality of lives.

It is for this reason that I want to call on all of you to take care of this facility. You should not allow anyone to destroy this strategic asset of the people of Sekgagapheng.

The same goes for the ambulances we are handing over today.

I want to challenge those in whose care these ambulances will be, to use them only for their intended purpose.

We do not want to read about these vehicles being used to fetch kids from school. These are not private vehicles.

In this regard I also invite our friends in the media and society at large to help expose any abuse of these vehicles.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the dedication of MEC Ramathuba and her team of officials to bring about access to quality healthcare to all our people.

Despite staged negative media reports that we have seen in the past, we can see the glitter of hope in the not-so-distant horizon.

The public health system in this province is on the road to a speedy recovery.

Today we leave the Sekgagapheng community in a much better condition that it was before dawn.

The days of critically ill patients being transported from the back of some unroad-worthy vans are over.

The days of patients having to wait for hours for an ambulance are gone.

The days of some ill-equipped ambulances have disappeared with the dawn of the day.

This is only the beginning, we are at work and nothing should stop us.

Lastly, I wish to urge all of you to go out on the 08th of May and do the right thing.

The health of our democracy is dependent on your vote. Go out on the 08th to make your voice heard.

I thank you!