



# BAOBAB NEWS

Limpopo Provincial Government official Newsletter

[www.limpopo.gov.za](http://www.limpopo.gov.za)



JUNE 2024

## DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA ELECTED LIMPOPO PREMIER



Premier Phophi Ramathuba being sworn in



Speaker: Ms Makoma Makhurupetje



Deputy Speaker: Ms Tebogo Mamorobela

Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024 marked the first sitting of the 7<sup>th</sup> Limpopo Provincial Legislature since the May 2024 general elections. The sitting was presided by Judge President George Phatudi, at the Lebowakgomo legislature chambers outside Polokwane.

A medical doctor by profession, Dr Ramathuba is not a stranger to politics and position of leadership, thus, her being elected unopposed. Dr Ramathuba has served as Health MEC during the 6<sup>th</sup> administration where she performed with distinctions demonstrating her passion coupled with her abilities to the health care sector.

Dr Ramathuba is the first female Premier of Limpopo since the dawn of democracy in 1994. The 7<sup>th</sup>

administration has other two important legislature portfolio positions of Speaker, and Deputy Speaker occupied by women who were both elected unopposed.

Ascending to the podium to deliver her acceptance speech, Dr Ramathuba thanked her predecessors, particularly the former Premier Stanley Mathabatha, who served for two full terms and entrusted her with the most crucial health portfolio.

"My election is not personal but a call to action. I do not take this responsibility for granted. Your confidence in me has placed on my shoulders and those of other employees a necessary burden to work diligently and tirelessly to change the lives of our people for the better." The center piece of her administration is

fighting Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBV), create jobs, improve water provision and tourism, by putting more effort to market the province as a holiday destination with rich cultural history such as the Rain Queen Modjadji.

The 7<sup>th</sup> administration will also focus on industrialisation and manufacturing that will put the province on trajectory of economic growth and development. Dr Ramathuba will outline more of government action during the State of the Province Address (SOPA) which is expected to be held by the end of July. Ms Makoma Makurepetja was elected as the new Speaker while Ms Tebogo Mamorobela was elected as Deputy Speaker. In total, 62 members were sworn in with two of them absent. The

number of Members of Provincial Legislature (MPLs) has slightly increased from 59 to 64 from the 6<sup>th</sup> administration. **EC**

***My election is not personal but a call to action. I do not take this responsibility for granted. Your confidence in me has placed on my shoulders and those of other employees a necessary burden to work diligently and tirelessly to change the lives of our people for the better."***

NEXT PAGE



# WHO IS DR PHOPHI CONSTANCE RAMATHUBA?



*Premier Phophi during her inauguration*

**B**orn at Ha-Mashamba village in the Vhembe district in the early 1970s, the young Phophi Constance Ramathuba was raised by both parents who believed in education. With both parents being educators, they influenced their daughter to have the love for education.

After she matriculated, she enrolled for Bachelor of Medicine (MBCHB) at Medical University of South Africa (MEDUSA) now known as Sefako Makgatho in Ga-Rankuwa, Pretoria where she successfully completed her studies. She furthered her studies and obtained Master's Degree in Medical Pharmacology from the University of Pretoria and Advanced Health

Management from Manchester Business School.

Her political activism got on the rise during her days as medical student when she was the Branch Executive Committee member of South African Student Congress (SASSCO) and later, served as the General Secretary and Deputy President of Student Representative Council (SRC).

Upon her medical studies completion, Ramathuba returned to her home province to service the Mokopane and George Masebe hospitals as an intern, performing the community services work between the year 2000 and 2001. In 2001 she was appointed as a Medical Officer at the Voortrekker hospital until 2002.

In 2002, she was promoted to Senior Clinical Manager and in 2004, she became Head of the Institution until 2011. Her sterling performance scored her several outstanding performance awards including Premier's Service Excellence awards in 2015.

Her active involvement and advocacy in community-based structures to better conditions and transformation of the working place after joining the public service, she then contributed to the formation of South African Medical Association Trade Union (SAMATU) and served as a President of South African Medical Association (SAMA).

Mother of two girls continued to be vocal as a gender and social activist and, her

activism did not go unnoticed. In 2015 after performing a C-Section and delivered a healthy child during her night shift, she was called by her predecessor who wanted her to serve on his cabinet responsible for the health portfolio, a position she occupied as a Member of the Executive Council (MEC) until the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> administration.

Part of her advocacy is keeping fit with any form of sport, she loves running marathons and has recently completed her comrades qualifier Makoro 10km Marathon which was held at Ga-Molepo in March. **EC**



# PREMIER RAMATHUBA APPOINTS MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



**Mr Basikopo Rodgers Makamu**  
Cooperative Governance,  
Human Settlements &  
Traditional Affairs



**Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya**  
Education



**Ms Fulufhelo Florence Radzilani**  
Social Development



**Ms Nakedi Grace Kekana**  
Agriculture and Rural  
Development



**Mr Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe**  
LEDET



**Ms Susani Violet Mathye**  
Transport and Community  
Safety



**Mr Funani Jerry Maseko**  
Sport, Arts & Culture



**Mr Kgabo Elias Mahoai**  
Treasury



**Ms Dieketseng Masesi Mashego**  
Health



**Mr Sebataolo Ernest Rachoene**  
Public Works Roads and  
Infrastructure

Limpopo Premier, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba announced a team of Members of the Executive Council (EXCO) that will serve alongside her for this 7<sup>th</sup> Administration. The announcement comes after her election as the Province's first female Premier at the Limpopo Legislative Chamber on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2024, serves as the effort to ensure the smooth and effective running of the Provincial Government for the 7<sup>th</sup> Administration.

Dr. Ramathuba expressed full confidence in her newly appointed Executive Council, and explained how

they have been carefully chosen for their proven track records. She detailed: "The individuals I have appointed to the Executive Council bring a wealth of experience, dedication, and a deep commitment to serving our people."

"They have been chosen for their expertise in their respective fields, and their unwavering commitment to the values and principles that underpin our democracy," added the Premier.

Although some members retained their positions, there are newcomers gracing the board, such as the now MEC for Health, Ms. Mashego Dieketseng Masesi,

as well as Mr. Rachoene Sebataolo Ernest, who will be serving as the MEC for Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure. Ramathuba's priority will be on addressing the pressing challenges that the province faces, including economic growth, unemployment, job creation, industrialisation, agriculture and rural development, water provision, roads and general infrastructure development, healthcare, education and crime.

"I am certain that, with the support of the newly elected Executive Council and the collective efforts of all stakeholders, we will make significant strides in realising the

vision of a prosperous, equitable, and thriving Limpopo."

The newly elected executive members will be tasked with the development of the province and serve with integrity and accountability to achieve tangible outcomes.

The Premier also urged all residents of Limpopo to join them in their endeavours of building a better future for all. "Let us move forward with unity, determination, and a shared commitment to the progress and well-being of our province," concluded Dr. Ramathuba **PM**



# CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTH



Deputy President Mr Paul Mashatile during Youth Day

The Limpopo Provincial Government, in partnership with National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and other stakeholders, hosted the 48<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Youth Day Celebration at the Old Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane, under the theme *“Actively Embracing the Socioeconomic Gains Of Our Democracy.”*

16 June remains an important calendar day in the history of South Africa since the turn of events in 1976. On this historic day 48 years ago, the youth of Soweto took it upon themselves to contribute to the democracy and nation building by demanding the right to be taught in their preferred languages.

In her welcome remarks, the first female Premier of the Limpopo Province Dr Phophi Ramathuba expressed how thrilling and significant this day is, as it marks 30 years since the country broke free from the harsh oppression of the

apartheid regime. She said: “We are celebrating the achievements of the youth of South Africa who, during 30 years of freedom, have broken the patterns of underdevelopment, disadvantage, poverty and inequality inflicted on us by apartheid.”

Correspondingly, the Chairperson of NYDA, Ms. Luwaca detailed: “The aim of the NYDA is to mobilise and empower the youth to use their utmost potential to turn their dreams into a reality.” Thus, the entity has implemented initiatives that financially support students at tertiary level with their studies, in their respective fields.

The example was the Qualified Chartered Accountant (CA), Ms. Marumo Masemola, who was funded by NYDA to further her postgraduate studies to qualify as a CA in South Africa. This includes the Paralympic Tennis sportsman, Mr.

Alwande Sikhosana, who by the assistance of NYDA and other government organisations, managed to

utilize sport as a tool for personal and economic development.

The National Youth Day Careers and Opportunities through Expos also included testimonies from different endorsers of democracy such as Clement Maosa, popularly known as Kwaito on the SABC 1 television series, Skeem Saam. With the high unemployment rate amongst the youth, this year's commemoration focused on empowering the youth with knowledge and opportunities, hence the expo with corporate companies and artists, especially for those with entrepreneurial aspirations.

Furthermore, the Deputy of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Paul Mashatile gave his keynote address that centred on youth empowerment and development. He highlighted: “We must remember and salute Peter Ramoshoana Mokaba, along with other young heroes who fought for the liberation of this country, whose sacrifices gave birth to our political freedom.”

Mashatile explained how in these next five years, the government will be actively focusing on creating jobs and building an inclusive economy for all, especially the youth. “We cannot move forward without the youth of our country, thus we must include them in discussions that speak about their future growth,” added the DP.

He urged young people to use their voices to condemn any form of injustice, and that through education, they can be empowered towards economic freedom. Young individuals attending the celebration had the platform to engage with opportunity providers and stakeholders such as SAPS, SA Youth Employment, DAIRRD Farmer Registration, among many others. The Limpopo Office of the Premier also launched their newly developed e-Recruitment system that intends to streamline the application process, allowing job seekers to apply from the comfort of their homes. **PM**



# THRIVING YOUTH BENEFITS FROM NYDA



Exhibitions during the Youth Day at old Peter Mokaba Stadium

**D**ikgope Basetsana Diale is a professional young black woman who is the founder and director of the educational company, HD Tutors based in Lebowakgomo, Limpopo.

The business was established in 2020 with the intention of bridging the gap identified in learning challenges by offering tuition services to all high school learners that find it difficult to understand subject content, need to improve their results and require educational support.

Basetsana also seeks to improve the educational quality received in rural areas by introducing technological innovations.

Her business is offering tuition classes for grade 10-12 learners including

computer literacy programmes, matric rewrite, and training on virtual learning. The young lady started operating in February 2020 with only 15 learners, and now has 40 learners.

Diale received high demand from other neighboring local municipalities, with the high demand that needed more finances. She approached NYDA requesting financial assistance in the form of a grant to the value of R50 000 to purchase a printer, tablet, and camera for online video classes.

Diale has extensive experience in the field of digital literacy, financial science, and reading skills that she acquired while working with TND Accountants. She holds

a Bachelor of Commerce in Financial Science from the University of Pretoria and a bridging certificate in Theory of Accountant. Her passion for assisting others motivated her to establish a center in her community. The tutoring center offers learning in a quiet township that is in close proximity to schools, malls and transportation, making it accessible to all. "We offer a wide range of tutoring services, including academic tutoring for all subjects, test preparation for standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT, and admissions counseling. Our tutors are experts in their fields and use a variety of teaching techniques and strategies to help students master difficult concepts and

improve their grades," detailed Diale.

Being an academic herself, she understands that academic success is just one aspect of a student's overall well-being. She strives to create a supportive and encouraging learning environment that fosters personal growth and development. Undoubtedly, her mission and vision are simple; to create a social and intellectual impact on learners to empower their drive for overall success, as well as be an educational center of hope and confidence to learners who are under performing and aspire to excel in their studies. **PM**



# LIMPOPO OBSERVES WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY



*Elderly people attending the elderly awareness*

The United Nations (UN) has set aside the 15<sup>th</sup> of June to raise awareness for the elderly. In observing the day, the Limpopo provincial government visited the Baterspad community situated within the Mogalakwena municipality with stakeholders that play a role in caring for the elderly.

The elderly people are the most vulnerable in the country and often suffer abuse from immediate families and the community at large. The Older Persons Act 13 of 2006 as amended protects, promotes and maintains the status rights and well being of older persons in the country against any form of abuse that is intended against them.

With this year's theme of "spotlight on older person in emergencies" the call from government and stakeholders is to declare a spotlight emergency on those that take advantage of the well-being of the vulnerable senior citizens by neglecting and abandoning them including financial exploitation which often is at the top of abuse list.

According to the study by University of Cape Town PHD research in 2023, one in 10 people aged 65 years and over reported having experienced abuse in Limpopo and the Western Cape



*Mr Ramokgola addressing older persons*

provinces.

Collaborating the research, Captain Chokwe representing the South African Police Service (SAPS) painted a picture of the common elderly abuse reported around Baterspad included physical abuse by children and grandchildren of victims demanding the social grant money from older persons.

Addressing the elders on behalf of South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), Ms Mojela acknowledged that their offices and Department of Social Development are continue to receive lots of complains by their beneficiaries about their payments that they never get to see because, family members have taken their payments cards from them yet not taking care of their

basic needs such as food and ensuring that their well being are taken care of.

Elderly women are at risk of being raped and killed. While the month of June is set aside to raise abuse awareness, there has been incident of a 79-year-old women who was found naked and assaulted by neighbors who reported the matter to the SAPS and rushed her to hospital.

According to the provincial police spokesperson Colonel Ledwaba, a case of has been opened and the elderly woman had head injuries and bruises on her body and sadly succumbed to injuries while receiving treatment.

The Deputy Director for Special Programme Mr Ramokgola called on communities to report any form of abuse that older persons may experience to the police even if it is done by family members.

"Any form of abuse to older persons must be reported because it constitute crime, these are our parents and we needs to take good care of them. We can not be bystanders when we see them being abused because we have an obligation as communities to take care of them and not abuse" said Ramokgola **EC**

## Baobab News

The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people  
**Baobab News** is published by the Provincial Communications Services, Office of the Premier, Limpopo Provincial Government.

Editorial Head: Nдавhe Ramakuella  
Editor: Dexter Mohale  
Sub Editor: Emmaculate Cindi

Graphic Designer: Mathew Shiluvane  
Photographer: Oumana Masebenza  
Photographer: Musa Njaba

Writers: Patricia Motimele



@OtpLimpopo



Office of the Premier:  
Limpopo Provincial Government

Postal address: Private Bag X9483  
Polokwane  
0700  
Physical address: 40 Hans van Rensburg Street, Polokwane  
Tel: (015) 287 6079

Editorial email:  
cindie@premier.limpopo.gov.za  
Visit us on [www.limpopo.gov.za](http://www.limpopo.gov.za)