



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SPEECH BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA DURING THE UNVEILING OF THE YELLOW FLEET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Programme Director,
MEC for Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, Mr Ernest Sebataolo Rachoene,
Members of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, led by
Mr Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe,
Officials from the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thobela, Ndi Matsheloni, Avuxeni, Good Morning, Goeie More

Yesterday I attended a church service at the Presbyterian Church in Mankweng together with the Speaker of the Legislature, Ms Makoma Makhurupetje. It was a moving service that reminded us about gratitude, that we should always go back to say thank you.

I begin with this because on my way back I was reminded of the Psalmist in Psalm 14: 1 who says: “Tsilu mbiluni yaḽo ḽi ri: “A hu na Mudzimu, a hu na Muḽuli.” Mašilo ka pelong a re: “Modimo ga a gona.” We are people of faith and we live by it.

When we made the announcement at the beginning of our term people threw cold water at us saying this will never happen. They said the #DikgerekgereWednesday campaign will collapse after its launch and that we shall not get enough machinery to support it.

It is for this reason that the official unveiling of this yellow fleet gives us such great joy as well as an opportunity to go back to the people who placed us in the place of responsibility to say thank you, this is our sign of gratitude. This milestone represents a bold step in our collective efforts to transform infrastructure provision across the Limpopo Province.

As we unveil this state-of-the-art fleet, we are not merely adding vehicles to our inventory; we are making a profound statement of commitment to building sustainable road networks, enhancing public infrastructure and empowering the people of Limpopo.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to MEC Ernest Rachoene and his team for their unwavering dedication to improving service provision and keeping their work visible.

The recent appointment of 174 new employees to the department is a demonstration to this commitment. It reflects our Administration's resolve to prioritise job creation and respond to the pressing needs of our communities.

Limpopo is a province of immense potential, blessed with fertile agricultural lands, a thriving mining industry, and rich cultural tourism. At the heart of this potential lies robust and reliable infrastructure.

The roads that connect our rural and urban areas, the facilities that support our communities, and the tools enabling service provision are critical to unlocking economic growth and social cohesion.

The unveiling of this Yellow Fleet is a strategic response to the challenges we face in meeting infrastructure demands. It demonstrates our determination to ensure that the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure is equipped with the necessary resources to propel Limpopo toward greater socio-economic development.

This fleet of **251 advanced plants and equipment** represents more than machinery, it embodies hope and progress. It will:

Accelerate road construction and maintenance projects, ensuring safer and more efficient travel for our citizens.

Enhance service delivery in rural areas, bridging the gap between urban and under serviced communities.

Strengthen disaster response capabilities, ensuring timely interventions during emergencies.

The tangible impact of this initiative will be felt across the province. It will support farmers transporting their produce to markets, ensure learners can travel safely to schools and open new opportunities for businesses.

This aligns seamlessly with the objectives of the Dikgerekgere Wednesday campaign, which continues to address the pressing needs of our gravel road network.

Since its launch in July 2024, the department has re-graveled and bladed an impressive 31,287 kilometers of roads, significantly exceeding our expectations and covering more than the province's 13,000-kilometer gravel network.

Some of the key projects already undertaken include the D1758 road from Steve Biko to Villa Nora in Lephalale, which now boasts a newly constructed bridge to address prior sinkhole challenges, and the D4230 Leolo road in Sekhukhune, currently undergoing major upgrades.

Additionally, roads leading to key tourism attractions such as Nwanedi Luphephe Resort in Vhembe and the D973 road in Waterberg have been improved, further strengthening our province's tourism and agricultural sectors.

Ladies and gentlemen, while we celebrate this remarkable achievement, it is essential to recognise the people who will drive this success: **our skilled operators, engineers, planners, and project managers**. Their dedication and expertise will ensure that these machines are more than tools; they will be agents of transformation.

I am glad that MEC Rachoene will be hosting a luncheon today with 180 operators to appreciate their extraordinary contributions.

Beyond infrastructure, this initiative reaffirms our commitment to youth empowerment and job creation. The operations of this fleet will create meaningful employment opportunities, enabling many of our residents to play active roles in the province's growth and development.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we celebrate this milestone, let us also commit to maintaining and using this fleet efficiently. It is through accountability and collaboration that we can ensure the long-term success of this investment.

Today, we unveil more than machinery; we unveil a brighter future for Limpopo, a future of connected communities, thriving businesses, and empowered citizens. Together, let us drive Limpopo forward.

In closing, I wish to emphasise two key messages:

Firstly, as we approach the festive season, let us remain vigilant in promoting road safety. The lives of our citizens are priceless, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that our roads are safe for all. I urge all road users to exercise caution, obey traffic regulations, and avoid risky behaviors such as drinking and driving. Let us make this festive season memorable for the right reasons.

Secondly, as we observe the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, let us unite against the abuse of women and children. Violence has no place in our society. We must work together to foster safe, supportive, and inclusive communities where everyone can thrive.

Let us continue in faith knowing that the work ahead of us is still huge. As the ancient saying goes: “There is only one way to eat an elephant: a bite at a time.”

I thank you.