

19 June 2025

MEDIA RELEASE

TO ALL MEDIA

RE: PREMIER OF LIMPOPO OUTRAGED BY THE “iSHANGANE” COMMENT

The Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, along with the entire Executive Council, has expressed strong outrage over the comments made by the MK Party Youth League National Convener Mr Qiniso Cibane. Cibane referred to fellow party member Ms Nkateko Mkhabela as “iShangane from Limpopo,” a remark that has ignited widespread condemnation.

Premier Dr Ramathuba emphasised her commitment to protecting the dignity of all Limpopo residents. She highlighted the province's dedication to fostering an inclusive environment that celebrates its rich cultural diversity. The comments made by Cibane are seen as regressive, evoking sentiments from colonial times.

Dr Ramathuba stated: “The term 'iShangane' has historically been used to demean and marginalise individuals, stripping them of their cultural identity and reducing them to a subhuman status. Such language is unacceptable in our journey towards building a united South Africa that honours its diversity.”

She further criticised the half-hearted apology issued by Mr Cibane, asserting that it fails to fully recognise the harm caused by perpetuating tribal divisions. “We should not tolerate any justification for the use of derogatory terms. Those who use such language must reflect deeply and strive toward genuine reform,” added Premier Dr Ramathuba.

Limpopo takes pride in its cultural richness, encompassing various groups, including VaTsonga/Machangana, Northern Sothos, Vhavenda, BaTswana, AmaNdebele, amongst others. The Premier's message is a call for unity and respect among all South Africans.

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Issued by the Office of the Premier

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