

Eulogy by Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba during the funeral of the late Mr David “Heavy D” Mokobi, Musina

26 July 2025

Programme Director,

The Mokobi Family,

ANC Vhembe Regional Leadership,

Councillors,

Traditional Leadership,

Faith-Based Organisations,

Comrades and fellow mourners,

Ndi matsheloni, Thobela, Avuxeni, Good morning, Goie more.

Programme Director, today we gather under the heavy clouds of grief to bid farewell to a man who embodied the spirit of service, compassion, and community. Death has once again robbed us, this time of a beautiful soul, whose entire life was a living sermon of love, selflessness, and community-building.

His passing leaves a painful void not only in the Mokobi family, but in the African National Congress, in the Musina community, in the church, in broadcasting circles, and in all those who had the honour of crossing paths with him. He was truly a community builder, one whose footprint is engraved in every corner of public service, broadcasting, political leadership, and church life.

It is fitting that we say our goodbyes during Mandela Month because in many ways, the life of Cde Heavy D was a reflection of the values that Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela stood for: humility, discipline, service to others, and a lifelong commitment to justice.

As Madiba once said: “What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” And Cde Heavy D as he was affectionately known, made a profound difference.

Cde David worked in many establishments until his untimely death, where he was serving as an ANC Councillor in Musina Local Municipality. His life was a textbook on service. From retail, broadcasting, and local government administration to political activism and church leadership, he was a man of many worlds, and in all of them, he gave his best. He was versatile, gifted, and driven by a singular purpose: to uplift his community.

His love for music was well-known. Gospel and soul music touched his spirit deeply. His voice on the radio waves brought healing and warmth to countless homes, and through Musina Community Radio and other platforms, he connected people to information, to inspiration, and each other. It was no surprise that he rose to the position of Deputy Chairperson of the Limpopo Community Radio Stations a testament to his leadership and influence.

What set him apart was not just what he did, but how he did it. Cde David Mokobi never forgot where he came from. Even when he rose in stature, he remained grounded. He lived amongst the people. He stayed rooted in his community. Unlike many who abandon their townships for gated estates the moment they assume positions; he continued to walk the dusty streets of Musina with the same humility and accessibility.

We need more people like Cde Heavy D in our province and our country. People who enter politics not to be served, but to serve. People who remain volunteers of their communities long after they've received titles and accolades. Today's youth must emulate his example of his consistency, commitment, and compassion.

As a political leader, Cde David understood the movement. He was not a loud activist, but a disciplined and dependable cadre. He served the African National Congress in good standing until his last breath. He understood the internal political dynamics but never let politics divide or distract him from the bigger mission to better the lives of his people.

Comrades, as we reflect on his life, we must also look inward. We must ask ourselves: Are we living up to the values he stood for? When our people cry out for water, electricity, housing, and jobs, can they count on us? Are we truly fulfilling the mandate our glorious movement has entrusted to us?

Let me be honest with you today: Our people are losing patience. The pain of a pensioner who has been on a housing waiting list for over ten years, while someone who just arrived yesterday receives a house, is a

pain we must never trivialize. We cannot continue to make promises we know we will not deliver. As local government leaders, especially those of us who serve in councils, we must up our game. We are the last line of defence for the poor. We are the face of the government to the people.

Cde David understood this. He walked the talk. He didn't just occupy a seat in Council chambers; he occupied the hearts of his people.

Cdes, as we prepare for the 2026 Local Government Elections, let us renew our social contract with honesty and integrity. We must work as a collective to ensure a decisive victory for the African National Congress in Limpopo. We are still fortunate to enjoy a majority in this province; we don't govern in coalitions. But we dare not take that for granted. If we drop the ball, we will face the same difficulties of fragmented governance experienced in other provinces.

Let us recommit ourselves to the fight against poverty, unemployment, and inequality. It is doable, if we return to the basics of service, if we put people first, and if we remember that leadership is about accountability, not arrogance.

As Tata Mandela reminded us:

“A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dream of.”

Let this be our guiding light as we honour the life of Cde David.

Let us also speak with one voice against crime. Rape, gender-based violence, and drug abuse are not statistics. These are traumas happening in our homes, on our streets, and in our schools. We must support law enforcement, yes, but more importantly, we must stop protecting criminals in our communities. We know them. They live among us. Silence is complicity.

Let us honour Cde David by building a Musina, a Limpopo, and a South Africa where every child is safe, where every elder is respected, and where justice prevails.

To the Mokobi family, thank you for raising such a man. You gave us a treasure. You gave us a leader, a comrade, a friend, a brother, and a

soldier for justice. May you find comfort in knowing that his life made a difference, and his legacy will continue to inspire.

Go well, Cde David.

Sleep peacefully, Heavy D.

You came, you served, and you conquered with humility and grace.

May your soul rest in eternal peace.

I thank you.