



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 18 August 2025

RE: RESPONSE TO RECKLESS AND MISLEADING ALLEGATIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AGAINST PREMIER DR RAMATHUBA

The Office of the Premier has noted with grave concern the reckless and misleading information circulating on social media, initially propagated by a Facebook account under the name of Tshepo Ledwaba on 04 August 2025. Following a preliminary investigation by the Mogalakwena Municipality, the account was promptly deactivated.

Subsequently, a deceptive account was created that falsely appeared to be authored by the Municipal Manager of Mogalakwena Municipality, Mr Morris Montengo Maluleka. When the Mogalakwena Municipality issued a statement to distance itself from this and opened a case of cyberbullying on 15 August 2025, the narrative shifted to a parody account on X (formerly Twitter) known as @generalmkhwanaz (Commissioner General Mkhwanazi).

This account has made outrageous claims that Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, was involved in the signing of payments exceeding millions of rands by the Municipal Manager, Mr Morris Montengo Maluleka, to companies linked to both the Premier and the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mr Basikopo Makamu. Further allegations suggest that the two politicians directed the Municipal Manager to employ their relatives.

The Office of the Premier wants to be unequivocally clear: these assertions are entirely false. They reflect a fundamental misunderstanding of the operational dynamics within government. Municipal Councils and their Municipal Managers operate independently and do not operationally report to the Premier or the MEC.

The Premier may only intervene in local government matters under specific circumstances after receiving reports from the MEC for COGHSTA. Thus, the allegations are not only unfounded but appear to be part of a deliberate smear campaign rather than a genuine inquiry into the truth. Worse, some of the transactions that are said to be part of what is reported date back to 2023, long before the current Premier was elected into this position.

Even should a Municipal Manager receive a directive from the Mayor, he is duty-bound to refuse any illegal orders.

It is essential to acknowledge that the South African government operates within a legislative framework that delineates the distinctive and interdependent roles of each sphere. There is no legal authority permitting the Premier or the MEC to instruct Municipal Managers on operational tasks.

Consequently, these allegations are not only baseless but also lack any understanding of local government operations.

In response to these defamatory claims, the Premier has escalated the matter to law enforcement agencies to investigate the origins of these baseless allegations. Additionally, the Premier implores these agencies to ensure the safety and protection of the Municipal Manager of Magalakwa Municipality amid these troubling circumstances.

The Office urges community members to disregard these unfounded claims and to maintain their faith in the integrity of our public officials, who remain dedicated to serving the people of Limpopo.

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For media enquiries, please contact:

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Issued by the Office of the Premier

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