

Media Statement
All Editors and Journalists
10 August 2025

PREMIER DR RAMATHUBA CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY AND THE 5TH RURAL HEALTH MATTERS OUTREACH ANNIVERSARY WITH A GIFT OF LIFE-CHANGING HEALTH CARE

Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, will mark her birthday this year not with flowers or parties, but with the gift of life-changing healthcare for those in need. This year's celebration coincides with the 69th anniversary of 1956 women's March and 5th anniversary of the Rural Health Matters outreach programme that the Premier launched on her birthday five years ago while she was the MEC for Health.

"When this programme was born, I made it clear that my birthday should not be about bouquets and banquets. The best gift I can receive is seeing a patient walk again, regain their sight, or be free from pain. Healing our people is the only celebration I need," said Premier Ramathuba.

From 11 to 15 August 2025, the Premier will spend the entire week alongside medical specialists at various hospitals across the Vhembe District, providing life-saving surgeries and specialist care to patients who have been on waiting lists for months or even years. These services are especially targeted at people from disadvantaged communities who often face challenges in accessing specialist healthcare.

The outreach will focus on a range of high-demand medical specialties, including ophthalmology, orthopaedics, general surgery, urogynaecology, and gynae-oncology. The selected hospitals hosting the programme are Tshilidzini Hospital, Elim Hospital, and Malamulele Hospital.

The premier is expected to participate in other activities throughout the month including amongst others launching "Basadi Temong" an initiative in Agriculture focusing on empowering women, hosting a soccer tournament for senior citizens Vakhegula-vakhegula in Waterberg district, reading for children at selected ECD centers and handing borehole and other resources to a center for children with Cerebral Palsy in Capricorn supported by social development.

Schedule of Events

Part One:

Date: Monday, 11 August 2025

Venue: Tshilidzini Hospital, Thulamela Municipality, Vhembe District

Time: 11h00

Part Two:

Date: Tuesday, 12 August 2025

Venue: Elim Hospital, Makhado Municipality, Vhembe District

Time: 11h00

The Rural Health Matters outreach programme continues to bring hope and healing where it is needed most, reaffirming the government's commitment to ensuring that quality healthcare reaches every corner of Limpopo.

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