

EULOGY BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA AT THE FUNERAL OF
NKATEKO "MBHOMA" MALULEKE, MALULEKE VILLAGE, COLLINS
CHABANE MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT

20 September 2025

Programme Director,

The Maluleke Family,

ANC Provincial leadership led by Provincial Secretary Musanda vho Madadzhe

ANC Youth League led by President Collen Malatjie,

ANC Veterans League,

ANC Women's League,

Alliance Partners

Councillors,

Traditional leadership,

Faith-Based Leaders,

Fellow Mourners,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

E ka nwina vakhanzi ve hlonge, nzi tisa maritu yo tshavelela ku huma ka
mpfumo wa xifunza nkulu xa Limpopo

Death is a cruel visitor. It does not knock. It does not seek permission. It
comes unannounced, snatching away the very heartbeat of our communities
and leaving behind a silence that no words can fill. It robs us not only of sons

and daughters, mothers and fathers, but also of dreams, potential, and the future we hoped to build together.

Today we gather to mourn a life cut short, not by illness, nor by natural causes, but by the violent hand of man. Death has robbed us of Nkateko Maluleke, and in so doing, it has robbed our province, and our nation. His passing is not only a family tragedy but it is a community loss.

Young people are the future of this nation. If we fail to protect them, we risk condemning our country to a doomed destiny.

As we reflect on the life of Nkateko, we see him as the epitome of resilience. He pursued his future with determination, working across different sectors.

He was a taxi owner in the taxi industry, served as a personal assistant to Hosi Xilungwa Mingha II at the Mhinga Traditional Council, worked in retail, contributed through the EPWP under Collins Chabane Local Municipality, managed a medical practice at Dr LM Mabasa Incorporated, and served on the School Governing Body at Nwanati High School.

Beyond that, he initiated campaigns to provide sanitary towels to young girls, demonstrating his compassion and sense of responsibility towards his community.

He was not a young person who sat idly waiting for the government to provide for him. Instead, he sought opportunities, worked hard, and created value wherever he went.

Programme Director, we all know that Nkateko was tragically killed while on his way with his peers to an ANC Youth gathering, a platform dedicated to advancing the struggle for economic freedom. Throughout his life, he stood firm in the fight for justice and economic emancipation amongst the youth.

Fellow mourners, Crime in our communities has reached alarming levels. Criminals roam our streets armed with guns, terrorising our people. Our communities, once places of peace, are now defined by fear.

When a life of a young person is cut short like this not only does the pain cut so deep but the negative impact it has on government's impact on economic growth prospects is dire. Every investor study the life expectancy of a country before taking any risk, they also look at what is the leading cause of reducing the life expectancy and in this case where guns are involved, confidences of investors will never be inspired. When this happens, our economy suffers. If the economy does not grow, development stalls, and unemployment rises, especially among our young people and this is what cde Nkateko was on his way to join fellow young people to fight for when his life was cut short

Hence I've been in communication with both our PC and the acting PC of North west to follow up on this case. While we welcome the swift arrest of the alleged security guards who pulled the trigger, their appearance in court, we won't rest until we find the truth It is the only way that the family and the entire province, Limpopo not forgetting his own organization, the ANC and the ANCYL will find closure

Nkateko was not an ordinary young man. He was a shining star from Makuleke village and the province at large. From an early age, he carried within him the

flame of leadership, the courage to speak truth to power, and the humility to serve his people.

He was respected not just because he carried titles, but because he carried the people with him. He was accessible, grounded, and ever willing to listen. He believed in advancing the call for economic freedom in his lifetime.

That is why his death strikes us so deeply. To lose a young person, a budding leader, in such a violent manner, is to be reminded that the struggle for peace, justice, and unity is far from over.

Young people must draw lessons from Nkateko 's commitment. He reminds us that being a leader is not about positions, but about people. It is not about power for personal gain, but about serving with humility.

Nkateko young as he was, understood this. He lived it. That is why he was loved by the people. That is why he leaves behind a legacy that challenges us to do better.

Eka nwina va aka tiko va ka Makuleke , you do not mourn alone. We are with you. Your son was our son. Your brother was our comrade. Your pain is our pain.

To Nkateko, we say: Rest in peace. You have run your race with courage, dignity, and passion. You leave us too soon, but you leave us with a challenge,

to love our people, to serve them with integrity, and to build the future you dreamed of.

May your spirit inspire the youth of Makuleke, Collins Chabane, Vhembe, Limpopo, and South Africa.

May the soil of your ancestors embrace you with gentleness. May your memory live forever in our movement, in our communities, and in our hearts.

To the Maluleke family

N'wina Van'wanati,
N'wina Vadyi va bangu
N'wina va ka ma-fula-hi-xivuri va tshika nyundzu

Betsa ra matsalatsalani
N'wina va ka xinyela babeni

Rifu ra Nkateko "Mbhoma" Maluleke i rifu ra xitshuketa

Hambi swi ri tano, hina va mfumo wa Xifundzha xa Limpopo ha mi khongotela,
Hi ri:

Tshikani n'wana wa n'wina
A tsemakanya nambu wa N'wanati
N'wina vo lema rihlelo, hi macimba ya tihuku
N'wi pfuleleni tindlela
N'wi tsikeni a ngirimela ekaya
Laha van'wanati lavo sungula va nga gova kona

Hiyaloye Mbhoma
Hiyaloye Nkateko
Hiyaloye n'wana wa n'wina

N'wi amukeleni
N'wi vukarheni
Amukelani moya wa yena.

Etlela hi ku rhula, Cde Nkateko “Mbhoma”
Maluleke. Munwanati.

I thank you.