



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **EULOGY BY PREMIER OF LIMPOPO DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA AT THE FUNERAL OF 12 ACCIDENT VICTIMS, TIYANI, COLLINS CHABANE MUNICIPALITY**

04 October 2025

Programme Directors, MEC Florence Radzilani and Pastor Mabidilala,  
Members of the Limpopo Executive Council present,  
The Mayor of Collins Chabane Municipality, Cllr Shadrack Maluleke,  
Hosi Mangava Mkanyani and other senior traditional leaders present,  
Rev Dr. GS Lebelo of the International Assemblies of God Church,  
Representative of SANTACO,

Today, as we gather under this heavy cloud of grief, we are reminded of the fragility of life and the depth of our shared humanity. The tragic loss of twelve souls in the road accident at Ga-Sekgopo has plunged our province of Limpopo into sorrow; our faces reflect a shared mourning and our hearts ache alongside the families affected by this unimaginable tragedy.

To the bereaved families, I stand here not only as your Premier but as a fellow human being who feels the weight of your loss. In moments like these, words often fail to convey the profound sorrow we carry.

I am reminded of the story of Job in the Holy Bible, a man who possessed everything - children, wealth, prosperity - only to be tested by unimaginable loss. In Job's darkest hour, his friends sat in silence with him, their presence offering a comforting acknowledgment of his grief when words fell short.

Today, we sit among you in a similar silence; we are here to share in your sorrow. We gather to embrace you in this time of need and to remind you that you are not alone.

We may have been strangers in days gone by, but now, grief intertwines our lives in a powerful bond. As you navigate this painful journey, may you find solace in the knowledge that, together, we can help one another heal.

The pain of losing a mother, the heart of the home, cannot be measured. We have also lost fathers, brothers, aunts and friends who served as pillars of strength in our communities. This is not just a loss for individual families; it is a loss that reverberates throughout our province. These were individuals who carried dreams, aspirations and love; their absence will leave an irreplaceable void.

As we reflect on this loss, let us also remember the strength of community - the ideals of Ubuntu, which teach us that it takes a village to raise a child. Though these children are now deprived of their parents, we must step forward as a community to nurture and educate them. We must sow seeds of hope and responsibility in their hearts, ensuring they grow into the pillars of our society, continuing the legacy of love and support left behind by their parents.

I urge all of us to offer our support not merely in words but in meaningful actions. Let us not make empty promises that will fade like whispers in the wind. Instead, let us stand firm in our commitment to these children.

Our government will ensure they are enrolled in supportive structures, whether through the no school fee policy or assistance with NSFAS for their future education. MECs of Social Development, Health and Education, let us join hands in safeguarding their future and nurturing their potential.

As we mourn the loss of our loved ones today, let us also celebrate their lives. May we honour their memories by embodying the compassion, support and love they showed in life. Together, let us be the comfort that rises from this deep sorrow. Together, let us embrace the hope that comes with the promise of a new dawn.

To the families, your pain is our pain and your grief is shared by all of us present here today. We stand together in solidarity, ready to shoulder the burden of your sorrow and to help carry you into a future that honours the memories of those you have lost.

May their souls rest in eternal peace and may we find the strength to support one another as we move forward together. Thank you.