



# LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **SPEECH BY LIMPOPO PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA DURING THE HI NWA MATI FRIDAY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION AT GAMASONA VILLAGE, GREATER LETABA MUNICIPALITY, MOPANI DISTRICT**

09 OCTOBER 2025

Programme Director,

Speaker of Mopani District Municipality, Cllr M. Maswanganyi,

His Worship the Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Cllr Pule  
Shayi,

His Worship the Mayor of Greater Letaba Municipality, Cllr Gerson  
Molapisane,

Councillors present,

Kgoshi Sebela of the Bakgaga Ba Maake Traditional Council,

Representatives of Nkuna Traditional Council,

Faith-based leaders,

Distinguished guests,

Members of the media,

Community of Mopani,

Avuxeni, Ndi matsheloni, Thobela, Good morning, Goeie môre.

Today we are glad to return to Mopani, where we launched our #HiNwaMatiFridays campaign in late 2024. With all the work that the Mopani District Municipality has been doing to make practical of this campaign, weekly opening new and old taps, today's monitoring visit becomes a pure delight as we can safely say work is going on.

This programme was borne out of a firm commitment to tackle, head-on, one of the most pressing issues affecting our people, the persistent water challenges in our communities. When we launched #HiNwaMatiFridays, we made a solemn promise that no village, no household and no school should be left behind when it comes to access to clean, drinkable water.

Our presence here today in Greater Letaba Municipality reaffirms that promise. It is not a once-off event, but an ongoing process of monitoring, accountability, and delivery. It is about ensuring that every commitment we make to our people translates into tangible change in their daily lives.

Programme Director, allow me to take this opportunity to commend the Mopani District Municipality under the leadership of Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi for their unwavering dedication to addressing water challenges across the district. Your daily efforts through programmes like Operation Fix All, an offshoot of #HiNwaMatiCampaign, are restoring hope and dignity to thousands of residents who had gone for years without reliable water access.

Through this partnership and focused leadership, we have seen remarkable progress. As of the beginning of October 2025, 223 boreholes have been

repaired across Mopani District and I am proud to note that 55 of those are right here in Greater Letaba Municipality.

These figures are not just statistics; they represent mothers who no longer wake up at 3 a.m. to fetch water, children who can go to school clean and on time and clinics that can operate efficiently because water is flowing again.

We have also observed significant progress in Greater Giyani Municipality, where 23 of the 24 villages connected to the bulk water supply project are now practically completed, reaching an impressive 97.6% progress rate. These milestones remind us that while challenges persist, the work is indeed moving forward.

Yet, we must also acknowledge the harsh reality that Mopani District continues to face the devastating effects of drought. Eight of our nine main dams are currently below 50% capacity. This reality calls for responsible water usage, investment in resilient infrastructure and sustainable water management practices.

We are therefore calling on all residents to play their part and conserve water, fix leaks and use this precious resource wisely.

As a government, we remain steadfast in our support for all municipalities across the province. The Limpopo Provincial Government will continue to provide technical assistance, mobilise resources and monitor implementation to ensure that every borehole drilled, every pipeline laid and every water treatment plant-built leads to sustainable access to water.

We cannot overemphasise that water is life, it is the foundation of health, agriculture, industry and human dignity. Our task is therefore urgent and non-negotiable. When we say Hi Nwa Mati, we are not making a slogan; we are making a statement of life, a declaration of progress and a commitment to justice for our people.

In the spirit of collective responsibility, I call upon councillors, traditional leaders, ward committees and community members to continue working hand in hand with the government.

Let us report broken infrastructure quickly, guard against vandalism and protect this precious resource for our children and generations to come.

In conclusion, as we continue with our #HiNwaMatiFridays monitoring visits, let us renew our collective determination to bring lasting change. The journey is far from over, but with the continued hard work of our municipalities, the leadership of Mayor Shayi and his team and the active participation of our communities, we will overcome the water challenges facing Mopani and the province at large.

Together, let us keep the taps running for our people, for our dignity and for our future.

I thank you.