

MESSAGE OF SUPPORT BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA
DURING THE NORMAN MASHABANE REGION FUNDRAISING GALA
DINNER, KARIBU RESORT, TZANEEN, MOPANI DISTRICT

01 November 2025

Programme Director,
Provincial Secretary, Cde Musanda Reuben Madadzhe,
Provincial Treasurer, Cde Nakedi Kekana,
Norman Mashabane Regional Leadership, led by Cde Pule Shayi,
Representatives of COSATU and SANCO,
The Veterans League, the Youth League, and the Women's League,
Contralesa Chairperson, Kgoshigadi Malesa,
Faith-Based Organisations,
Members of the Business Community,
Members of the Media,
Comrades and Compatriots,

Riperile, Thobela, Ndi madekwana, Good evening, Goeie naand.

It gives me an immense pleasure and deep appreciation to stand before you this evening, in this gathering of comradeship, unity and purpose. Tonight, we gather not just to dine, but for a noble cause, one that seeks to breathe new strength into the heartbeat of our movement and to give life to the vision of those who came before us. As the African National Congress, we are honoured to be part of this historic gathering, a gathering of purpose, of solidarity, and of action.

This gathering speaks to the true revolutionary character of the Norman Mashabane Region, a region named after one of our most gallant sons, the late Ambassador Norman Mashabane, whose life was a living testament to courage, integrity, and unyielding service to the people.

Comrades, allow me to take you back to the wisdom of our ancestors. In the ancient African village, generosity was not an occasional gesture, it was a sacred rhythm, a way of life deeply woven into the moral, spiritual, and social fabric of society. Giving was not measured by the size of the hand, but by the sincerity of the heart. When one cried, the whole village listened. When one rejoiced, the village danced in unity. When disaster struck, neighbours became brothers and sisters, rebuilding together from the ashes. They lived by the timeless creed that “I am because we are.”

This spirit of Ubuntu, of interconnectedness, is what kept our people alive through famine, through struggle, through the dark nights of oppression. And tonight, that same spirit calls us again to rise, to give, and to build together. We are not just giving to a cause; we are reaffirming the values that built the ANC and sustained our revolution: unity, solidarity, and selflessness.

Comrades, as the African National Congress, we cannot stand aside while our own structures strive for self-sufficiency. We have come to understand that the survival of our movement depends not on external generosity, but on our internal discipline, innovation, and commitment.

Gone are the days when we relied on handouts to fund our programmes. The time has come for us to build the ANC of tomorrow with our own hands, an organisation that is self-reliant, strong, and financially stable.

The road to the 2026 local government elections is already upon us. The battle for hearts and minds will not be won through rhetoric alone, but it will require organisation, mobilisation, and resources. As we sit here tonight, we must ask ourselves difficult but necessary questions: Are we ready as a region? Have we equipped our structures with the tools to win? Do we have the resources to communicate our message effectively? And, most importantly, do we have the will to sustain our movement?

Comrades, the Norman Mashabane Region has already shown what is possible when vision meets action. This is a region that took the bold decision to build its own offices, not renting, but owning. That decision was not just administrative; it was revolutionary. It saved the organisation thousands of rands and provided a permanent home for our work, a sanctuary for political education, for planning, and for service to our people.

Programme Director, let us draw inspiration from that bold example. Let us remember that the ANC was never built by spectators, it was built by men and women who sacrificed, who gave of themselves, and who believed that tomorrow can only be secured by what we invest today.

When we leave this hall tonight, let it be said that we were not just entertained but that we were moved. Moved to give, to support, and to invest in the future of our movement. Let every contribution made tonight, big or small, stand as a testament to our collective commitment to the cause of liberation, development, and service.

As the scripture reminds us in Ecclesiastes 10:19: "A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry, but money answereth all things."

Indeed, tonight's giving is not about wealth, it is about will. It is about ensuring that the house of the people remains strong and that the flag of the ANC continues to fly high in the Norman Mashabane Region and beyond.

Let us therefore give with purpose, give with pride, and give with conviction, for we are not just funding a region, we are funding the revolution.

I thank you.