



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

TRIBUTE BY PREMIER OF LIMPOPO DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA TO THE LATE MUSICIAN BAAITSI MOLIMISI, POPULARLY KNOWN AS DR NEL WHO WAS BURIED AT BOTSHABELO VILLAGE, LEPHALALE, WATERBERG DISTRICT ON 08 NOVEMBER 2025

“Lefase le ja bana ba lona” - It is such a difficult day for to send this tribute when such a budding soul is laid to rest. Since learning about his passing, we wondered amongst ourselves as the Provincial Government what is it that we can say and do to uplift the family that has lost such a breadwinner?

How do we comfort the multitudes of fans who danced to and sang songs like “Dally O Meya Kai” or that collaboration with Makhadzi “Tsa Mjolo” or that collaboration with Kharishma “Sephiri” and the over 100 songs in his discography?

Today, we gather in sorrow yet with hearts brimming with gratitude as we celebrate the life of a remarkable young artist, Baaitsi Molimisi, whom we cherished and knew as Dr Nel.

Dr Nel was not merely a musician; he was a beacon of hope for many young people in Limpopo and beyond. His music resonated with the hearts of the youth, breathing life into the Lekompo genre, a sound that spoke of our stories, our struggles and our triumphs.

This tragedy strikes not just the Baaitsi family, but all of us who revelled in his gift. Dr Nel became the voice of our communities, celebrating our rich culture through his music, which seamlessly blended African rhythms with Kizomba beats and contemporary sounds. He showed us that greatness can emerge from our villages. His journey, a true confirmation of the idea that we can rise above our circumstances.

Born in 1994, as our democracy blossomed, Dr Nel epitomised the hope and promise of his generation - an embodiment of the belief that talent knows no bounds. We can safely say these are indeed Mandela's Children.

Tata Nelson Mandela once said: "Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that generation." Dr Nel's life and the likes of Kharishma (whom we keep in our prayers to get well), Makhadzi, Shebeshxt, Shandesh, Ba Bethe Gashoazen, Dr Nel, Tribby and others resonated with this sentiment.

At just 31, Dr Nel managed to inspire a generation through his powerful voice and insightful lyrics. His music resonated not only at events and gatherings but also became a soundtrack for the lives of those who grew up in our communities. He wasn't just an entertainer; he was a storyteller, a cultural ambassador who saw the beauty in every story that needed to be told.

As we looked to Dr Nel, we found not just entertainment but a narrative of perseverance that ignited dreams in many of our young people. He didn't allow challenges to define him; rather, he transformed his journey into a celebration.

Even without formal education past Grade 12, he built an impressive career, launched his record label and collaborated with over a dozen accomplished artists. This resilience is a lesson for all - one that defines his legacy.

Today, we remember his infectious smile, his joyful spirit captured in songs like "Ke Happy." The smiles he brought to those around him are irreplaceable. His electrifying performances brought joy and warmth to celebrations, from weddings to community events, forever etching his name in our hearts.

Dr Nel was more than a musician; he was a compassionate soul who gave back to his community. His heartbeat for others as he used his platform to uplift aspiring musicians, opening doors and offering mentorship. His legacy

encourages creativity, spreading messages of hope and unity amidst adversity. He reflected the potential within each of you, urging our young artists to continue pushing boundaries, to harness their creativity and passion.

However, while we honour his life, we must not shy away from the harsh realities that led us here today. The violence that robbed us of Dr Nel must be confronted. We, as a community and a government, must stand united and say: “enough is enough.” We cannot allow fear to stifle the bright futures of our young stars. I urge our law enforcement agencies to act swiftly and resolutely to ensure that justice is served for Dr Nel and for all victims of crime. As he was fond of singing: “sephiri se re ka se ye le sona mabitleng” – let us find those responsible for his death.

To the Molimisi family, your sorrow is shared by an entire province. We stand with you in your grief, knowing that the pain you feel reflects the loss felt by many. Baaitsi was a treasure to us all; his laughter and talent brightly coloured our lives. Let us remember him not for the sudden end of his journey but for the rich tapestry of life he wove through music.

To our youth, let Dr Nel's life serve as a beacon. Your dreams are valid. Use your talents not only for personal gain but to uplift your communities. Let us create a culture of support, of unity, replicating what we learned from Dr Nel's journey.

Robala ka kgotso, Baaitsi Molimisi.

Thobela!

Dr Phophi Ramathuba

PREMIER: LIMPOPO PROVINCE