

SPEECH BY LIMPOPO PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA DURING THE OFFICIAL  
WELCOMING OF THE NEWLY APPOINTED EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, JACK BOTES HALL, POLOKWANE,  
CAPRICORN DISTRICT

02 DECEMBER 2025

Programme Director,  
MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure Mr Ernest Rachoene,  
The Public Service Commissioner, Mr Magerule Sekonya,  
Leadership of PSA and Nehawu,  
Chairperson of the RAL Board, Mr Moss Tseli,  
Head of Department, Mr Motlhanke Phukuntsi,  
RAL CEO, Mr Makhitha Chesane, Senior Management, Distinguished Guests, Members  
of the Media,

Thobela, Avuxeni, Ndi Matsheloni, Good Morning, Goeie Môre,

This morning, we gather here to celebrate the profound renewal of hope. We gather to welcome men and women who now stand counted among those privileged to carry the responsibility of serving the people of Limpopo.

To be permanently employed in government is to be entrusted with the dreams of millions, to become custodians of service, development, and progress. It is to step into a journey where your work will echo far beyond the walls of your offices into communities, into families, and into the future of this province.

Colleagues, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to MEC Rachoene and the entire leadership team for their commitment and hard work, which has brought us to this important milestone. Their efforts have ensured that today we welcome 140 newly appointed permanent employees, bringing the total number of permanent employees appointed so far to 590.

This is a remarkable achievement, one that demonstrates strategic leadership, planning, and dedication to building a capable and effective state.

Just last week, MEC Rachoene also welcomed 40 newly appointed employees at Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL). I am further informed that processes are under way to finalise the filling of 13 additional positions, covering both internship opportunities and permanent roles.

These achievements reflect a department that is not only functional, but forward-looking, responsive, and committed to strengthening the machinery of government.

Programme Director, this progress is happening at a time when Limpopo continues to be applauded nationally for its impressive strides in reducing unemployment. According to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey released by Stats SA, Limpopo's

unemployment rate has decreased by 5.2 percent, from 35 percent in the second quarter to 29.8 percent in the third quarter.

We must highlight that many of these jobs come from the construction and infrastructure sector, where the Department of Public Works and RAL are strategically positioned. This confirms that our investments in infrastructure, maintenance, road construction, and service delivery are changing lives while simultaneously contributing to the country's economic recovery.

As a province, we have set ourselves a clear mission: to build a capable state, grow the economy, and create jobs. Today's ceremony is a testament to that mission. We are not merely talking about reducing unemployment, we are taking concrete steps to make it happen.

Programme Director, today, as we welcome this fourth cohort, we are reminded that every appointment is a life transformed, a household uplifted, and a community encouraged. It is to join a growing force of dedicated public servants who rise each day with one mission, to make our province better than it was yesterday.

As we welcome you into the ranks of our provincial administration, I am reminded of the timeless words of President Nelson Mandela, who said, "It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it." These words are a call to action for each of you entering public service today. Your appointment is a commitment to uphold the values of integrity, accountability, and excellence.

You are joining a team that believes in teamwork, continuous learning, innovation, and putting the needs of our communities first. Now as permanent employees, you carry the hopes of families, the expectations of our citizens, and the promise of a government that delivers. Embrace this moment with pride, humility, and purpose, knowing that your contribution, no matter how small has the power to change lives and shape the future of Limpopo.

Welcome to the provincial government of Limpopo. Welcome to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, the heartbeat of service delivery and the backbone of our developmental agenda. You are joining a department known for its innovation and for driving service delivery initiatives such as #OperationTsogaMoshomi, #DikgerekgereWednesdays, Operation Vhuisa Thundu ya Muvhuso, #StakeholderTuesdays, and intensified project monitoring.

Today marks the beginning of a journey where excellence, discipline, and integrity must become your daily companions. The province is counting on you, your energy, your ideas, your professionalism, and your commitment. We need people who see work not as an obligation but as an honour. People who understand that public service is a calling, and that their work must be anchored in compassion, humility, and pride.

As you settle into your roles, I encourage you to acclimatise yourselves fully to the operations, culture, and expectations of the department. Embrace a spirit of learning.

Build relationships. Ask questions. Serve with purpose. Your success is our collective success, and the communities you represent are your greatest motivation.

This department is ready to invest in you, guide you, and support you as you grow professionally and personally. You are joining a culture that values collaboration, transparency, and continuous innovation. You are also joining a team that believes deeply in the power of each individual to make a meaningful difference.

As I conclude, allow me to say: This province stands behind you. We believe in your potential. We welcome your enthusiasm. And we celebrate the journey that begins today.

It is said that "When new minds join a mission, the mission becomes stronger. Today our collective strength grows because you are here"

Congratulations, and welcome to the service of the people.