

SPEECH BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA DURING THE HANDOVER OF FOOD PARCELS AND CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME MPHAKANE VILLAGE, GREATER GIYANI MUNICIPALITY, MOPANI DISTRICT

06 FEBRUARY 2026

Programme Director,  
MEC for COGHSTA, Mr Basikopo Makamu,  
Executive Mayor of Mopani District, Cllr Pule Shayi,  
Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality, Cllr John Makoro Mpe,  
Mayor of Greater Giyani Local Municipality, Cllr Handing Zitha,  
Councillors present,  
Hosi Dzumeri,  
Executives of Kaizer Chiefs Football Club, Mr Bobby Motaung and Ms Kemiso Motaung,  
Community members of Mphakane and Zaba Villages,  
Members of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Avuxeni, Ndi Matsheloni, Thobela, Good Morning, Goeie More.

We are gathered here today under difficult but hopeful circumstances. Difficult, because the recent floods have caused immense hardship to many families in this community. Hopeful, because today is a demonstration that when we stand together, government, private sector and communities, we can restore dignity, rebuild lives and move forward with purpose.

As part of our ongoing efforts to monitor and support flood-affected areas across Limpopo, today we join the people of Mphakane and Zaba Villages, communities that were not spared from the heavy rainfall. More than 120 households were affected, with some homes completely destroyed and many families displaced.

We know that the impact of these floods went far beyond damaged structures. Families were forced to seek temporary shelter in schools and churches. Livelihoods were disrupted. Children's schooling was interrupted. The sense of safety and stability was shaken. These are realities we do not take lightly as a caring and responsive government.

I want to commend our municipalities and disaster management teams for their swift response during this difficult period. Their prompt action ensured that immediate relief reached those most in need, particularly vulnerable households requiring food and basic necessities.

Programme Director, what has been most encouraging during this trying time is the spirit of partnership that has emerged. We have witnessed private entities, business communities and social partners stepping forward, working side by side with government to support our people. This is the very essence of a developmental state —

one that recognises that government alone cannot do everything, but that together, we can do far more.

Since the floods struck our province, we have continued to mobilise resources to assist affected families and communities. Today's intervention is part of that collective response.

We are therefore deeply grateful to be joined by the City of Polokwane and the Kaizer Chiefs Football Club through their Corporate Social Investment Programme, which has identified Mphakane and Zaba Villages as beneficiaries of this humanitarian outreach. This initiative goes beyond the handing over of food parcels, it is about restoring dignity, offering hope and reminding our people that they are not alone.

This CSI programme arises from the partnership between the City of Polokwane and Kaizer Chiefs Football Club, a partnership that aligns with our provincial vision of positioning Limpopo, and Polokwane in particular, as a leading sporting destination in South Africa. Importantly, it also demonstrates how sport can be a powerful vehicle for social change and community upliftment.

Under normal circumstances, these CSI activities form part of build-up events to matches hosted at the Peter Mokaba Stadium. However, in light of the floods that led to Limpopo being declared a national disaster, this programme was redirected to communities most in need. This decision reflects compassion, responsiveness and responsible leadership.

The gesture by Kaizer Chiefs Football Club could not have come at a more critical time. It is a clear demonstration that public-private partnerships are not theoretical concepts, but they are practical solutions to real problems. When government and the private sector work together, we can overcome even the most daunting challenges.

For a football club of Kaizer Chiefs' stature, this intervention shows leadership beyond the pitch. The Club is not only nurturing young talent and producing professional footballers; it is also playing a meaningful role in changing lives and strengthening communities. Today, Kaizer Chiefs is winning hearts of the community members and I can confidently say that new supporters have been gained here in Mphakane, Zaba and beyond.

As government, we make a clear call to the business community: partner with us. Our doors remain open to all who are willing to contribute to rebuilding our province and improving the lives of our people. Together, we can do more and we can do it faster.

In parallel, government continues to fulfil its responsibility to rebuild critical infrastructure. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has already commenced with the re-gravelling of damaged roads and the repair of bridges, reconnecting communities that were cut off from economic activity. This work will continue until we are confident that roads are safe and accessible.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if we maintain this spirit of cooperation, government, private sector and communities working as one, we will not only rebuild infrastructure, but also restore hope, resilience and normalcy in the lives of our people.

Let today stand as a powerful reminder that unity is our greatest strength.

I thank you.