

## MEDIA ALERT

21 April 2026

For Immediate Release

### PREMIER DR RAMATHUBA TO VISIT LEBOWAKGOMO HOSPITAL FOLLOWING TRAGIC DEATHS IN GA-MAJA

The Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, will visit Lebowakgomo Hospital on Wednesday, 22 April 2026 at 08:00, in response to the tragic deaths of three individuals in Ga-Maja village, Polokwane. These individuals are believed to have fallen ill after partaking in funeral meals served on Saturday, 18 April 2026.

Initial reports indicate that symptoms began shortly after the funeral, leading to the hospitalisation of several attendees. The situation escalated, with fatalities reported by Monday, 20 April 2026.

Patients have been admitted to various healthcare facilities, including Lebowakgomo, Dilokong, Mankweng, Seshego and Botlokwa hospitals.

During her visit, Premier Dr Ramathuba will receive reports from various stakeholders, including MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Ms Violet Mathye; the SAPS; and MEC for Health, Ms Dieketseng Mashego. These discussions will encompass findings from forensic pathology and laboratory services to uncover the circumstances surrounding this tragic event.

"This is a devastating situation and we note the various MECs' response so far. We stand in solidarity with the community of Ga-Maja during this difficult time, seeking answers while prioritising the health of those still critical and hospitalised," said Premier Dr Ramathuba.

The Premier's visit aims to assess the situation, gather information and understand the health implications as the community grapples with this shocking incident.

Additionally, Premier Dr Ramathuba appeals to the community to remain calm and assures them of the Provincial Government's commitment to address the situation. She will also be visiting Ga-Maja on Thursday, 23 April 2026, to further engage with residents and the bereaved families.

The Department of Social Development will deploy social workers to assist the community in coping with this tragedy.

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