

TRIBUTE BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA AT THE FUNERAL OF  
THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE MASWANGANYI FAMILY, XIFAXANI  
VILLAGE, SHIKUNDU, COLLINS CHABANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,  
VHEMBE DISTRICT

11 APRIL 2026

Programme Director,  
The Maswanganyi Family,  
MEC for Social Development, Ms Florence Radzilani,  
Executive Mayor of Vhembe District, Cllr Freda Nkondo,  
Mayor of Collins Chabane Local Municipality, Cllr Shadrack Maluleke,  
Councilors,  
Traditional Leaders,  
Faith-Based Leaders,  
Community of Xikundu Xifaxani Village,  
Fellow mourners,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

We gather today not just in grief, but in disbelief, as the devastating weight of this catastrophe presses down upon us all, leaving an irreplaceable void that spans from our homes to the very ancestral roots of the village.

Programme Director, a profound and suffocating dark cloud has descended upon the Limpopo province, settling with heavy silence over the Xikundu community and shattering the heart of the Maswanganye family. The sky itself seems to mourn, having stolen bright lights and leaving behind a cold vacuum where laughter once thrived.

It is with broken spirits that we bid farewell to souls taken far too soon, as we pay our deepest sympathies and condolences to a loss that has brought the Xikundu community to its knees and left the Maswanganye family submerged in unimaginable darkness.

In the face of this tragic, stolen future, we look to one another for strength, holding tight to memories that are now both our comfort and our ache.

The tragic accident that occurred on the N1 on the 01st of April 2026 claimed the lives of Mr Hasani Collins Maswanganye, his beloved wife Mrs Patience Maswanganye, and their children, Katekani and little Blessing. This was not just the loss of four individuals; it was the collapse of a family unit, a future erased in an instant, a dream interrupted without warning. What was meant to be a joyful journey home for Easter and family celebration turned into a journey of no return.

Mr Maswanganye was more than a name we speak today, he was a pillar, a provider, a protector. He carried the hopes of his family on his shoulders and worked to build a life of dignity and stability. Mrs Maswanganye was the heart of the home, the gentle strength that nurtured and held the family together. Their children were the promise of tomorrow, bright, innocent souls whose laughter once filled their home with life and hope.

Today, that home stands quieter. That laughter echoes only in memory.

Fellow mourners,

When such tragedy strikes, it forces us to confront painful truths. The loss we are witnessing today is not only heartbreaking, it is also a stark reminder of the dangers that continue to claim lives on our roads. Reckless driving, speeding, overtaking in unsafe conditions, driving under the influence and fatigue, these are not mere mistakes; they are decisions that carry irreversible consequences.

We must say it without fear or hesitation: too many lives are being lost unnecessarily in our roads. Too many families are being broken. Too many children are being left without parents and too many parents are burying their children.

No destination is worth a human life. No moment of impatience is worth the devastation we see before us today.

As government, we make a heartfelt appeal to every road user: let this tragedy awaken a deeper sense of responsibility in all of us. Let us choose life. Let us choose caution. Let us choose to protect one another.

At the same time, even in the midst of this sorrow, we hold on to hope.

We are comforted to know that the surviving child, Khanyisa Maswanganye, is receiving medical care and support at Polokwane Hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she fights toward recovery. As government, we remain committed to ensuring that she receives the care, protection and support she needs during this incredibly difficult time.

We also wish to extend our deepest appreciation to the social workers, under the leadership of MEC Radzilani, for their tireless efforts in providing psychosocial support to the family. In moments like these, your compassion becomes a source of healing, your presence a pillar of strength.

We further express our sincere gratitude to the Collins Chabane Local Municipality for the support rendered to ensure that this family is laid to rest with dignity. Your actions reflect the true meaning of servant leadership and community solidarity.

To the Maswanganyi family, No words can take away your pain. No gesture can fully heal this wound. But please know this: you do not carry this burden alone. The entire community stands with you. The province stands with you. We grieve with you.

In this time of darkness, may you find strength in one another. May you find comfort in the love that surrounds you. And may the spirit of ubuntu remind you that even in loss, we are never alone.

As we bid farewell to our loved ones today, let us not only mourn, but also remember. Let us remember the love that bound this family together. Let us remember the lives they lived, the joy they brought and the legacy they leave behind.

And let us honour them in the most meaningful way we can, by choosing life, by protecting one another and by building a society where such tragedies become fewer. May their memory remain a light in our hearts. And may peace, one day, find its way back to this family.

May their souls find eternal rest.

I thank you.