

**WELCOME REMARKS BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA DURING THE
EXTENDED EXCO MEETING AT BOLIVIA LODGE, POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY
CAPRICORN DISTRICT**

03 JUNE 2026

Members of the Executive Council,

Director-General,

**Heads of Department, Chief Financial Officers, Senior Managers responsible
for Human Resource Management,**

Ladies and gentlemen,

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

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this important Extended Executive Council meeting. We gather here today not merely to review reports and compliance matters, but to honestly reflect on whether we are delivering on the mandate entrusted to us by the people of Limpopo. Our presence here must signal a collective commitment to action, accountability and excellence in public service.

As the Seventh Administration, we have placed service delivery at the centre of everything we do because government exists to improve the lives of our people. However, our success will not be measured by plans, policies and presentations, but by visible results in our communities.

It is therefore concerning that despite the resources allocated to departments, we continue to witness low spending patterns on approved budgets, delays in project implementation and infrastructure projects that are started but not completed within the agreed timeframes.

Equally worrying is the growing trend of escalating project costs, abandoned projects and weak accountability mechanisms. Every delayed project represents a community waiting longer for services.

Every abandoned project represents wasted public resources and broken promises to our people. These are issues that demand our urgent and collective attention.

We must also confront the reality that despite Executive Council approving the filling of funded vacant posts across the province, many of these positions remain unfilled. This is happening at a time when thousands of young people, equipped with qualifications, skills and aspirations, are looking to government for opportunities. We owe it to them and to the people we serve to ensure that bureaucratic bottlenecks do not stand in the way of progress.

Today must therefore be a day of honest self-introspection and robust engagement. We must identify the obstacles that continue to delay implementation and take concrete decisions to dismantle them. We cannot afford a situation where individuals or systems become barriers to the objectives outlined in the Limpopo Development Plan, which we have all collectively adopted and committed ourselves to implementing.

As leaders and public servants, we are custodians of the hopes and aspirations of our people. Let us therefore approach today's discussions with courage, honesty, and a solutions-driven mindset. Let us move beyond diagnosing problems and focus on implementing practical interventions that will accelerate service delivery, improve financial management, strengthen accountability, and ensure that government works effectively for every resident of our province.

The people of Limpopo expect results, not excuses. Let this meeting be remembered as a turning point where we collectively resolved to act with urgency, to hold one another accountable and to ensure that every rand allocated by government translates into meaningful development and improved lives.

Together, let us rise to the challenge and recommit ourselves to building the capable, responsive and developmental state that our people deserve.

I thank you.