

SPEECH BY LIMPOPO PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA DURING
THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE LIMPOPO ONLINE LEARNER
ADMISSION SYSTEM (OLAS) AT DENNIS MATLHABA SECONDARY
SCHOOL, BAKENBERG, MOGALAKWENA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
WATERBERG DISTRICT

25 JUNE 2026

Programme Director;

MEC for Education, Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya;

Executive Mayor of Waterberg District Municipality, Cllr Jack Maeko;

Mayor of Mogalakwena Local Municipality, Cllr Ngoako Taueatsoala;

Traditional Leaders led by Kgoshi Langa;

Faith-Based Leaders;

Head of Department, Mr Maropene Seshibe;

School Governing Bodies;

Educators and Principals;

Parents and Learners;

Members of the Media;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thobela! Avuxeni! Ndi Matsheloni! Good Morning! Goeie More!

Today, we gather in the beautiful Waterberg District, a land of majestic mountains, flowing rivers, rich cultural heritage and resilient communities. It

is fitting that we meet here because today we are not merely launching a digital platform; we are opening new doors of opportunity for thousands of children across Limpopo.

This occasion marks a historic milestone in our province's journey towards building a modern, responsive and citizen-centred government. It is a day that will be remembered as the moment when we placed technology at the service of our people and at the service of education.

As we launch the Limpopo Online Learner Admission System, we are responding directly to the concerns and frustrations that parents have raised for many years. We have listened to the voices of mothers and fathers who travelled long distances in search of application forms. We have heard the concerns of grandparents who spent hours standing in queues, uncertain whether their children would secure placement in schools.

Today, we are saying enough is enough. We are saying that every parent deserves dignity. Every child deserves a fair opportunity. Every family deserves a transparent and efficient admissions process.

Programme Director,

Allow me to recall the timeless words of one of the giants of our liberation struggle, President Oliver Reginald Tambo, who reminded us that:

"The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future."

These words remain as relevant today as they were when they were first spoken. The future of Limpopo is sitting in our classrooms today. The future doctors, engineers, teachers, entrepreneurs, scientists and leaders of tomorrow are the children whose educational journeys begin with a successful school admission process.

For this reason, education remains the most powerful instrument for social transformation. It remains our strongest weapon in the fight against poverty, unemployment and inequality.

As government, we have a constitutional responsibility not only to build schools and provide learning materials, but also to create systems that make access to education easier, fairer and more efficient. Today, we are fulfilling that responsibility.

The Online Learner Admission System is a practical demonstration of our commitment to digital transformation and improved service delivery. It is a reflection of the government we are building, a government that listens, a government that innovates and a government that places citizens at the centre of development.

This launch forms part of our broader vision of a modern Limpopo where public services are accessible regardless of where one lives. Whether a parent resides in Bakenberg, Giyani, Jane Furse, Musina, Lephalale, Tzaneen or Polokwane, they must have equal access to government services.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is no longer a future concept. It is our present reality. Across the world, governments are embracing technology to

improve efficiency, strengthen accountability and enhance service delivery. Limpopo cannot afford to be left behind.

The Online Learner Admission System therefore represents much more than a technological upgrade. It represents progress. It represents inclusion. It represents the future.

Through this system, parents will be able to apply online for Grade R, Grade 1 and Grade 8 admissions without travelling from school to school. They will receive updates electronically and will be able to track the progress of their applications with greater ease and transparency.

Importantly, the system will support fair and consistent placement of learners based on approved admission criteria.

Programme Director,

We are fully aware that our province is predominantly rural and that challenges relating to connectivity and digital literacy still exist. However, we refuse to allow these challenges to become barriers to opportunity. We therefore commit that no parent will be left behind.

Our Thusong Service Centres, libraries, schools and community facilities must become support centres where parents can receive assistance with applications. We will continue working with stakeholders to ensure that communities receive the support they need.

Our guiding principle is simple:

Technology must be a bridge, not a barrier.

The system will officially open for applications on 27 July 2026 for Grade R, Grade 1 and Grade 8 learners.

We therefore encourage parents to begin preparing the required supporting documents, including birth certificates, proof of residence and other relevant records. We also call upon principals, educators and School Governing Bodies to become ambassadors of this programme. Your support will be critical in ensuring its success.

To our traditional leaders, councillors, faith-based organisations and community structures, we ask for your partnership. You remain trusted voices within our communities and your support will help ensure that every parent receives accurate information and assistance.

Programme Director,

One of the greatest benefits of this system lies in the valuable data it will generate. This information will enable government to plan more effectively for future educational needs.

It will help us identify areas where new schools are required. It will assist us in deploying educators more strategically. It will strengthen infrastructure planning and improve the allocation of resources.

Allow me to extend my sincere appreciation to the MEC for Education, Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, the Head of Department, Mr Maropene

Seshibe, officials of the Department of Education and all stakeholders who worked tirelessly to make this initiative a reality.

Your dedication demonstrates what is possible when we work together in pursuit of a common goal.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The launch of the Online Learner Admission System marks the first step towards a fully integrated and digitally enabled education system in Limpopo. It is a foundation upon which we will continue building smarter, more efficient and more responsive public services.

As we launch this platform today, we are ultimately investing in the future of our children. We are investing in fairness. We are investing in dignity. We are investing in opportunity.

Parents wishing to register their children may access the system through:

Website: www.edu.limpopo.gov.za

Admissions Portal: admissions.limpopo.edu.gov.za

Toll-Free Number: 0800 483 266

Facebook: Limpopo Department of Education

I wish to emphasise that the toll-free number is completely free of charge and available to assist parents throughout the admissions process.

Today, we open a new chapter in the story of education in Limpopo.

A chapter defined by accessibility.

A chapter defined by transparency.

A chapter defined by opportunity.

It is therefore my singular honour and privilege to officially declare the Limpopo Online Learner Admission System [OLAS] launched and open to the people of Limpopo.

I thank you.