

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA
DURING THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEWLY APPOINTED
LIMPOPO SAPS PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER AT LIMPOPO
PREMIER'S OFFICE OF THE PREMIER ATTRIUM, POLOKWANE
MUNICIPALITY, CAPRICORN DISTRICT

31 July 2026

Programme Director, Major General N Phokane,

MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Ms Violet Mathye,

Acting National Commissioner of the South African Police Service,
Leiuatenant General PP Dimpane,

Deputy National Commissioner Policing, Lt General Mosikili,

Acting Deputy National Commissioner Crime Detection, Lt General
Sinthumule,

Acting Deputy National Commissioner Support Services, Lt General, Dr
Zulu,

Acting Divisional Commissioner, Human Resources Management, Maj.
General Govender,

Support Staff, Col Motsoeneng,

All District Commissioners,

All Deputy District Commissioners

Other SAPS High ranking officials,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ndi Matsheloni, Thobela, Avuxeni. Good Morning, Goeie More,

We are delighted to be here to join you in welcoming you to one of the highest ranks in the South African Police Service. We gather to mark a significant milestone, not just for you, but for the entire province of Limpopo as you officially take the reins as our new SAPS Provincial Commissioner.

Stepping into this vanguard of leadership is never a gentle stroll through a sunlit meadow; it is a deliberate, bruising ascent up a mountain of formidable gravity. To submit your shoulders to the weight of a higher rank is to willingly invite the tempest, knowing that the air grows thin and the path fractures beneath the feet of those who dare to guide.

Yet, it is precisely within this steep and unforgiving climb that the ordinary is smelted into the extraordinary. The summit does not merely offer a grander view; it demands a grander soul, transforming every heavy step of sacrifice into a sacred stage where vision takes flight and legacy is carved into stone.

True elevation is a fierce transformation, a crucible where comfort is bartered for the boundless sky of possibility. This new mantle you assume is not a soft garment woven for ease, but a suit of armour forged in the fires of sleepless devotion and relentless trial.

Do not look upon the jagged terrain ahead with anxiety, for the steepest cliff yield the most magnificent views of human potential. You have been summoned to this high altitude not because the journey is effortless, but because your spirit possesses the rare architecture capable of turning daunting peaks into platforms of profound, transformative opportunity.

To be appointed to this high office is a monumental honour, but it is an even greater burden of responsibility. From this day forward, you are answerable

for the lives, the livelihood and the safety of more than 6.2 million people who call Limpopo home.

Every child walking to school, every grandmother sitting in her home and every entrepreneur opening their shop doors relies directly on your vision and strategy. Do not take this appointment lightly; the hopes of a whole province now rest squarely upon your shoulders to make Limpopo a safe haven.

We must speak honestly today. The South African Police Service has found itself in the public domain for many wrong reasons. Public trust has eroded due to stories of corruption, syndicate operations and alleged underworld dealings that have stained the proud uniform of our men and women in blue.

But let me be clear: we are not here to judge you by past public opinions or the actions of others before you even start your work. We are here to support you. However, to erase those stains, you will need to work three times harder alongside your team to reclaim the trust of our communities.

Now, the big work begins. True leadership is not about being feared by your subordinates; it is about leading with clear purpose and unwavering integrity. You are now a parent to this provincial team. A good parent does not have favourites among their children; they love them all equally, protect them and support their growth.

Be an accessible Provincial Commissioner. Keep your door open and be ready to listen to your subordinates, because that is where the most valuable operational advice will come from. Be wise, for there will be those who bring gossip and malicious information meant to divide your team. Rise above the noise and keep your inner circle anchored in truth.

At the core of your mandate must be ethical leadership, what our government has stressed as part of its pillars in the 7th Administration. Integrity is not what you do when everyone is watching; it is the choices you make in the quietest, darkest moments. We challenge you today to turn Limpopo into a beacon of policing excellence - a place where other provinces will travel to benchmark their own anti-crime strategies. Let our success be their blueprint.

As you fight this war on crime, remember that critics will emerge, sometimes from the very circles you consider close to you. A wise leader does not seek revenge against critics; a wise person uses criticism to correct his course and build his character. Let their words steel your resolve, not break your focus.

Let the criminal underworld receive the message loud and clear today: under your leadership, criminals must think twice before breaking the law in Limpopo. While we have seen an encouraging drop in general murder cases, our hearts remain heavy with the rise of mob justice incidents.

Communities must never feel the need to take the law into their own hands, because they must see a police force that acts swiftly and justly. We must also aggressively confront the plague of gender-based violence, rape, serial assaults, and commercial crimes that threaten our social fabric. Under your watch, let these horrors become a thing of the past.

As the Provincial Government, we do not stand apart from you; we rally firmly behind you. We will provide the resources, the political will and the unwavering structural support you need to carry out these heavy responsibilities.

I wish you all the very best in your new role as the Limpopo SAPS Provincial Commissioner.

Go out there, lead with honour, protect our people and restore the pride of the blue uniform.

I thank you.