



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

08 July 2026

SPEECH BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA DURING THE HANDOVER OF THE HOUSE FOR THE CONJOINED TWINS AT LULEKANI, BA-PHALABORWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MOPANI DISTRICT

08 JULY 2026

Programme Director,

Members of the Executice Council,

Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Cllr Pule Shayi,

Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality, Cllr Merriam Malatji,

Hosi Mlungisi Ntsanwisi of the Majeje Traditional Council, and all
Traditional Leaders present,

Faith-Based Leaders,

Chairperson of the Board of Risima Housing Finance
Corporation, Mr Charly Nkadimeng,

Members of the Board of Risima Housing Finance Corporation,

Business Community,

Family Members of the beneficiaries,

Community Members,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

There are moments in leadership when one is reminded that true progress is not measured only by the roads we build or the infrastructure we deliver, but by the lives we touch and the hope we restore. Today is one of those moments.

Just over three months ago, we gathered on this very ground to turn the first sod for what was then an empty piece of land but a promise filled with hope. Today, we return to witness the fulfilment of that promise as we officially hand over this beautiful home which is a symbol of compassion, dignity, love and our unwavering commitment to ensuring that no family walks its journey alone. This handing over of this house forms part of our Service Delivery Week here in Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality which is aimed at improving service provision in the area as part of the District Development Model.

Every home tells a story. This home will forever tell a story of a province that chose compassion over indifference, unity over division and action over promises. It represents safety, comfort and a place where new memories will be created despite the pain that this family has endured.

During a visit to the mother of the twins in hospital, the Premier committed to building a formal dwelling for the family. This commitment followed a social worker's report on the household profile, which indicated that the mother, her other children, her mother and other family members were living without formal housing. The Premier's pledge was made to ensure that the family lives in a dignified and safe structure and environment.

This project fulfils a commitment we made during the Premier's Annual Golf Day, where we pledged that the proceeds from that

initiative would be used to build a dignified home for this family. We made that promise in good faith and today we proudly honour it. In doing so, we reaffirm that the promises we make to our people are promises we are determined to keep.

The journey of the conjoined twins touched the hearts of people across Limpopo and beyond. We all followed their courageous fight for life with hope and prayer. We celebrated the remarkable success of the complex separation surgery performed by the dedicated team of healthcare professionals at Mankweng Hospital under the leadership of Professor Nyaweleni Tshifularo.

While we remain grateful for the medical breakthrough that gave the twins an opportunity to live independently, our hearts remain heavy because one of the twins sadly passed away. On behalf of the Limpopo Provincial Government and the people of our province, I once again extend our deepest condolences to the mother and the entire family. No words can truly ease the pain of losing a child. We pray that you continue to find strength in God's love and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. As a province, we remain committed to standing by you as your surviving child continues to make encouraging progress after being transferred to Steve Biko Academic Hospital for specialised care.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to express my sincere appreciation to every individual, business and organisation that responded generously after we appealed for support. Your contributions, whether great or small, have made an extraordinary difference. You have demonstrated that the spirit of ubuntu remains alive in Limpopo. Together, you have shown that when each of us contributes what we can, we

become capable of achieving what none of us could accomplish alone.

I also wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to HosiMlungisi Ntsanwisi for making this land available for this worthy cause. Your leadership reflects the important role that traditional leadership continues to play in advancing development and improving the lives of our communities. We deeply value this partnership.

Our sincere appreciation also goes to the RisimaHousing Finance Corporation for overseeing the implementation of this project and ensuring accountability throughout the construction process. To the contractor, thank you for delivering a quality home within the agreed timeframe. This demonstrates that excellence and efficiency are achievable when everyone remains committed to a shared vision.

To the mother of this precious child, today we hand over more than a house. We hand over a place where hope will continue to grow, where your child will be surrounded by love, care and security. May this home become a sanctuary of healing, resilience and new beginnings. May its walls echo with laughter, its rooms be filled with peace and its foundation remain rooted in hope for generations to come.

As we conclude, let today's occasion remind us that government cannot build prosperous communities alone. Lasting development is achieved when citizens, businesses, traditional leaders, faith-based organisations and government walk the journey together. Partnerships remain one of our greatest assets in building a caring, inclusive and prosperous Limpopo.

Let this home stand for many years as a reminder that compassion has the power to transform lives, that unity can overcome adversity, and that together we can continue building a Limpopo that truly works for all.

I thank you.