

SPEECH BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA AT THE OFFICIAL
HANDOVER OF THE PHASHA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT AT GA-
PHASHA, RAMOKGOPA. MOLEMOLE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
CAPRICORN DISTRICT

24 July 2026

Programme Director,
Executive Mayor of Capricorn District, Cllr. Mamedupi Teffo,
Mayor of Molemole Local Municipality, Cllr. Masilo Edward Paya,
Our Highly Revered Traditional Leaders,
Faith-Based and Business Leaders,
Distinguished Guests,
Community Members of Ga-Phasha,

Thobela, Avuxeni, Ndi matsheloni, Good morning, Goeie more,

It is my distinct honour and privilege to join you here at Ga-Phasha on this memorable occasion as we officially hand over this water supply project. This occasion is made even more meaningful as it takes place during Mandela Month- a time when we reaffirm our commitment to restoring the dignity of our people through meaningful service. Access to clean and reliable water is more than the delivery of infrastructure; is the restoration of hope, health and human dignity, values that lie at the heart of Nelson Mandela's enduring legacy.

Long before this day, the earth knew the song of a river running dry, but today we celebrate a new rhythm of life. Water is far more than a simple drop to

quench a passing thirst; it is the vital pulse of our community, the foundation of our health and the spark that ignites a thriving, hopeful future.

Today, that vital pulse flows freely to our very doorsteps. This newly launched water supply is not merely a triumph of pipes, pumps and engineering; it is a promise of dignity, equity and resilience delivered to every household. Let us embrace this resource, safeguard it as a precious gift and let it nourish the prosperity of our people for generations to come.

We stand before you today with a heart full of joy because the Phasha community will never be the same again. For too long, the daily struggle for clean water weighed heavily on your shoulders. Today, we write a new chapter. Today, the burdens of yesterday wash away as clean, safe, potable water flows directly into this village. This project is a testament to the fact that your cries did not fall on deaf ears.

When this government made a commitment to service delivery, it was not an empty political gesture. It was a sacred covenant with the people of Limpopo. We know and understand the deep challenges our communities face daily—from roads to electricity and most critically, water. We do not run away from these challenges. Instead, we face them head-on. The official handover of the Phasha Water Supply Project today is living proof of our unbroken promise. It shows that where there is a need, your government will move mountains, bridge rivers, and drill into the deep earth to deliver dignity to your doorstep.

Look at what we have built together right here at the cross-border of Capricorn and Vhembe District Municipalities. This state-of-the-art infrastructure is a marvel of local collaboration and technical skill. We have successfully tapped into five vital boreholes along the river. Currently, three of these boreholes are fully functional, pumping life-giving water directly to a

modern Water Treatment package plant. From there, the water flows seamlessly into our massive still tanks for thorough purification, ensuring that every drop that reaches your communal taps is clean, safe and sweet to drink. The remaining two boreholes are structurally ready and are simply awaiting final electrification to boost our capacity even further.

This project did not just bring water; it brought economic life to this soil. In building this infrastructure, we prioritised our local people. I am incredibly proud to highlight that this project employed 42 local labourers. True to our commitment to total equality and the empowerment of women, this workforce was split perfectly down the middle: 21 men and 21 women. They worked side by side, pouring their sweat into the ground so that their own families could drink clean water today. This project belongs to you because it was built by you.

However, my community members, with great gifts comes great responsibility. The infrastructure we hand over to you today is a precious community asset, but it is under threat. We are deeply in pain by the rising tide of cable theft and the heartbreaking vandalism of Eskom transformers. Because our boreholes rely heavily on electricity to pump water, whenever a thief cuts a cable or destroys a transformer, they are not just stealing copper, they are stealing water from the mouths of your children. They are forcing our mothers back into the rivers.

We cannot allow criminals to reverse our progress. I am deeply moved by the proactive steps already taken by this community, including locking taps to manage and curb vandalism. But we must do more. I make a passionate call today to our traditional leaders, our civic structures and every single community member: be the guardians of this infrastructure. If you see someone tampering with a borehole, a pipe, or a transformer, report them immediately. Protect these assets as if they were your own home, because they hold the very lifeblood of Ga-Phasha.

As we celebrate Practical Completion of this first phase today, I want to assure you that your government is not done yet. We see this milestone not as the destination, but as a beautiful beginning. We are already looking forward to Phase Two. In the next phase, we will move away from communal taps and transition to household yard connections. Our goal is to ensure that every single family in Ga-Phasha has a functional tap right inside their own yard.

This is the progressive delivery service we promise to sustain. We will continue to work together with the Capricorn District Municipality under Executive Mayor Teffo, and the Molemole Local Municipality under Mayor Paya, to ensure no village is left behind.

Let this water flow as a symbol of renewed health, abounding joy and unstoppable development. Change has come to Ga-Phasha, and indeed, this community will never be the same again.

I thank you.