



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**SPEECH BY THE MEC FOR COGHSTA, MR BASIKOPO MAKAMU,  
REPRESENTING THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, DR PHOPHI  
RAMATHUBA, DURING THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL (DDM)  
OVERSIGHT SESSION**

27 August 2026

**MOSES MABOTHA COMMUNITY HALL, FETAKGOMO-TUBATSE,  
SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

Programme Director, MEC Kgabo Mahoai

Members of the Executive Council,

Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Her Worship Cllr  
Minah Bahula

Host Mayor of Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality, His Worship Cllr  
Eddie Maila,

Other Mayors of Sekhukhune local municipalities

Speakers and Chief Whips present,

Our esteemed Traditional Leaders, the custodians of our culture and land,  
led by the Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional and Khoi-San  
Leaders, Hosi Ngove and his Deputy Kgoshi Rammupudu (Phaahla)

Director General of Limpopo Mr Nape Nchabeleng

Heads of Department

Municipal Managers from Sekhukhune District and local municipalities  
Representatives from Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA),  
ESKOM, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), Department of Water and  
Sanitation (DWS), Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR)  
and Department of Small Business Development (DSBD),  
Distinguished officials and colleagues,

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

We have spent this week walking the ground, inspecting sites, and  
evaluating the work of government in the Sekhukhune District. We shall have  
an opportunity tomorrow to report back to communities on our findings,  
practical interventions we are going to put in place and assuring them about  
our resolve to make this district an economic hub that it is destined to  
become.

This closed session is not merely a formality; it is a moment for us to be  
brutally honest about where we stand, where we have succeeded and where  
we must accelerate our pace.

We are back in Sekhukhune just three years after the Presidential Imbizo at  
Ga-Motodi, Burgersfort. That was not a social gathering; it was a pact  
between the government and the people. Today, we are here to audit that  
pact.

We must begin by noting the profound progress we have made together.  
Three years ago, Sekhukhune District Municipality faced the existential

threat of insolvency. Today, we are proud to say that the district has turned the corner; the threat of insolvency is a thing of the past. We have stabilized the ship and the Council has adopted various recovery plans that are being monitored on a regular basis.

Furthermore, we commend the leadership for the strides made in professionalising the administration. We are no longer operating with "acting" personnel in critical positions. All Municipal Manager posts, all Chief Financial Officer posts and all Technical Service Manager posts across this district are now filled. Stability in administration is the foundation upon which service delivery is built.

For over 20 years, the relocation of Sekhukhune District offices from Lebowakgomo has been a conversation of "if and when." Today, we can say it is a conversation of "how and when."

The transfer of land to the Department of Public Works and Roads is done. The township establishment application is approved. The geotechnical and hydrological studies are complete. We are in the planning phase now and we are moving toward construction by January 2028. Whilst waiting for the construction to begin, we shall use available offices to move in bits in pieces some of the departments to Sekhukhune. When the offices are done; they will not just be an office block; they will be a beacon of government efficiency in the heart of this district.

However, colleagues, we cannot discuss growth without discussing water. We know that water insecurity is the single greatest impediment to the

economic potential of Sekhukhune. We are moving from promises to practical unblocking.

The Ga-Maphopha reservoir is ready to proceed. They are refining the scope for the Nkadimeng Regional Water Supply. They are commissioning Malekana to Jane Furse.

But let us be clear: fragmented approaches will not solve this. Therefore, in the coming months, we will assist the municipality in launching a dedicated “Water War Room”, modelled after the successful interventions in Polokwane, Vhembe (Makhado) and Mopani. We need a war room because we are in a war against water scarcity.

We are paying special attention to Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM). To be ranked among the top 17 growing towns in South Africa is no small feat - it is a testament to the mineral wealth and the resilience of your people.

But growth must be inclusive. We are working with the Department of Higher Education and Training and our Traditional Leaders to establish the Sekhukhune Beneficiation and Mining Academy, an undertaking that was made during the Presidential Imbizo. The task team has finalised the concept and the business model and we are now moving to the site identification and funding mobilisation phase. This academy will ensure that the children of Sekhukhune are the primary beneficiaries of the minerals beneath their feet.

The designation of Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone has now paved a way for unlimited growth potential for this local municipality as well as the district in its entirety. Let us therefore maximise on development whose lifespan outlives that of the current mines.

We have also taken note of the demands that a growing Fetakgomo-Tubatse requires – a dedicated and big hospital as well as a school of a nature that would be able to accommodate the size of population that the growth of this town is projected. These are plans that we shall work on to bring to fruition.

To our Mayors and officials: we have seen your work this week. You are creating partnerships that were previously non-existent. You are managing disaster funds with greater prudence. But we need more. We need speed.

To our traditional leaders and our social partners from ESKOM, MISA, and others: you are the pillars of this district. When we falter, hold us accountable. When we succeed, let us succeed together.

This DDM oversight visit is not the end; it is a calibration. We are here to listen and more importantly, we are here to unlock the potential of this district.

Let us leave here not with more reports, but with more resolve. Let us deliver.

I thank you.