

ADDRESS BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA, DURING THE  
HANDOVER OF NEW VEHICLES TO TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT AT  
THE OLD PETER MOKABA STADIUM, POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY,  
CAPRICORN DISTRICT

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Ms Nakedi Kekana,  
MMC for Community Safety, Polokwane Municipality, Cllr, Joosuf Pemma  
Head of Department of Transport and Community Safety, Mr Steven  
Matjena,  
Senior Management of the Department,  
Our dedicated Traffic Officers,  
Members of the Media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

It is an honour and privilege to be part of this important occasion as we  
hand over new vehicles that will strengthen the capacity of our traffic law  
enforcement officers across the province.

This occasion could not have come at a more appropriate time. In just a  
few days, we will officially enter the October Transport Month, a period  
during which we intensify our focus on road safety, responsible road use  
and the protection of lives on our roads.

Today we are handing over tools of service, tools of protection and most importantly, tools that carry the hope of safer roads and safer journeys for the people of Limpopo.

As government, our responsibility is not only to build roads and improve infrastructure. We must also ensure that these roads are used responsibly and that those who use them are protected from reckless and irresponsible behaviour.

We have, for some time, observed that a significant number of serious crashes occur after hours, particularly during the late hours of the night and the early hours of the morning. It is precisely during these hours, when many people are asleep, that our traffic officers must remain vigilant.

We therefore want to see a strengthened 24-hour traffic law enforcement system across the province. The message must be clear: the absence of daylight must never mean the absence of law enforcement.

We have already demonstrated what increased visibility and enforcement can achieve. During the Easter period last year, we piloted intensified traffic law enforcement, resulting in heightened visibility on our roads. For the first time, the N1 did not record a single accident during that period.

That experience taught us an important lesson: when we increase our capacity, increase visibility and enforce the law consistently, we can make a difference.

This is why the Provincial Government embarked on a massive recruitment drive for traffic officers. We have recruited 154 traffic learners, with a further

204 currently being recruited. But recruitment alone is not enough. Our officers must have the tools, equipment and vehicles necessary to perform their duties effectively.

The new vehicles will augment our existing fleet and strengthen patrols along some of our busiest and most strategically important routes, including the N1, R81, R37 and R71, where large volumes of traffic move every day.

These vehicles will serve three important purposes.

First, they will increase visibility. A visible law enforcement presence serves as a deterrent to reckless driving, criminal activity and violations of the law.

Second, they will reduce response times. With more vehicles deployed strategically across the Province, our officers will be closer to incidents and able to respond more rapidly when their intervention is required.

Third, the presence of a traffic enforcement vehicle and the flashing of its blue lights sends a simple but powerful message: the law is present, and motorists must comply with it.

From Musina to Mantsole, from Phalaborwa to Polokwane, and from Burgersfort to Polokwane, we want our motorists to know that law enforcement is present on our roads.

But, fellow South Africans, let us also be honest: government cannot place a traffic officer in every vehicle. The message that road safety starts with me must become more than a campaign slogan. It must become a culture.

It starts with the driver who decides not to drink and drive. It starts with the motorist who chooses not to speed. It starts with the driver who refuses to overtake dangerously. It starts with the pedestrian who uses the road responsibly. It starts with passengers who have the courage to speak up when a driver puts their lives at risk.

Let us love our families enough to think about them before we make a dangerous decision on the road. Let us think twice before speeding. Let us think twice before overtaking where it is unsafe. One reckless decision can change the course of many lives forever.

As we hand over these vehicles today, we expect our traffic officers to take care of these vehicles: these vehicles must add value to the lives of our people.

They are tools of government and must be used for government business. They are not for private errands. They are not for unnecessary parking at shopping malls. They belong on our roads, where they are needed most.

I therefore expect the Department to deploy these vehicles strategically, particularly in high-accident zones and along routes where the risk to motorists and pedestrians is greatest.

I further urge the Department to maintain these vehicles properly. We must protect our public assets and ensure that these vehicles serve our traffic officers for many years. It would be regrettable for vehicles acquired to save lives to spend more time at panel beaters than on our roads.

We want a Limpopo where our roads are safe.

We want a Limpopo where our people arrive alive.

It is now my pleasure to officially hand over these new vehicles for immediate deployment in the service of the people of Limpopo.

I thank you.