



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PREMIER'S ADDRESS AT THE UNITED AFRICAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, HA-MAVHUNGA, NZHELELE, VHEMBE DISTRICT**

Programme Director, Archbishop Itani Joseph Mureri;
Leadership of the United African Apostolic Church;
MEC for Social Development, Ms Florence Radzilani;
MEC for LEDET, Dr Tshitereke Matibe;
MEC for Public Works Roads and Infrastructure, Mr Ernest Rachoene
Executive Mayor of Vhembe District, Cllr Miyelani Chauke;
Mayor of Makhado Local Municipality, Cllr Dorcus Mmboyi;
Councillors;
Mayor of Musina Municipality, Cllr Nkhanedzeni Mawela
Secretary General of the ANC, Mr Fikile Mbalula;
Provincial Secretary of the ANC in Limpopo, Vha Musanda Vho-Reuben
Madadzhe;
Members of the United African Apostolic Church;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ndi matsheloni, Avuxeni, Thobela, Good morning, Goeie môre.

It is a profound blessing for us to stand before you today, in this sacred place of worship, at Ha-Mavhunga in Nzhelele. We do not take this invitation lightly. We appreciate the rare opportunity we have been given to address a

gathering of worshippers in this fashion and we understand its deeper meaning.

I have been in this gathering before, but today is different.. That speaks to something greater than protocol. It speaks to the coming together of faith and public responsibility. It speaks to a government that must come closer to the people. It speaks to a church that has remained close to the people all these years.

We welcome this moment because we know that when government and faith institutions meet with sincerity, the people benefit. The church forms conscience. Government must form action. The church prays. Government must deliver. The church comforts. Government must build. The church teaches us to love one another. Government must create the conditions for that love to be expressed in dignity, justice and service.

We come here at a time when many people are losing trust in government, despite the hard work we continue to do to change lives. A few days ago, I reminded another gathering that this is a difficult period because we have made people believe that change is possible. And when people have seen even a little progress in one village, they begin to ask why that progress has not yet reached the next village. Why the tar road is not there. Why electricity has not yet arrived. Why water remains a challenge. Why services still lag behind.

But that impatience, brothers, sisters friends, is not a sign of hopelessness. It is a sign that our people know what government can do. They have seen

enough transformation to expect more. That is why your invitation warms our hearts. It tells us that you still see government as a partner. You still see our role as important. You still believe that government can work with the church to build a better society.

We had previously intended to come here, but circumstances did not allow it. We are therefore pleased to be here now, at a time when there is also an element of stability in the leadership of the church, something that had previously concerned us and which has now settled. Stability is important in any institution. Stability allows for growth. Stability allows for trust. Stability allows for continuity in service to the people of God.

The United African Apostolic Church is part of South Africa's broader African Initiated and Apostolic church tradition, a proud tradition born out of the determination of African Christians to worship God with dignity, in their own voice, in their own spiritual language and in their own community structures. You are not a footnote in our history. You are central to the story of African faith.

We thank you for being pioneers of faith, long before the mushrooming of modern-day churches. You carried the gospel with discipline, with reverence, with song, with prayer and with a deep sense of belonging. You helped build families. You helped shape morality. You helped protect communities. You helped keep hope alive in difficult times.

We honour the giants of this church — Bishop Matsea Paulos Mureri, who planted this great work in 1912; the elders who stood with him; Bishop

Jeremiah Mureri; and Archbishop Dr Elias Muthuhadini Muleya Mureri, who helped expand the church across provinces and beyond our borders. Their names must never fade. Their sacrifice must never be forgotten. Their vision must never be reduced to history only. They are part of the spiritual inheritance of this province and this nation.

Growing up, some of us used to listen to the song with the refrain, “Ha Miriri Ri Dzula Ro Takala.” That song captured something beautiful about this church — its welcoming spirit, its joy, its warmth, its ability to make people feel at home in the presence of God. That is the kind of church South Africa needs more of today: a church that is joyful, disciplined, embracing, and spiritually alive.

But brothers and sisters, faith must also speak to the pain of our times. The Bible teaches us in Micah 6:8 that the Lord requires us to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. That scripture is not merely for Sunday preaching. It is a blueprint for life.

Act justly means we must do what is right and fair. It means we must defend the weak and help those in need. It means we must build a society where the poor are not forgotten and where the vulnerable are not crushed by inequality.

Love mercy means we must care deeply for others. We must show kindness, compassion and forgiveness, even when people do not expect it. It also means the church must be at the frontline in the fight against Gender-Based Violence, which has torn at the moral fabric of our nation. We need

young people who are not only saved in spirit, but who are also empowered to defend human dignity, to respect women, to protect children, and to stand against violence in every form.

Walk humbly with your God means we must remember that all good things come from Him. It means no pride, no arrogance, no self-exaltation. It means both church and government must remain servants of the people.

That is why we seek partnerships with institutions like this church. We want to work with you in strengthening families, promoting moral regeneration, fighting social ills, encouraging education, supporting community development, and helping our people live better lives.

Government cannot do everything alone. The church cannot do everything alone. But together, guided by faith and committed to the common good, we can do much more.

As we move toward the elections on 04 November 2026, I want to remind this congregation of the importance of voting. Democracy is not a spectator sport. It is a duty. It is a responsibility. It is a chance for our people to speak with their own hands and mark the future they want for themselves and their children. Let us encourage our communities to participate fully, peacefully and consciously in that process.

Let us also remain united. Let us stay united in honour of the message of the past bishops. Let us preserve what they built. Let us strengthen what they

planted. Let us carry forward a church that remains a beacon of faith, order, joy and service.

To the leadership of the United African Apostolic Church, we say thank you for your invitation, thank you for your witness and thank you for your contribution to the moral and spiritual life of our people.

Ndzi khensile swinene. Ke a leboga. Ndi a livhuwa. Thank you.