SPEECH BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA DURING THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF MOBILE CLINICS AT OLD PETER MOKABA STADIUM, POLOKWANE MUNICPALITY, CAPRICON DISTRICT

30 October 2026

Programme Director,

MEC for Health, Mr Eddie Maila,

Executive Mayor of Capricorn District, Cllr Mamedupi Teffo,

Acting Mayor of Polokwane Municipality, Cllr Joosuf Pemma,

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health, Hournarable Thabo Mabotja,

Head of Department, Dr Ntodeni Ndwamato,

Hospital CEOs,

Healthcare professionals and officials,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thobela, Avuxeni, Ndi Matsheloni, Good morning, Goeie môre!

A healthy nation is a nation with hope, dignity and the power to build its own future. Yet, for many of our people, accessing healthcare has meant travelling long distances, spending money they cannot afford and enduring hardships simply to consult a nurse or receive medical attention.

Today, we are changing that reality. We are taking healthcare beyond the walls of our clinics and hospitals, bringing it closer to our communities and

placing it where it belongs: within reach of every person, regardless of where they live or their economic circumstances.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the Limpopo Provincial Government, we recognise that primary healthcare is the foundation of a responsive and effective health system. We cannot speak of quality healthcare while communities remain isolated from essential services. We cannot promise dignity while distance becomes a barrier between our people and the medical attention they need.

This is why the handover of these mobile clinics is an investment in human life, an affirmation of our commitment to universal access to healthcare and a practical demonstration that health is a priority, not a privilege.

Our province is vast and not every community lives within the ideal five-kilometre radius of a fixed healthcare facility. Through mobile clinics, we are bridging this gap and ensuring that geography does not determine who receives care and who is left behind.

Historically, our department has delivered mobile healthcare through 115 teams serving more than 2,000 visiting points. Today, we are strengthening this capacity through the procurement of 148 new, fit-for-purpose mobile clinics, replacing an ageing fleet and improving the quality and reach of our services.

These modern units enable our nurses and healthcare professionals to provide a more comprehensive package of primary healthcare services directly to communities, schools and workplaces.

Through these mobile clinics, our people can access screening for HIV, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections, as well as testing for diabetes and high blood pressure. Services also include antenatal care, child immunisation, maternal and child health services, cervical cancer screening, chronic disease management and preventive healthcare.

This means earlier detection, timely intervention and better health outcomes. It means a mother can access care closer to home, a child can receive essential immunisations and a person living with chronic conditions can receive support without unnecessary travel.

Programme Director,

Our investment in infrastructure and equipment must be matched by investment in the people who deliver these services. A mobile clinic is only as effective as the dedicated professionals who operate it and serve our communities.

I am therefore encouraged that the Department of Health has facilitated the acquisition of Professional Driving Permit (PrDP) licences by 174 primary healthcare officials during the current financial year. This intervention strengthens the department’s operational capacity and enables more personnel to support the expanded mobile clinic fleet.

We commend the department for recognising that improving healthcare requires both appropriate equipment and a capable workforce.

To our healthcare professionals, we thank you for your dedication. These vehicles are tools in your hands to save lives, restore hope and bring compassionate care to those who need it most.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The distribution of these mobile clinics across our districts will be guided by the specific healthcare needs of our communities, ensuring that areas facing greater challenges in accessing healthcare receive the necessary attention.

As we expand access to these essential services, we also call upon the department and all personnel entrusted with these vehicles to take good care of this valuable public infrastructure.

These mobile clinics belong to the people of Limpopo, and we must protect, maintain and use them responsibly to ensure that they serve their intended purpose and benefit our communities for many years to come.

As we hand over these mobile clinics, let us remember that their true value will not be measured by the number of vehicles delivered, but by the lives touched, illnesses detected early and communities reached.

Let us take healthcare to the people, close the distance between need and service and build a Limpopo where no one is denied quality healthcare because of where they live.

Together, let us grow a healthier Limpopo and a healthier nation.

I thank you.