

SPEECH BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA DURING THE
CHURCH VISIT TO THE NEW AFRICAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH,
MALAVUWE, THULAMELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT

11 OCTOBER 2026

Programme Director,
Bishop Tendani Nangammbi Tshifularo Gogome,
Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Miyelani Chauke,
Mayor of Thulamela Local Municipality, Cllr Sara Rammbuda,
Councillors,
Traditional Leaders,
Faith-Based Leaders,
Leadership of the New African Apostolic Church,
Congregants,
Distinguished Guests,

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

Ndi ri mulalo vhakhethwa vha Mudzimu.

Ndi khuliso khulwane u ima phanda havho namusi, vhukati ha tshivhidzo
tsho tanganywaho nga lutendo, tsho khwathisedzwaho nga thabelo,
nahone tsho vhofhekanywaho nga lufuno lwa Mudzimu.

Musi ndi tshi lavhelesa tshivhidzo itshi, ndi humbula uri maanda a kereke ha lingwi nga vhuḁi ha tshifhaṱo tshayo fhedzi, fhedzi a dovha a vhonala kha lutendo lune ya lu ṱuṱuwedza, vhutshilo vhune ya vhu shandula na lufuno lune ya lu sumbedza kha shango lire nga nda ha minango yatsho.

Namusi ri ṱangana fhanu Malavuwe kha tshifhinga tsha ndeme kha vhutshilo ha New African Apostolic Church, musu i tshi pembelela miṱwaha ya 12 ya u vha hone hayo. Ndi miṱwaha ya 12 ya lutendo, miṱwaha ya 12 ya tshumelo, na miṱwaha ya 12 ya u ṱetshedza thikhedzoi kha zwa tshimuya na fulufhelo kha zwitshavha zwi re kha vundu ṱashu. Tshikalo itshi tshi fanela u pembelelwa nga u livhuha, u ḁiṱukufhadza na u dovha ra ḁikumedzela kha mushumo wa Mudzimu.

Mudzulatshidulo wa Mbekanyamushumo, tshiimiswa tshiṱwe na tshiṱwe tshihulwane tshi thoma nga bono, fhedzi ifa ṱatsho ṱi vhonala kha vhutshilo vhune tsha kwama. Ngauralo, ri hulisa mutumbuli vho no risiyaho, Archbishop Tshisaphungo Samson Gogome Tshifularo, vhe bono ṱavho na vhurangaphanda havho ha muya zwa vhea mutheo une kereke iyi ya bvela phanda na u fhaṱa khawo.

Ri dovha hafhu ra ṱhonifha Bishop Tendani Nangammbi Tshifularo Gogome, vhe vha ita ḁivhazwakale nga ṱa 23 Tshimedzi 2021 musu a tshi vha bishop wa musadzi wa u thoma kha ḁivhazwakale ya New African Apostolic Church.

Bishop Gogome, your leadership is a powerful reminder that women have an important role to play in leading, nurturing and strengthening our spiritual institutions. Your journey sends a message to every young girl that leadership is not beyond her reach and that her dreams should never be limited by the circumstances into which she was born.

When we empower women to lead, we do not diminish our institutions; we strengthen them. When a young girl sees a woman leading with courage and conviction, she begins to understand that her own future is full of possibilities.

Mutshimbidza mushumo, mushumo wa kereke kha tshitshavha a u athu u vhuya wa vha wa ndeme u fana na zwino. Muvhuso u nga fhaṭa bada, u ṅetshedza tshumelo na u sika zwickhala, fhedzi ri dovha ra ṭoḽa zwiimiswa zwine zwa alusa mikhwa yavhuḽi, zwa ṭuṭuwedza u pfelana vhuṭungu na u hambudza vhathu vhashu nga ha vhuḽifhinduleli havho kha vhaṅwe.

Kereke ndi mutikedzi wa ndeme kha u fhaṭa zwitshavha zwine vhathu vha ṭhogomelana, miṭa ya khwaṭhiswa, nahone vhadzulapo vha re khomboni vha tsireledzwe. Nga pfunzo dzayo na u shumisana na zwitshavha, New African Apostolic Church i nga bvela phanda na u shela mulenzhe kha u vusulusa mikhwa yavhuḽi na kha u fhaṭa tshitshavha tsho ḽisendekaho nga tshirunzi, ṭhonifho na u dzhia vhuḽifhinduleli.

This responsibility is particularly urgent as we confront gender-based violence and femicide. Our women and children continue to face abuse, intimidation and violence that rob them of their dignity and in the most tragic circumstances, their lives.

I therefore call upon the New African Apostolic Church to continue being a place of safety, comfort and support for survivors. Let those who experience abuse find the courage to speak, the support to seek help and the assurance that they are not alone. Let our churches work with government and relevant institutions to protect the vulnerable and hold perpetrators accountable.

Programme Director, as we look towards the future, we must also recognise the wisdom and contribution of our elders. To the elders gathered here today, you are living libraries of experience, faith and resilience. Your responsibility is to pass your wisdom to the younger generation, not only through your words, but through the example you set.

Our youth face many challenges, including unemployment, substance abuse, peer pressure and uncertainty about the future. They need guidance, encouragement and opportunities to realise their potential. Let the church be a place where young people are not condemned for their struggles but guided towards better choices and equipped with the values that will sustain them throughout life.

Musi ri tshi khou sendela kha khetho dza masipala dza la 4 Lara 2026, ri tea u dovha ra humbula uri lutendo na vhudifhinduleli ha u vha mudzulapo wavhuḁi zwi tea u tshimbila zwo tanganelana. Muthu muḁwe na muḁwe o teaho nga u vouta u na tshikhala tsha u shela mulenzhe kha u vhumba vhumatshelo ha tshitshavha tshawe.

Ndi tuḁuwedza vhatendi vhoḁhe vhane vha fanelea u vouta uri vha shumise pfanelo yavho ya demokirasi, vha ite tsheo dzo ḁisendekaho nga ndivho yo teaho, nahone vha shele mulenzhe kha maitele a khetho nga mulalo. Tsheo dzine dza dzhiiwa kha masipala washu dzi kwama vhutshilo ha vathu ḁuvha liḁwe na liḁwe, u bva kha u wana maḁi na bada u swika kha tshumelo dza masipala na mveledziso ya vhupo.

U shela mulenzhe kha maitele a demokirasi ndi iḁwe ya ndila dza u shela mulenzhe kha u vha na vhurangaphanda vhune ha dzhia vhudifhinduleli nahone ha fhindula thoḁea dza vathu kha muvhuso wapo.

To Bishop Gogome and the entire New African Apostolic Church, congratulations on reaching this important milestone. May the legacy of your founder continue to guide you, may your leadership remain steadfast and may your ministry continue to touch lives across Limpopo and beyond.

I thank you. Ndi a livhuwa. Ke a leboga. Na khensa.