

SPEECH BY THE PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA, AT THE INTERACTION WITH THE
LIMPOPO HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL AND KHOI-SAN LEADERS

30 OCTOBER 2026

Programme Director,
The Chairperson and Leadership of the Limpopo House of Traditional and Khoi-San
Leaders, Hosi Ngove
Esteemed Dikgosi, Ndavezitha, Vho-Thovhele,
Members of the Executive Council present,
Senior Government Officials,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to greet you all with the utmost respect. The past few months have seen us interacting frequently - at various civic functions, in our respective areas of jurisdiction and during our recent engagements where we listened closely to the critical matters you raised on behalf of your communities.

Because of this ongoing dialogue, today's interaction is not about starting from the beginning; it is a matter of emphasis and accountability. It was not so long ago that we convened in Mokopane, where several pressing issues were tabled, and we made a solemn promise to attend to them with the urgency they deserve.

I have always insisted that when a democratic government makes a commitment to its people, it must honour that commitment without fail. Today, I am especially pleased that we can present concrete results - including crucial stop-gap measures to undo the negative impacts of previous court rulings regarding community levies.

For many years, funds held in the Traditional Levies and Trust Accounts remained unpaid to their rightful beneficiaries. This unfortunate delay was the result of complex historical and administrative legacies dating back to the former homelands of Lebowa, Gazankulu, and Venda. These funds represent the genuine sacrifices, contributions and aspirations of communities who invested in their own self-reliance and the future of their children. The people who contributed did so believing their resources would serve their communities. As a democratic administration, we carry the sacred responsibility to protect and honour that trust.

Today, I am proud to announce that the 7th Administration of Limpopo has reached the final stage of a comprehensive verification, audit and allocation process. Following an extensive review and the implementation of a rigorous audit action plan, a total of R30.7 million in accumulated interest is being disbursed to Traditional Councils across Limpopo today, fulfilling the undertaking we made during our recent dialogue.

In addition, government has verified and approved outstanding claims for Traditional Councils under Bushbuckridge - which historically belonged to Limpopo before boundary changes placed it in Mpumalanga. Following joint verification, the approved amount totalling R1.13 million, is also being settled.

Combined, these pay-outs amount to R31.85 million. This is far more than a mere financial transaction; it is a profound demonstration of accountable governance, mutual institutional respect, and honour for traditional leadership. Every calculation was rigorously reviewed because public trust is built solely through absolute transparency and integrity. These funds will greatly strengthen your traditional institutions, advance community interests, improve local governance, and drive socio-economic development across our rural villages.

We are equally proud of our collaborative strides in agrarian development. Recently, we enrolled 13 senior traditional leaders in our Traditional Leaders Livestock Improvement Programme, sponsoring each participating volunteer with four heifers and a bull. This is a true game-changer for rural economies. By upgrading local stock genetics, improving herd health and instilling modern commercial farming practices among our traditional leaders, we are transforming subsistence farming into sustainable, wealth-generating rural enterprises. We invite more of you to step forward and join this visionary initiative.

Furthermore, just a month ago, we launched our Backyard Farming Support Programme, which requires your active guidance. While it may look modest at first glance, its collective impact on household food security is immense. We rely on you, our esteemed senior traditional leaders, to assist agricultural extension officers in identifying and selecting 11 deserving candidates per traditional council who will each receive a R4,000 voucher to procure essential farming equipment.

Esteemed Magoshi, you remain our indispensable partners in maintaining social cohesion, preserving our invaluable cultural heritage, and accelerating development in our rural heartlands. Let us continue to walk this path hand in hand, building prosperous, dignified and united communities for generations to come.

I thank you.