ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA, AT THE 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT AND GALA DINNER

09 NOVEMBER 2026
THE RANCH RESORT, POLOKWANE

The Provincial Electoral Officer, Ms Nkaro Mateta,
Members of the Executive Council,
Representatives of Political Parties,
Members of the Electoral Commission in Limpopo,
Representatives of the South African Police Service,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening, Riperile, Thobela, Ndi madekwana!

Today marks the joyous culmination of months of intensive planning, rigorous implementation and vigilant observation since the announcement that our Local Government Elections would be held in November 2026. We have walked a long and demanding path - from the very first calls for voter registration to the ultimate, decisive day of voting on 04 November 2026.

What stands out above all else during this period is the unwavering courage, professionalism and resilience of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) here in Limpopo. To Ms Mateta and your entire team, orchestrating these massive democratic local government elections was no small feat and for your dedication to our democracy, we are truly grateful and thankful.

We are informed that across our province, 3,315 voting districts were successfully managed and counted, representing 22 municipal councils.

We are immensely proud to note a voter turnout of 48.04%, which is an encouraging increase from the 46% recorded in 2021. This growth is a testament to the hard work done by all stakeholders to inspire citizens to come out and participate in shaping their local governance.

However, while we celebrate this positive rise, we must remain sober-minded: the fact that over 51% of registered voters still did not see the need to participate must continue to concern and challenge us all to do better.

We must also proudly acknowledge that Limpopo once again stands out as a beacon of peace. These elections were among the most peaceful in our history, completely devoid of intimidation, closed voting stations, or the unfortunate elements that so often mar free and fair elections elsewhere.

Whatever minor challenges arose were swiftly and professionally handled by our dedicated members of the South African Police Service, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude.

As the provincial government, we accept these election results as the clear, sovereign voice of the people of Limpopo. Through their votes, our residents have spoken decisively about who they want to represent them in their municipalities.

More importantly, our people have spoken loudly and clearly about the burning issues that affect their daily lives: the critical need for reliable water, better roads, job creation, economic opportunities and consistent community feedback from their elected leaders.

To all political parties and newly elected councillors gathered here tonight: take heed of these sacred matters. The next five years must not be business as usual. You must ensure that the residents of Limpopo genuinely feel a profound, positive difference in their lives because of the real, tangible changes you will bring to their communities.

As political parties go into stages of negotiating hung Councils do that cognisant of what the people who have voted are expecting – working Councils.

Let us roll up our sleeves, work across party lines where service delivery is concerned and actively build lasting confidence among the people of Limpopo.

Congratulations to all participants, to the IEC and above all, to the resilient people of Limpopo who have once again made our democracy proud.

I thank you.