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# LegisTalk

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE



## SCOPA

ENSURES ACCOUNTABILITY AND  
FINANCIAL INTEGRITY IN LIMPOPO

## SOPA

2025 STATE OF THE  
PROVINCE ADDRESS



## Vision

A capable and representative legislature that aspires to unite and improve the lives of the people of Limpopo.

## Mission

The legislature is an autonomous institution and an agent for transformation that strives to:

- Make impactful laws for the citizens of the province.
- Hold the executive arm of government accountable through oversight and; Have effective, efficient, and meaningful participation of the citizen in the lawmaking processes.

## Values

- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Integrity
- Responsiveness
- Transparency

## Mandate

- Law-making
- Oversight
- Public Participation

# EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Tours to the Limpopo Legislature are open to the general public, schools, and institutions.

Visiting days are Monday to Friday at 08h00 to 16h00, preferably Tuesdays and Thursdays when there is a Sitting.

Appointments are done through the Office of the Secretary.

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# EDITOR'S

## NOTE

Welcome to the fourth quarter edition of our official newsletter, dedicated to the memory of our late honourable members, Hon. Ramathabatha Chidi Tiny Doraine, Hon. Marcelle Frieda Maritz, and Hon. Mphahlele Selaelo Regina. May their souls rest in peace.

In this issue, we continue to strengthen our democracy and showcase the work of the Legislature. We have curated a selection of engaging articles and insightful updates tailored to your interests.

Our *Legistalk* team has diligently brought you the latest developments in the province outlined by the Premier in her State of the Province Address on page 6. This report highlights key trends and noteworthy projects.

On page 8, we provide an overview of the SCOPA, including a review of the Auditor-General's (AG) reports for the 2022/23 and the 2023/24 financial years.

This information will serve as a foundation for the seventh Legislature to address areas that require attention.

Moreover, as you navigate through the pages, you will discover the work of the this administration in different standing and portfolio committees, including insights into oversight, outreach programmes, and features. Each crafted to inform you of the positive contributions the administration yet offers.

The Legislature offers a variety of programmes, and we cannot cover all of them in a single publication. However, we encourage you to visit our social media pages and website, subscribe and share your views. We hope these stories resonate with you.

Thank you for being a valued member of our community.

*Andries Lekalakala*

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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# SPEAKER'S

## NOTE



The Limpopo Legislature is constitutionally empowered to make laws, conduct oversight over the executive, and ensures that there is effective public participation in law making processes. During the current edition, our portfolio committees have conducted oversight visits to various hospitals, healthcare facilities, EMS stations, government infrastructure buildings, local municipalities, and aviation centres in our quests to ensure that quality service is delivered to the people of Limpopo in a sustainable manner. We have also successfully hosted the Premier of the Limpopo Province: Hon. Dr. Phophi Ramathuba as she delivers the 2025 State of the Province Address (SOPA). Our committees will use the SOPA, budget speech together with the departmental Annual Performance Plan (APP) to oversee the performance of the Limpopo government on a quarterly basis.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) was also programmed in the 4th quarter to conclude its financial oversight and accountability business. The SCOPA play a central role in overseeing the financial affairs of the departments and public entities. The role of SCOPA is thus critical in ensuring that public funds are used effectively, efficiently and economically for the benefits of the public not individuals. We have also received and processed numerous petitions from the people of Limpopo. The petition processes is one of the effective and impactful mechanisms used by the Limpopo Legislature in addressing service delivery issues emanating from the citizens of Limpopo.

As part of deepening and strengthening democracy, we have engaged chapter 9 and 10 institutions. We also had meetings with universities in our quest to bridge capacity gaps, specifically when it comes to oversight and accountability matters. The processes are underway to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with chapter 9 and 10 institutions as well as universities.

As public representatives, elected by the public, we do our work with honesty and in the best interests of the public. Our work is to ensure that the public enjoys the fruits of our democracy and that their lives is constantly improves daily.

As I conclude, this *LegisTalk* edition is dedicated to the late Hon. Chidi Tiny Doraine Ramathabatha, Hon. Marcelle Frieda Maritz, and Hon. Selaelo Regina Mphahlele for their commitment and dedication to serve the people of Limpopo. Their departure from planet earth has left a gap at the Limpopo Legislature, and ours is to take their legacy forward.

May the souls of our late Honourable Members continue to rest in peace.

*Dr. Makoena Makhurupetje*

SPEAKER

# SECRETARY'S

NOTE



As we begin the 7th Legislature, we renew our commitment to our constitutional mandate and focus on building a people-centred, transparent, and accountable institution. Sections 114 and 118 of the South African Constitution define the powers and responsibilities of a provincial legislature, including passing laws, holding the executive accountable, and ensuring public involvement. These are fundamental to our democratic role.

With our new vision, “*A capable and representative legislature that aspires to unite and improve the lives of the people of Limpopo*” We aim to elevate the quality of life for every citizen in Limpopo. It calls on us to shift from an output-based mindset to one driven by meaningful impact. Our impact statement, “It’s your voice, use it!”, echoes our obligation to amplify the voices of our people through inclusive legislative processes.

*Legistalk* captures the spirit of these goals, from the Premier’s priorities in the State of the Province Address to oversight reflections from SCOPA and the Auditor-General’s reports, and onto outreach programmes and committee work. These stories express our mandate; law-making, oversight and public participation. The Legislature belongs to the people, and we serve them openly and with purpose.

*Dr M T Maake*

SECRETARY TO THE LEGISLATURE





# Strengthening DEMOCRACY

## The Evolving Role of Constituency Offices

In a bid to bridge the gap between elected representatives and their communities, constituency offices are emerging as vital channels for public engagement and legislative responsiveness. As highlighted in a recent presentation by the Standing Committee on Petitions and Public Participation, these offices serve as structural outreach avenues that foster continuous dialogue between Members of Parliament (MPLs) and the people they represent.

During constituency periods, when the Legislature is not in session, MPLs dedicate their time to being accessible to the public, addressing community concerns, and reporting back on legislative activities. This direct connection helps public

representatives remain informed, responsive, and accountable beyond election cycles. The primary role of constituency offices is multifaceted: they act as hubs of information on government programs, provide links to legislative bodies, and serve as spaces where community issues are escalated to the Legislature. The goal is clear: to empower citizens through direct communication and ensure that their voices shape policies and legislation.

Despite their significance, challenges persist. Engagement remains underutilized, with many citizens unaware of how to leverage these offices for advocacy. Additionally, weak linkages between constituency work and legislative committees

can hinder the flow of valuable community insights into formal legislative processes. To unlock the full potential of constituency offices, investments in public awareness, resources, and stronger integration with legislative mechanisms are essential. By reinforcing these avenues of interaction, governments can cultivate a more inclusive and participatory democracy where communities are not just heard but actively influence the direction of policy-making.

This renewed focus on constituency engagement promises a future where public representatives are not distant figures but accessible advocates, deeply rooted in the realities of the communities they serve.



“ We are planting seeds of industrialization that will bear fruits of prosperity for all



Limpopo Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba delivering her inaugural State of the Province Address (SOPA) where she highlighted key interventions aimed at addressing unemployment, bolstering renewable energy, and supporting local agriculture.

## PREMIER OUTLINES **BOLD VISION** FOR GROWTH AND RESILIENCE

Limpopo Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba delivered her inaugural State of the Province Address (SOPA) with an ambitious roadmap to spur economic growth, enhance infrastructure, and improve the lives of Limpopo residents, in Lebowakgomo on the 27 February 2025. Addressing the Legislature, she highlighted key interventions aimed at addressing unemployment, bolstering renewable energy, and supporting local agriculture.

Premier Ramathuba reaffirmed her commitment to creating jobs through Special Economic Zones (SEZs). The long-anticipated Musina-Makhado SEZ is set to resume operations, with land rezoning finalized and funding unlocked.

Meanwhile, the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ has attracted over R10 billion in investment pledges, poised to generate thousands of jobs.

“We are planting seeds of industrialization that will bear fruits of prosperity for all,” Ramathuba declared.

In a province historically plagued by load reduction, Ramathuba announced groundbreaking renewable energy projects. The Mopani Solar Project, with a R9.8 billion investment, will harness wind and solar power. Additionally, a Steelpoort solar plant is expected to generate up to 1,000 megawatts, promising energy security and employment.

The Premier spotlighted success stories of local farmers, like Wendy Moshakga, who expanded from a backyard garden to a 20-hectare farm with provincial support. Limpopo plans to host an Agricultural Expo, establish new processing plants, and commercialize smallholder farmers to elevate food production and exports.

Flood-damaged roads and water shortages were met with a promise of swift action. The government will repair key transport routes with private-sector partnerships and bolster water access through a functional Provincial Water Task Team. A new disaster relief fund aims to support communities affected by extreme weather.

Limpopo's matric pass rate soared to 85.1% in 2024, and plans are underway to establish more focus schools aligned with economic sectors. The province will also acquire advanced medical equipment, accelerate nursing recruitment, and continue progress on the Central Academic Hospital to enhance healthcare delivery.

Reflecting on 70 years of the Freedom Charter, Ramathuba urged communities, businesses, and civil society to unite for Limpopo's future. "Limpopo's transformation is not the task of government alone — it belongs to all of us," she concluded, rallying stakeholders to build a resilient, prosperous province.

With bold targets, strategic partnerships, and a focus on inclusive growth, Limpopo's 7th Administration is poised to turn promise into progress, lighting a path to a brighter, more sustainable future.



**Left to right:** The Sergeant-at-arms; Mr Ngobeni H, Speaker; Hon. Dr Makoma Makhurupetje, Premier; Dr Phophi Ramathuba and the Secretary to the Legislature; Dr MT Maake.





Chairperson of the Limpopo Legislature's Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA), Hon. Mosibudi Esther Mokoete, during public hearings aimed at scrutinising the financial management of government departments, public entities, and municipalities through the review of reports from the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA).

# SCOPA

## ENSURES ACCOUNTABILITY AND FINANCIAL INTEGRITY IN LIMPOPO.

The Limpopo Provincial Legislature's Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) has embarked on a rigorous round of public hearings in 2025, reinforcing its commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance across all spheres of the provincial government.

Chaired by Hon. Mosibudi Esther Mokoete, SCOPA commenced its

hearings from January to March 2025, scrutinizing the financial statements, audit outcomes, and performance reports of various provincial departments and public entities. The hearings follow the Auditor-General's (AG) reports for the 2022/23 financial year and the 2023/24 financial year, which highlighted persistent challenges in financial management and service delivery across several institutions.

This year's hearings were centered on recurring issues such as unauthorized, irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure, as well as non-compliance with supply chain management protocols. SCOPA has particularly called out entities with qualified audit opinions or those flagged by the AG for material misstatements and poor internal controls.



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Among those appearing before the committee were Members of the Executive Council (MECs) from the Departments of Health, Education, Public Works, and the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), which have historically struggled with audit and service delivery outcomes.



Throughout public hearings, the Committee emphasized that public funds must be used prudently and in a manner that directly benefits the citizens of Limpopo.



"We are not here to play politics. SCOPA represents the people, and we will hold accounting officers to the highest standards of integrity and accountability," said the Chairperson. "The era of unaccounted spending and financial mismanagement must come to an end."



SCOPA has requested that entities under scrutiny present clear remedial action plans, with timelines for addressing audit findings. Failure to comply could result in escalated actions, including recommendations for disciplinary measures or criminal investigations in extreme cases.



In a bid to promote public engagement and demystify the oversight process, SCOPA has opened its hearings to the media and civil society organizations. Livestreaming of sessions has also been implemented for wider public access, fostering a culture of transparency in governance.



As Scopa intends to continue holding the provincial government to account, the committee has made an assurance that it will continue with its hearings quarterly, compared to previously holding them annually. The Legislature has reaffirmed its intent to strengthen its oversight mechanisms, including collaboration with Chapter 9 institutions and the Office of the Auditor-General.



The outcomes of these hearings are expected to shape the Legislature's mid-year review debates and may lead to policy recommendations or legislative amendments to enhance governance standards in the province.





# URGENT HEALTHCARE DEFICIENCIES

## EXPOSED IN LIMPOPO: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE REPORTS ON CRITICAL SHORTAGES & INFRASTRUCTURE FAILURES

In a series of unannounced oversight visits to healthcare facilities across Limpopo, South Africa, the Portfolio Committee on Health uncovered alarming systemic issues that threaten patient care and staff welfare. The visits, conducted between August and October 2024, spanned facilities in Sekhukhune, Vhembe, Mopani, Waterberg, and Capricorn districts, revealing severe staff shortages, crumbling infrastructure, and critical equipment failures.

### **Matlala Hospital (Sekhukhune District)**

Despite some progress since the last visit in 2020, Matlala Hospital remains overwhelmed by human resource shortages. Key managerial positions are filled by acting personnel without compensation, while shortages of midwives, medical officers, and support staff persist. The hospital's mortuary was shut down for non-compliance, the kitchen failed safety certifications, and the EMS station is woefully inadequate.

### **St Rita's Hospital (Sekhukhune District)**

With a staggering 56% vacancy rate, St Rita's struggles to deliver essential services. The hospital lacks critical care staff, has an unfinished ICU renovation, and suffers from water shortages. Patients are transported manually through steep terrains due to a broken elevator, and the kitchen has been makeshift since a 2020 fire.

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### **Polokwane Hospital (Capricorn District)**

A catastrophic MRI machine explosion in August 2024 caused injuries and destroyed the radiology unit, disrupting essential services. While emergency measures are in place, patients requiring advanced imaging must be transferred to other facilities. Investigations are ongoing, with preliminary damage estimates at R5 million.

### **Hayani Psychiatric Hospital (Vhembe District)**

The hospital, operating with a 68% vacancy rate, lacks essential psychiatric staff and has deteriorating infrastructure. Patients often abscond through poorly secured grounds, and families are rejecting rehabilitated patients, leaving them stranded.

### **George Masebe Hospital (Waterberg District)**

While showing improvements in some areas, George Masebe Hospital still faces staffing shortages, with a lack of specialist nurses and a failing mortuary. The maternity ward operates without specialists, and surgical backlogs persist due to the absence of a surgeon.

### **Committee Recommendations**

The Portfolio Committee urged the Department of Health to urgently fill vacant posts, allocate budgets for infrastructure repair, and streamline EMS operations. They emphasized the need for ongoing monitoring to ensure patient safety and staff well-being.

This exposé underscores the dire need for systemic reform in Limpopo's public healthcare system. Without immediate intervention, the province's most vulnerable populations will continue to suffer preventable harm.

# Limpopo Health Facilities Under Strain:

## OVERSIGHT REPORTS REVEAL MAJOR CHALLENGES



A series of unannounced oversight visits to healthcare facilities across the Sekhukhune, Vhembe, Mopani, and Waterberg districts have unveiled severe challenges in the province's healthcare system. Conducted by the Portfolio Committee on Health, these visits assessed the conditions of hospitals, clinics, and emergency medical service (EMS) stations, highlighting critical shortages in human resources, infrastructure decay, and inadequate access to essential healthcare services.

### **Widespread Staff Shortages and Overburdened Facilities**

The reports revealed an alarming lack of medical personnel, including doctors, nurses, and midwives, across multiple hospitals and clinics. St. Rita's Hospital, for instance, has a 56% vacancy rate, while Kgapanne Hospital operates with only 172 out of 262 approved beds due to staff shortages. Many health facilities

also rely on acting personnel without remuneration, adding to low morale and inefficiencies in service delivery.

Several hospitals, including Matlala and Tshildzini, struggle to retain doctors and specialists, exacerbating surgical backlogs and limiting patient care. In Malamulele Hospital, where approximately 350 babies are delivered monthly, the shortage of midwives is particularly concerning.

### **Infrastructure and Equipment Failures**

Many facilities operate in deteriorating buildings with poor maintenance. The Hayani Psychiatric Hospital remains in a dilapidated state, with leaking ceilings, broken doors, and inadequate security measures. George Masebe Hospital reported continued issues with its mortuary, which remains in poor condition despite previous concerns.



Numerous hospitals also face equipment failures. Warmbad Hospital's eye clinic has outdated diagnostic tools, while Malamulele Hospital's dental unit operates with non-functional machinery. Some hospitals, such as Matlala, have kitchen and laundry facilities that fail to meet compliance standards, forcing staff to cook with outdated equipment and rely on outsourced laundry services with inconsistent delivery.

**Emergency Services and Ambulance Shortages**

EMS stations across the districts face dire shortages of personnel and vehicles. Malamulele EMS Station, responsible for 81 villages, has only 36 out of 88 approved staff positions filled, making emergency response times inconsistent. Similar concerns were noted at the Modimolle EMS Station, where staff shortages and inadequate facilities undermine service efficiency.

Some clinics, including Shayandima, lack ambulances altogether, requiring reliance on distant hospitals for emergency transport. Furthermore, poor road infrastructure in rural areas significantly delays response times.

**Water and Sanitation Concerns**

A recurring issue across multiple facilities is inadequate water supply, with some hospitals relying solely on boreholes. At Sibasa Clinic, staff fetch water using buckets due to a broken borehole system. Tshilidzini Hospital, serving 24 primary healthcare facilities, faces overcrowding and poor hygiene due to limited water access.

**Progress and Future Prospects**

Despite these challenges, some improvements were noted. George Masebe Hospital successfully reduced waiting times for outpatient care to under three hours, and several facilities reported improved medicine availability. However, issues such as poor record management, inadequate security, and incomplete infrastructure projects continue to hamper

progress. The Portfolio Committee on Health has urged the Limpopo Department of Health to prioritize filling critical vacancies, expedite infrastructure upgrades, and improve EMS capacity. Plans for a new four-story Tshilidzini Hospital with oncology services are in place, but many other hospitals remain in dire need of revitalization.



*The late Hon. Marcelle Frieda Maritz listening to a presentation during an oversight visit to the Bela Bela Provincial Hospital.*



*Chairperson of the Limpopo Legislature Portfolio Committee on Health Hon Dr. Chuene William Disagree Malebana (Left) and Member of the committee Hon. Matome Jacob Lebogo engaging a presentation during an oversight visit to the Bela Bela Provincial Hospital.*



## FEATURES



## NEW PANDEMIC AND DISASTER

### COMMITTEE ENGAGES STAKEHOLDERS IN INAUGURAL WORKSHOP

In a significant step towards strengthening disaster readiness and response, the newly established Portfolio Committee on Pandemic and Disaster, under the leadership of Chairperson Hon. Mpho Sonnyboy Shai, welcomed key stakeholders at an inaugural workshop. The event marked the beginning of a collaborative effort to enhance the committee's capacity to manage future crises effectively.

The workshop brought together representatives from the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PMDC), the Department of Health, and the Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa (DMISA). Their collective expertise and insights are set to play a pivotal role in shaping the committee's strategic direction.

Hon. Shai emphasized the importance of building a robust framework to tackle both pandemics

and natural disasters, highlighting the need for proactive planning, rapid response mechanisms, and seamless inter-departmental coordination. "Our goal is to ensure that communities are safeguarded against unforeseen emergencies and that the government is well-equipped to mitigate and manage disasters with efficiency," he stated.

The PMDC provided critical guidance on local disaster risk reduction strategies, sharing best practices and lessons learned from previous incidents. The Department of Health offered valuable input on public health emergency protocols, including disease surveillance, outbreak containment, and community health resilience.

DMISA contributed by outlining international standards and training programs for disaster management professionals, reinforcing the committee's commitment to aligning its strategies with global best practices. Stakeholders participated

in in-depth discussions, workshops, and scenario-based simulations designed to test response capabilities and identify potential areas for improvement. The interactive sessions fostered a spirit of collaboration and underscored the collective responsibility in disaster management.

As the workshop concluded, Hon. Shai expressed gratitude to all participants for their dedication and contributions. "This workshop is just the beginning of an ongoing dialogue and partnership. Together, we can build a safer, more resilient future for all citizens," he affirmed.

The Portfolio Committee on Pandemic and Disaster is set to continue its work through regular engagements with stakeholders, policy reviews, and community outreach programs, ensuring that it remains adaptive and responsive to the evolving landscape of disaster management in South Africa.



## THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PAYS AN

# OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE VHEMBE DISTRICT

On the 19th of February 2025, the portfolio committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure visited Manenu Traffic College, Makhado Road Cost Centre, Schoemandal Museum and the R522 RAL Road.

Before proceeding to sites, the Committee led by Hon. Khathu Netshifhefhe met all the relevant stakeholders at the college boardroom. All the issues were thrashed out with the Head of Department Mr. MJ Phukuntsi rolling with the punches in the question-and-answer session. The whole delegation then left to inspect the first site which happened to be “under construction” college canteen.

The Committee was not happy with the delay in project execution. It was evident that the delays were due to lack of construction skills despite holding the relevant certification. The Committee was deeply concerned about the lack of monitoring and accountability by the department on the project.



They further recommended that the construction be stopped and demanded a comprehensive report from the department.

The committee proceeded to the Makhado Road Cost Center. The facility has a responsibility of maintaining just less than a thousand km stretch of roads in and around Makhado which include both tar and gravel. It maintains this by patching potholes on tar and grading the gravel roads. However, the center is

in a state of constant deterioration and lacks enough machinery to execute its duties. It is also severely understaffed. The committee recommended (among other recommendations) that the vacant posts be filled and warm water be provided to workers for bathing and general comfort.

On the Schoemansdal Museum the committee observed that there were cracks on the walls, the toilets were leaking and general electrical issues like poor lighting caused by the “not so working” generator. The committee demanded that they be furnished with a full report on the handover process and recommended that the staff be taken to training.

On all the roads visited, the committee recommended that there be a proactive road maintenance strategy which will ensure quality, durability and a longer lifespan. It was also recommended that a detailed plan be developed, distributed and communicated to communities in time to prevent unnecessary protests.



## PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TAKES

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL CAMPAIGN TO FAR-FLUNG AREAS OF VHEMBE & MOPANI DISTRICTS.

The Portfolio Committee on Education chairperson Hon Nkakareng Chritian Rakgoale led group A team that visited Vhembe and Mopani Districts. The purpose of splitting the Committee into two groups was to ensure that, it was able to cover all the districts in its back to school campaign 2025.

The Portfolio Committee on Education kick started a successful campaign at Phaswana Secondary School in Sibasa area, it is here were the committee met with the school management team , the Circuit Manager and Mphaphuli Traditional Council. The school is performing very well, as it managed to obtain 97,8 grade 12 pass rate. The school has challenge of ablution facility it is very old. The other challenge the school lacks classrooms , they applied for mobile classrooms without success.

The next school which was visited in the Sibasa area was Zwithuzwavhudi Secondary School. Firstly it was very difficult to reach the school, due to bad road conditions caused

by torrential rain. They indicated that during rainy seasons it is very difficult for educators and learners to reach the school this affects effective teaching and learning. The school started in 2001 by government with grade 8 , then the following year it was grade 8 and 9. The school is not performing well, it has a challenge of over aged learners and substance abuse.

On the second day of the visit in Vhembe District the committee visited Rivoni Special School for the blind and Ongedacht Secondary School. Rivoni was started by a Swiss doctor and Rivoni society for the blind in 2006. The school is performing very well by producing 100 percent pass rate and always produces top learners provincially as well as nationally. The major challenge is that the ablution facility are dilapidated. Ongedacht produced 57,6 and they failed to reach a target of 80 percent pass rate they have set for themselves in 2024. To wrap up the visit in Vhembe the committee visited Miriyavhava and Lwenzhe Technical High

Schools. The committee was very pleased with the performance of the two schools and with technical subjects which they offer to learners as this prepare them for job opportunities.

The second leg of the committee 's back to school campaign was in Mopani District with visit to Giva-Mahlathi , Hlomela and Zava High Schools. The three schools are not performing well in grade 12 pass rate and they are experiencing several challenges which includes over aged learners , drug and alcohol abuse. Zava the community is not supporting the principal and smt. They even torched the house and cars of an educator.

The following day the committee wrapped up its visit in Mopani at Hudson Ntsanwisi Senior Secondary School , Khesethwane High School and Mamoding Secondary School. Hudson Ntsanwisi and Khesethwane are performing very well and they are having support from traditional leadership. Mamoding the school is not performing well with grade 12 results.





## THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION VISITS CAPRICORN & SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICTS FOR THE

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

The Portfolio Committee on Education split into two groups to cover all the districts for the 2025 back-to-school campaign. Hon. Peter Ngobeni led the group B team that was mandated to visit Capricorn and Sekhukhune districts.

Their first stop was in Mankweng where the committee visited Setotlwane Special School. There were major challenges in this school ranging from lack of enough buildings, furniture, beds, lockers, and poor sanitation. The other challenge for Setotlwane is water. The committee inspected a freshly drilled borehole which the

SGB purported to be a solution to the water problems the school is experiencing. At the time of the visit, the school was paying an exorbitant amount of money monthly for water and electricity.

The committee's second stop was Texilla High School in Polokwane. Despite the drug abuse challenge that the committee detected, the school is performing well. In fact, for the past five years, Texilla has not performed any less than 96% in its pass rate, with a high enrolment rate of more than 200 learners in matric for the past three years. The committee was more than happy

with the school management system and discipline.

The following day the committee made a turn at both Masoka and Kgalushi high schools in the Blouberg area. Accessibility was the first major challenge in these two schools. During rainy seasons, academic programmes literally grind to a halt due to floods.

On the day of the visit, the area was experiencing heavy precipitation, and it gave the committee a first-hand experience of what the learners and educators go through. At some point, one of the official's



vehicle was totally immersed in the raging waters only miraculously emerge after a while. To round up the Capricorn district, the committee concluded by visiting SJ Van Der Merwe in Lebowakgomo and Tshebela High School in Ga Molepo.

The committee had to immediately intervene in SJ Van Der Merwe on a dispute between the disgruntled SGB members who held the passing of the school budget at ransom due to various disagreements. However, despite the persisting drug abuse challenge the school was doing well and has the capacity of doing even better.

The Committee had little to complain about in Tshebela High School. The school's level of discipline for both educators and learners is highly commendable and is indicative of proper management and teamwork.

In the Sekhukhune district the committee visited the following schools: Kgalatlou, Tshabadietla and Mokhine Secondary schools in the Schoonoord area. In the Grobelsdal area, the committee visited the OR Tambo and Dibathuto secondary schools. Without downplaying other challenges in all the above-mentioned schools in Sekhukhune, the committee decided to flag the abuse of drugs, especially Marijuana as the primary problem that needs a multi-pronged solution.

However, it was not all doom and gloom in Sekhukhune. The committee, on its last item on the programme, visited Mangolwane Secondary School. This is the school that has close to nothing in terms of school furniture and the infrastructure is acutely dilapidated. Due to lack of staffrooms, educators literally go to their cars to prepare between lessons. Despite all that, the managed to achieve a 100% pass rate with more than 80% bachelors.

The Group B Committee met to record and sum up all the findings and recommended that all challenges that need to be addressed urgently be addressed and not wait for normal programming.



Members of the Portfolio Committee on Education led by the Chairperson, Hon. Nkakareng Chritian Rakgoale met with stakeholders at Khesethwane High School.



From left to right: Hon. Peter Ngobeni (Acting Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education), The Principal of Mangolwane Secondary School Mr Maubane, Hon. Gloria Mnisi (Member of the Portfolio Committee) and Ms Faith Mosotho (Committee Researcher)





*The delegation of the Limpopo Legislature led by Secretary to the Legislature Dr M.T Maake during a meeting with the University of Limpopo management to advance and resuscitate the already existing relationship between the university and the Legislature in order to collaborate at the level of research, seminars and knowledge sharing platforms.*

# LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE & UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO

## FORGE STRONGER TIES

In a significant step toward fostering academic and legislative collaboration, the Secretary to the Limpopo Legislature, Dr. T.M. Maake, led a high-level delegation to engage with the leadership of the University of Limpopo today. The meeting aimed to revive and strengthen the longstanding relationship between the two institutions, emphasizing research, seminars, and knowledge-sharing platforms.

The discussions focused on aligning legislative priorities with academic research capabilities to cultivate evidence-based policymaking and dynamic public discourse. Dr. Maake highlighted the need for continuous intellectual exchange, noting that the partnership could bridge the gap between theory and practice, ensuring that legislative processes are informed by cutting-edge research and local expertise. "The Limpopo Legislature recognizes the immense value of

collaborating with the University of Limpopo, a beacon of knowledge and transformation in our province. By pooling our resources and expertise, we can drive impactful research, host meaningful seminars, and create spaces for robust discussions that ultimately benefit our communities," Dr. Maake stated.



The University of Limpopo's leadership echoed this sentiment, expressing enthusiasm for revitalizing the relationship. They underscored the university's commitment to contributing

scholarly insights and facilitating student participation in legislative processes through internships, workshops, and public engagement initiatives.

Key outcomes of the meeting included the establishment of a joint working committee to identify priority research areas, the scheduling of annual knowledge-sharing symposia, and the development of a memorandum of understanding to formalize the collaboration.

This renewed alliance marks a pivotal moment for both institutions, promising to enrich public governance with academic rigor and create a platform for knowledge co-creation that addresses the unique challenges and opportunities within the Limpopo province.

The partnership is poised to not only enhance policy development but also inspire a new generation of thought leaders equipped to drive societal progress through informed, research-backed decision-making.





Members of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety holding discussions during an oversight visit to benchmark best practices, infrastructure standards, and operational efficiency at the Hoedspruit Airforce Base, Eastgate Airport, and Hoedspruit Airport.

## LEGISLATURE CONDUCTS BENCHMARKING VISIT TO **HOEDSPRUIT AVIATION** FACILITIES

The Limpopo Legislature Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, led by Acting Chairperson Hon. Rogers Monama, conducted an oversight and benchmarking visit to the Hoedspruit Airforce Base, Eastgate Airport, and Hoedspruit Airport in the Maruleng Municipality. The visit aimed to assess the operational standards,

infrastructure, and safety measures at these key aviation facilities, as part of the Committee's mandate to enhance transport and community safety in the province. The benchmarking exercise provided an opportunity to compare best practices and identify areas for improvement within Limpopo's aviation sector.

Hon. Monama emphasized the importance of strengthening the province's air transport infrastructure to support economic growth, tourism, and security. "By engaging with key stakeholders and examining industry standards, we can ensure that our province remains competitive while prioritizing safety and efficiency," he stated.

The Committee engaged with aviation authorities, security personnel, and management teams to gain insights into operational challenges and potential areas of collaboration. The findings from this visit will contribute to policy recommendations aimed at improving transport infrastructure and safety in Limpopo.

The Limpopo Legislature remains committed to fostering a safe, reliable, and efficient transport network that serves both residents and visitors to the province.



Brigadier General Tshunungwa of the Air Force Base in Hoedspruit presenting to the Limpopo Legislature Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety during an oversight visit.

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# STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & PETITIONS



*The Limpopo Legislature's Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions, led by Hon. Morris Mataboge, during an Educational Outreach Programme at Chris Hani Community Hall at Ga-Mamaila, Greater Letaba at Greater Letaba Local Municipality in Mopani District.*

## COMMENDED FOR PROGRESS, COMMITS TO CONTINUED OVERSIGHT

The Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions of the Limpopo Legislature has reported significant progress during the current term, having successfully managed the transition from the 6th term without inheriting any backlog. However, the committee reaffirmed its responsibility to follow up on adjudicated petitions from the previous term and ensure that resolutions are implemented by relevant state organs.

In its efforts to strengthen democratic accountability and deepen public oversight, the committee emphasized that the petitions process remains a vital tool to hold government entities accountable. Despite notable successes, the committee acknowledged ongoing challenges, particularly a lack of cooperation and delayed responses from state departments in implementing resolutions.

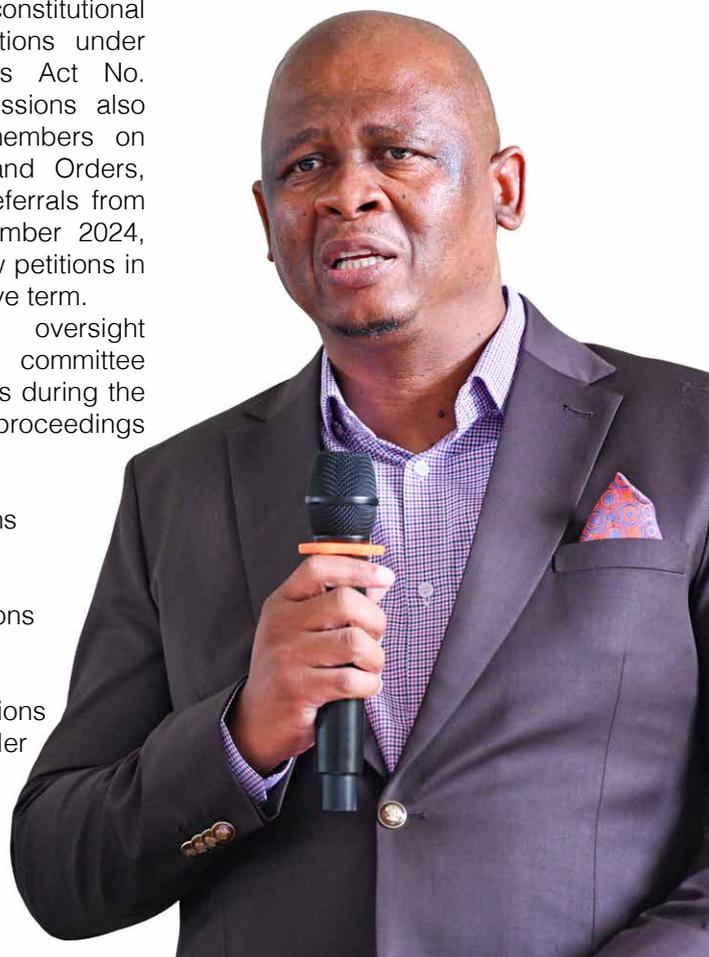
During interactive sessions held on 12 September 2024 and 09 October 2024, the committee reviewed the

legacy report from the 6th term and considered its constitutional and legislative obligations under the Limpopo Petitions Act No. 4 of 2003. These sessions also dealt with briefing members on the Standing Rules and Orders, progress on petition referrals from August 2023 to December 2024, and introduction of new petitions in the current 7th legislative term. As part of its oversight responsibilities, the committee adjudicated 17 petitions during the review period, with proceedings held in two districts:

- **Capricorn:** 13 petitions adjudicated
- **Sekhukhune:** 4 petitions adjudicated

However, the petitions originated from a broader geographic spread:

- **Capricorn:** 11
- **Sekhukhune:** 4
- **Mopani:** 1
- **Vhembe:** 1





A municipal representative welcoming Members of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions during the Educational Workshop at the Mookgopong Community Hall, in Modimolle-Mookgopong Local Municipality, Waterberg district.



Lettie Sithole Waterberg Regional Outreach Officer delivering a presentation on IEC Voter Education during the Educational Workshop at the Mookgopong Community Hall, in Modimolle-Mookgopong Local Municipality.



Members of the public listening to attentively to presentations during the Educational Workshop at the Mookgopong Community Hall, in Modimolle-Mookgopong Local Municipality, Waterberg district.

In conclusion, the committee's proactive approach during the review period showcases its dedication to public engagement and reinforces the importance of the petition system in promoting transparency and service delivery across Limpopo Province.

## Resolved Petitions

A highlight of the committee's work was the successful resolution and closure of six petitions through government intervention:

### 1. Ref 821 – Talane Lydia vs COGHSTA and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality

An RDP house was constructed in Atok. Petitioner Mrs. Raesetja Phasha confirmed satisfaction.

### 2. Ref 988 – Mamata Sarah (Ward 30) vs COGHSTA and Polokwane Municipality

An RDP house was built for a destitute family in Ga-Kama, Mankweng by MEC Bioskop Makamo.

### 3. Ref 1017 – Ms Mahlangu S.J vs Department of Education

Outstanding accommodation allowances (2017–2018) were paid to the petitioner, and the case was closed.

### 4. Ref 1006 – Ms Makgato Raisibe Catherine vs COGHSTA

After a re-adjudication, an RDP house was constructed in Ga-Tjale, Sovenga, fulfilling a 2011 application.

### 5. Ref – Moshate wa Mamabolo vs Polokwane Municipality

A high mast (Apollo) light was installed. Mmakgoshi Mamabolo expressed gratitude, leading to closure.

### 6. Ref 989 – Mehlaphe Thomas & Others vs Department of Health

Concerns about inadequate services at Mamotshoa Clinic in Tsare Ga-Mamabolo were addressed, resulting in improved staffing and services.

The committee has reiterated its commitment to ensuring that organs of state respond timeously and effectively to the concerns raised by the public through petitions. While the resolution of several long-standing issues demonstrates progress, the committee continues to call for stronger compliance from state departments and municipalities in upholding the principles of accountability and responsive governance.





Members of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions taking notes during engagements with stakeholders during an Educational Outreach programme.

# LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE'S OUTREACH PROGRAMME EMPOWERS WATERBERG RESIDENTS

On the 20th of March 2025, the Limpopo Legislature's Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions, under the leadership of Hon. Morris Mataboge, visited the Mookgopong-Modimolle Local Municipality as part of an Educational Outreach Programme. This initiative was aimed at equipping the residents of the Waterberg District with crucial knowledge on how to access government services and address service delivery concerns.

During the engagement, community members raised several pressing issues that have been affecting their daily lives. Chief among these

were persistent water shortages, frequent electricity disruptions, and deteriorating infrastructure. Residents voiced their frustrations over these long-standing challenges, emphasizing the impact on their livelihoods and overall well-being.

Hon. Mataboge and the committee acknowledged these concerns and encouraged the community to take an active role in seeking solutions by formally petitioning the Legislature. They assured residents that the petition process is a powerful tool that enables communities to bring urgent matters to the attention of the provincial government, ensuring that they are addressed effectively.

The outreach programme served as an informative platform, reinforcing the importance of public participation in governance. By empowering residents with knowledge and access to legislative processes, the committee reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing service delivery and improving the quality of life in the Waterberg District.

Residents are encouraged to utilize the petition system to voice their grievances and seek tangible interventions. The Legislature remains dedicated to addressing these concerns and working towards sustainable solutions for communities across Limpopo.



# A LEADERSHIP TRIUMPH IN LIMPOPO

By Dr. Che Selane

In a historic and heartening turn of events, the Limpopo Province recorded zero road fatalities during the Easter 2025 holiday season. This extraordinary outcome not only defies the grim statistics of previous years but also sets a benchmark for road safety strategies across South Africa. It is a powerful testament to what strategic leadership, interdepartmental collaboration, and community mobilisation can achieve when combined with a clear vision and unwavering political will.

Nestled at the northernmost tip of South Africa, Limpopo serves as a key transit corridor linking Gauteng to the rest of Southern Africa. Major routes like the N1 carry thousands of vehicles daily, especially during peak travel seasons, connecting South Africa to Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Mozambique. Yet, this advantageous position has historically come with a deadly cost. The province's vast rural landscape, underdeveloped road infrastructure in some areas, and behavioural challenges such as speeding, reckless driving, and alcohol abuse, have made Limpopo a hotbed for road accidents, especially during long weekends and holiday periods like Easter.

Against this backdrop, the absence of a single road death during Easter 2025 is nothing short of transformative. For the first time in recent memory, Limpopo emerged from a major travel period without the usual reports of road carnage. According to the Limpopo Department of Transport and the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), not a single fatality was recorded province-wide over the Easter weekend. This was not by chance, it was the outcome of deliberate and visionary leadership at all levels of government, supported by robust public engagement and law enforcement visibility.

The cornerstone of this achievement was active and visible leadership. The Premier of Limpopo, Hon. Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, along with Members of the Executive Council (MECs) and the Provincial Legislature, were deployed across the province, engaging with communities, monitoring roads, and overseeing enforcement operations. Their presence signalled that the state was not only issuing directives but standing shoulder-to-shoulder with communities.

This proactive leadership approach boosted public confidence, inspired responsible road behaviour, and reinforced the seriousness of the safety campaign. It showed that leadership is not merely about making speeches but about being present where it matters most.

Beyond political deployment, the success of the Easter campaign was driven by a multifaceted approach involving; pre-emptive public awareness campaigns tailored for rural and urban communities alike, strategic partnerships with taxi associations, churches, and community forums, real-time traffic monitoring and rapid response units across high-risk zones, data-driven decision-making, allowing targeted deployment of resources and personnel.

Crucially, communities were not passive recipients but active partners in the campaign. Traditional leaders, youth formations, and local activists helped spread safety messages, monitor compliance, and encourage a culture of mutual accountability.

One of the most significant outcomes, beyond the statistics, was the observable change in road user behaviour. Taxi drivers adhered to rest breaks and speed limits; private motorists showed improved discipline; pedestrians were more cautious. These changes reflect the power of consistent messaging and visible enforcement, as well as the impact of community-led

accountability. The Easter 2025 success story must not be a once-off. It provides a replicable model for other high-risk periods such as Christmas, school holidays, and long weekends. To sustain and expand on these gains, Limpopo must institutionalise the following practices:

- Formalise the physical deployment of political and administrative leaders during peak periods.
- Continue fostering collaboration between transport, health, safety, and municipal departments.
- Deepen partnerships with civil society, traditional authorities, and youth structures.
- Invest in digital systems to track incidents, compliance, and public sentiment in real time.
- Train public servants, traffic officials, and local leaders in ethical leadership and road safety advocacy.
- Empower the Provincial Legislature's portfolio committees to monitor and report on road safety initiatives.

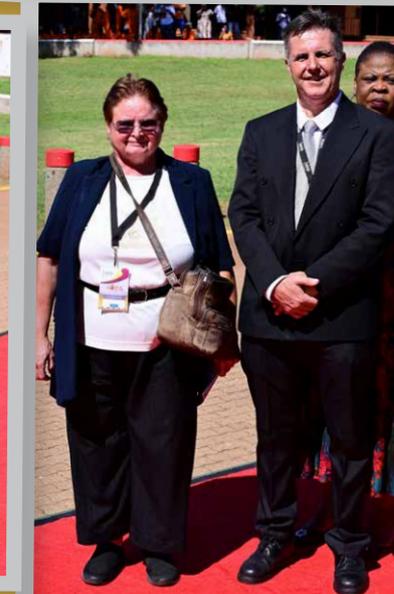
Moreover, the zero-fatality Easter of 2025 is a beacon of hope and a model of what effective leadership and cohesive governance can achieve. It demonstrates that road safety is not merely a traffic issue, it is a developmental, ethical, and governance imperative. The Limpopo Provincial Government, under the leadership of Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba and the collective strength of its institutions and communities, has rewritten the province's road safety narrative. This moment should serve as a rallying call: when leadership leads from the front, communities follow, and lives are saved.

Let Easter 2025 be remembered not only for what didn't happen, but for what was made possible through visionary leadership, accountability, and the unwavering spirit of the people of Limpopo.

**Dr. Che Selane is a Member of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature and writes in his capacity as a public leader committed to developmental governance and public safety.**



# 2025 SOPA



*Honourable Members of the Legislature attending the State of the Province Address.*

MAY THEIR SOULS REST

*Rest in Peace*



**Hon. Ramathabatha Chidi Tiny Doraine**



**Hon. Marcelle Frieda Maritz**



**Hon. Mphahlele Selaelo Regina**



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