



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE,
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS & TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

REMARKS AND PRESENTATION OF THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA, BY THE MEC FOR CoGHSTA, MR PULE SHAYI.

Event: Lepelle Northern Water Charity Golf Day and Prize Giving Networking Dinner.

Date: Friday, 11 September 2026

Venue: Euphoria Golf Estate, Modimolle-Mookgophong Municipality Protocol Acknowledgements

- Programme Director, Mr Joe Makhafola
- Chairperson of the Lepelle Northern Water Board, Dr Nndweleni Mphephu, and board leadership
- Executive Council Colleagues: MEC Dr Tshitereke Matibe and MEC Mr Ernest Rachoene
- Host Mayor of Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality, Councillor Anna Mboweni
- Leadership of the Water Research Commission and corporate partners led by Prof Pienaar
- Provincial Head Mme Kobe
- Business Community
- Distinguished golfers, guests, ladies, and gentlemen

Good evening. Now, I know we have all spent the day on the course. — from the first tee-off to the final putt—I could not help but see the striking resemblance between this beautiful game and the work of Lepelle Northern Water. Think about it. Every great golf

shot begins at the tee box. That is where the journey starts. In our world, that is the source—the rivers, the dams, the boreholes. It is where the raw potential lies. But you cannot just walk up and hit the ball. You need the right stance, the right club, the right strategy. That is our bulk water infrastructure—the planning, the abstraction, the engineering that sets the entire operation in motion. Then, as the ball travels down the fairway, it encounters different terrains.

There are hazards, there are doglegs, there are moments when you need to adjust your approach. That is our treatment plants. That is where we take what is raw and make it safe, where we apply the science and the standards to ensure that what flows forward is fit for purpose. But the journey is not complete yet. The ball then lands on the green. Now, the green is a sensitive area. It requires precision. It requires care. It requires a gentle touch. That, ladies and gentlemen, is our reticulation network and our reservoirs. It is the intricate system of pipes, pumps, and storage that ensures water reaches every corner of our province—not with force, but with reliability and consistency. And finally, the moment we all play for—the sinking of the putt. That is the household tap. That is the moment a child in a rural village turns on a tap and clean water flows.

That is the moment a mother can cook, a farmer can irrigate, a community can thrive. That is the lifetime of impact we talk about. I am happy I was not around, I would have been an illegal connections on the system and the putt only sunk in my hole. But here is the truth: no golfer wins alone. Even the best player needs a caddie. They need the groundskeepers. They need the rules officials. They need the clubhouse staff. In our water value chain, that is the partnership between government, water entities, the private sector, and our communities. It is the governance, the oversight, and the political will that ensures the game is played fairly and that every drop reaches its destination. And to lead that partnership, you need a captain. You need someone who understands every step of the course—from the source to the tap. Someone who leads with passion, heart, and action. Someone who continuously pushes us to serve our people with urgency, care, and integrity. Always nudging us to push the struggle by few more meters. Tonight, we

are privileged to have that political leader of our Province with us. A dedicated public servant who lives this vision every single day. It is my singular honour and privilege to present to you the mother of our province. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming the Premier of Limpopo, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba. Madam Premier, the floor is yours.