

PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA ADDRESS AT THE TITLE DEED HANDOVER CEREMONY



29 MAY 2026



SETLAGOLE SPORTS GROUND,
NORTH WEST



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



Restoring dignity. Restoring rights. Restoring hope.

Building a fairer, more sustainable and more prosperous future for our communities.



Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development, Mr Mzwanele Nkhomo, Premier of the North West, Mr Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi, Representatives of the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, Mayors and Speakers of local municipalities, Dikgosi and traditional leadership of the Barolong communities, Recipients of title deeds, Compatriots, Dumelang. Molweni. Ndi maslari. Good morning.

Today is a day of celebration.

We are celebrating because the dignity of communities is restored.

For many of you this day has been a long time coming.

Today is the culmination of a struggle for land that has become a reality. When Chief Gaesegwe Henry Phoi submitted his community's land claim on 9 July 1996, he was acting on a constitutional promise this country had just made to itself.

Our Constitution, which was adopted 30 years ago, says that any person or community dispossessed of land after 19 June 1913 is entitled to restitution of that property or equitable redress.

So, when I hand over these title deeds today, I am fulfilling a Constitutional responsibility.

But today is not just about the law.

It is about a family being able to say: this land is ours.

It sends a clear message that never again will someone's land be taken away based on the colour of their skin, background or location.

More than a century ago, in 1913, the Natives Land Act stripped millions of black South Africans of their birthright. They were deprived of their land, their assets, their livelihoods and their community.

The effects of this law – and the subsequent laws of dispossession – are still visible across our country.

Land dispossession is at the root of inequality in South Africa today.

That is the history we are correcting.

Today's event is unique in many ways.

We are not here to hand over just one deed or to celebrate one community.

Today, three distinct programmes of land reform converge in this district, addressing different dimensions of injustice and dispossession.

The first part of the programme involves the communities of Setlagole and Madibogo.

For many years, families in these two villages built homes, erected structures, enrolled their children in local schools and lived their lives on land they did not formally own.

Their rights to the land were occupational, informal and insecure.

Through the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Programme, we are handing over 368 individual title deeds to households at Setlagole and Madibogo.

The townships that have been formally established here include business sites, creche sites, church sites, open spaces and facilities for government and municipal services.

We will continue to work to ensure every household in both townships has a deed in their hand.

As part of the second programme, we are handing over title deeds to 20 farmers across all four district municipalities in the province.

The state land that they have been leasing for farming activities has now been converted to full freehold title.

They are no longer tenants. They are now farm owners.

The third programme is land restitution.

Today we are handing over title deeds to three Communal Property Associations.

They represent communities whose ancestors farmed this land, were removed from it by force and have spent decades working through the legal and administrative processes to get it back.

Today, we hand over seven title deeds, covering over 4,000 hectares, to the Gaesegwe Communal Property Association, representing the Barolong Ba Ga Phoi community.

The Barolong Ba Ga Rapulana Communal Property Association is receiving three title deeds covering 411 hectares.

Over 26,000 hectares have already been restored to this community.

And we are handing over eleven title deeds, covering over 2,900 hectares, to the Barolong Ba Ga Seitshiro Communal Property Association.

However, we know that land alone is not enough.

A title deed in a drawer does not on its own transform a family or a community's fortunes. A farm with no equipment, no water, no capital and no support will not meet people's needs.

It does not close the inequality gap and it does not build the rural economy we need.

The title deed is the foundation on which we must build.

That is why we are handing over productive assets and confirming that post-settlement support is in place.

We are committed to making these farms work.

We are committed to ensuring that the townships being established at Setlagole and Madibogo have the sites they need for businesses, community facilities and government services.

Formal title means these households can now access mortgage credit, small business finance and development grants that were previously unavailable.

Our commitment is to walk alongside these communities not just today, but in the years ahead.

Section 25 of our Constitution guarantees legally secure tenure to every person whose tenure was made insecure by past discriminatory laws.

It requires the state to foster conditions that enable equitable access to land.

When communities wait for years – sometimes decades – for those rights to be realised, that is a failure we must acknowledge honestly.

That is why we are working to fast-track the programme, resource it properly and streamline the processes.

The handover of title deeds today is significant. But it is not the end. We will accelerate the outstanding claims and restore the dignity of our communities.

Our commitment to completing the work of land reform is undiminished. The Restitution of Land Rights Act remains in force.

Our Communal Land Administration and related legislative work continues.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Agriculture and Land Reform is actively driving the conversion of state land leases to freehold title across the country.

Progress like this does not happen through the efforts of a single department or a single sphere of government.

What you see today is the result of years of work by hundreds of dedicated officials, community representatives, professional practitioners and elected leaders across many institutions.

I want to acknowledge Minister Mzwanele Nkhomo and the entire team at the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development – particularly the North West Provincial Shared Service Centre and the Office of the Regional Land Claims Commissioner – for the sustained effort that brought us to this point.

We thank the town planners, land surveyors, conveyancers and property management officials whose technical work made these title deeds possible.

We must acknowledge the Premier's Office, the North West Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Human Settlements for creating the conditions for integrated development.

I acknowledge the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, Ratlou Local Municipality, Ditsobotla Local Municipality, Tswaing Local Municipality and the Surveyor General and Vryburg Deeds Office. The coordination of this event across all those institutions is a demonstration of what capable, committed government can achieve.

Above all, I acknowledge the Dikgosi and traditional leadership of these communities.

They held their communities together through the long years of waiting, gave legitimacy to the claim process and continue to serve as the custodians of the culture, land and social fabric of their people.

To every person whose claim is still outstanding: we have not forgotten you. In 1913, the Natives Land Act took from our people what they had built over generations.

In 1996, the democratic Constitution gave a clear instruction to return the land to individuals and communities.

Today, we are using the laws and institutions of our democracy to restore what was taken.

We are not only correcting a historical injustice. We are building a fairer, more sustainable and more prosperous future for these communities. And in doing so, we are building a better country for all.

Ke a leboha. Siyabonga. Re a leboha.

Ndiyabulela.

I thank you.



RATOROPO WA MASEPALA WA SELEGAE WA RATLOU O ROTLOETSA BASHA GO ITLHOLA LE GO IKWADISETSA DITLHOPO TSA DIPUSO SELEGAE

Ratoropo wa Masepala wa Selegae wa Ratlou Molekgotla Matlhomola Jafta o rotloeditswe Baagi segolo Jang Basha ba Ratlou go ya go itlhola le go ikwadisetse ditlhopo tsa puso Selegae.

Matlhomola Jafta o ne a bua a sa kgale mathe ganong fa ikuela mo Basheng gore jaaka segopotso sa go keteka dingwaga di le Masome a mane(40) tsa ntwaga ya Basha ba 1976 kgaithanong le puso ya tihaoale le thuto ye e sa tsepameng ebile e tihaoale. Ba tshwanetse ba ya go ikwadisetse ditlhopo tsa bo Masepala (puso Selegae) tse di tla tshwarwang mo nageng mo kgwedding ya Ngwanaetsele e tihola malatsi a le mane (04 November 2026).

Fa a ne a bua kwa Motseng wa Tshidilamolomo ka nako ya go tlisetsa Baagi ditirelo tsa motheo ka lenaane la Puso ya Porofense la Thuntsa Lerole, Majoro Jafta o rile , e ke nako e mo go yona Makoko a dipolotiki a semeletseng go buisana le Baagi, ka maitlhomola a go ba rotloetsa go ikwadisa le go tsaya karolo mo ditlhopong tsa bo Masepala tse di latelang.

Mo puong ya gagwe Majoro Jafta orile " Go mo baaging segolo jang Basha go itlhopela Balekgotla ba bona go re ba tokafatse botshelo jwa Sechaba le loago lwa bone".



RATLOU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY MAYORAL OVERVIEW SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND BUDGET 2026/2027

VISION

"A roadmap of hope built on financial resilience, service delivery, and community-driven progress."

TOTAL BUDGET SNAPSHOT

- Total Budget: R299.1 million
- Operating Budget: R261.2 million
- Capital Budget: R37.9 million

REVENUE SOURCES

Government Grants	R173.5m (Largest Source)
Property Rates	R30.4m
Other Revenue	(Services, fees, fines, rentals)

SPENDING PRIORITIES

Infrastructure (MIG funded)	
Employee Costs (R125m)	
Governance & Admin	
Community Services	

INFRASTRUCTURE FOCUS ("Infrastructure First")

- ✓ Internal road construction (Wards 8 & 14)
- ✓ High-mast lighting (crime prevention)
- ✓ Sports complex upgrades (Wards 8, 10, 11)
- ✓ Multi-purpose centre (Ward 3)
- ✓ Waste management vehicles

KEY CAPITAL PROJECTS (2026/2027)

- Roads (Ward 8): R8.25m
- Roads (Ward 14): R9.18m
- Sports Complex (Ward 11): R5m
- Multi-Sport Centre (Ward 3): R5m
- High-mast Lighting: R4.3m+
- Waste Vehicles: R2.5m

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Employees: R125 million
- Councillors: R14.1 million
- Bad Debt Provision: R9.2 million
- Asset Depreciation: R37 million

BUDGET PRINCIPLES

- ✓ Balanced & funded budget
- ✓ Compliance with MFMA & mSCOA
- ✓ Strong accountability & performance tracking
- ✓ Quarterly monitoring of projects

CHALLENGES

- ⚠ Weak local economy
- ⚠ Low revenue base (rural municipality)
- ⚠ Limited-service income streams
- ⚠ Rising non-payment

TARIFFS & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Moderate tariff increases (aligned with inflation ≤6%)
- ✓ Free Basic Services for indigent households
- ✓ 100% support for vulnerable groups
- ✓ Improved debt collection strategy

SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN (SDBIP)

- Performance contracts for all senior managers
- Projects distributed across all wards
- Zero tolerance for poor performance

INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

- Strengthened HR policies
- Skills development & training
- Improved performance management
- Stronger financial controls

KEY GOALS FOR 2026/2027

- ✓ Improve service delivery
- ✓ Strengthen governance
- ✓ Support local businesses (SMMEs)
- ✓ Enhance infrastructure development
- ✓ Restore public trust

COUNCIL DECISION

- ✓ Approve Annual Budget
- ✓ Approve Tariffs (effective 1 July 2026)
- ✓ Approve SDBIP & IDP
- ✓ Approve HR Policies

CLOSING MESSAGE

"We are guardians of public funds – committed to accountability, development, and a better future for Ratlou."

RATLOU MAYOR INTRODUCES KHUMULA INVESTMENT CONSTRUCTION FOR REFURBISHMENT OF KRAAIPAN SPORTS COMPLEX



Ratlou Local Municipality Mayor, Councillor Matlhomola Jafta, today, Tuesday, 09 June 2026, officially introduced and handed over the appointed contractor for the refurbishment of the Kraaipan Sports Complex in Kraaipan Village, outside Mahikeng. The mayor was accompanied by the MMC for Infrastructure in Ratlou Cllr. Thabo Motlapele, and the Local ward Cllr. Baile Mosepele.

This important milestone signals the municipality's continued commitment to improving community infrastructure and investing in facilities that enhance the well-being of residents. The refurbishment project aims to upgrade and modernise the sports complex, creating a safe, functional, and inclusive space for sporting activities and community engagement.

Speaking during the handover, Mayor Jafta highlighted the significance of the project in promoting youth development, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and fostering social cohesion within the community. He further emphasized that infrastructure development remains a key priority for the municipality in its efforts to uplift local communities.

The project is also expected to create temporary employment opportunities for some members of the local residents during the construction phase, contributing positively to the local economy. Emerging Small Medium Enterprises are also expected to benefit from the project through sub-constructing.

The Mayor has expressed full confidence in the appointed contractor and has called for the project to be completed to the highest standards, within the stipulated 12-months period (timeframe) and allocated budget of R18. 4 million. "As Ratlou Local Municipality, we remain dedicated to delivering quality services and infrastructure that respond to the



Issued by: Communication Unit : Ratlou Local Municipality

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MADIBOGO VILLAGE LEADS BY EXAMPLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Madibogo Village, 24 June 2026 — In a powerful display of community spirit and environmental stewardship, residents of Madibogo Village joined forces with the Ratlou Local Municipality Community Services team for a clean-up and awareness campaign held in front of the RDP houses.

The initiative was spearheaded by Municipal Environmental Interns Ogomoditse Sebako and Patience Lechuti in collaboration with Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment who delivered an impactful awareness session before the community rolled up their sleeves to participate in the clean-up.

The Madibogo Community responded with enthusiasm, demonstrating that when awareness is paired with action, meaningful change is possible. Residents worked side by side with municipal teams, reinforcing the value of community involvement in building a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment.

This event stands as a testament to the power of collaboration between municipalities and communities. By embracing the motto “Our land, our responsibility,” Madibogo Village has set a shining example for other communities across the Ratlou Local Municipality.

PURPOSE AND MESSAGE

The campaign emphasized the importance of environmental awareness, responsible waste management, and collective action. Guided by the motto:

“ *Lefatshe la rona, maikarabelo a rona.* ”
Our land, our responsibility.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The Madibogo Community responded with enthusiasm, demonstrating that when awareness is paired with action, meaningful change is possible. Residents worked side by side with municipal teams, reinforcing the value of community involvement in building a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment.

IMPACT

- 1 **Cleaner surroundings:** Immediate improvement in hygiene and aesthetics of the area.
- 2 **Heightened awareness:** Residents gained practical knowledge about waste disposal and environmental care.
- 3 **Strengthened unity:** The campaign fostered pride and solidarity among participants.