

Address by MEC Violet Mathye
MEC for Transport and Community Safety – Limpopo Province.
SANTACO National Prayer Day
Saturday, 22 December 2025
Polokwane, Limpopo Province

Programme Directors.

The Deputy Minister of the Department of Transport – Hon Mkhuleko Hlengwa.

The Executive Mayor of the Capricorn District Municipality – Clr Mamedupi Teffo.

The Executive Mayor of the Polokwane Municipality – Clr John Mpe.

The Leadership of Santaco under President Abnaar Tsebe.

The Head of Department of Transport and Community Safety – Mr Stephen Matjena.

Government officials across the spectrum.

The House of Traditional Healers.

The Leadership of LADGAG, Unified Ancestors Practitioners and Moral Regeneration Movement.

The Leadership of Religious formations present here today.

Ladies and gentlemen.

I greet you.

Our gathering takes place hot-on-the-heels of the declaration of gender-based violence and femicide as a national disaster, under Section 23 of the Disaster Management Act of 2002.

What this means is that Government will deploy additional resources towards its eradication.

As the global spotlight falls on the Republic of South Africa on the occasion of the G20 Summit, we are optimistic that anomalies such as gender-based violence, drug abuse, taxi violence and road fatalities would also receive the same attention by the people of this country.

By heightening awareness on these scourges, we will be empowering our communities, because our biggest challenge remain lack of knowledge.

Yesterday, I attended a political party event in the Vhembe region, where we launched a campaign to heighten the fight against gender-based violence and femicide.

Participants at the event were all in agreement that, this societal malady must be ferociously fought against and be uprooted from our communities.

We want to thank our partners, the South African National Taxi Council, the Moral Regeneration Movement, and many organs of civil society who have joined this session, for their unrelenting determination to thwart this malaise from the public discourse.

With the new declaration that cites Gender-based violence and femicide as a national disaster, Government has finally acceded that this phenomenon is out of control, and a host of drastic measures should be applied to end it.

Honourable Deputy Minister, we are fairly a peaceful Province with minimal incidents of taxi violence.

It is our held view that taxi violence should not be taking place on our roads, because all the operators should operate according to the prescripts of their operating licences.

Where we record such, we are always quick to react and deploy our peace officers to restore peace and stability.

We have had a few incidents in the past, where community members were caught in the crossfire of taxi violence.

Through our strategic interventions we have agreed with the sector that all the differences should be resolved in the boardroom, and that our roads should not be turned into battle-fields, which result in the loss of life.

As government, we commit to being proactive in creating a conducive environment with a progressive policy framework which is responsive to the material conditions of our people.

Ladies and gentlemen, these were just my few remarks on behalf of the Provincial Government.

I have also been tasked with the intimidating responsibility of introducing our guest speaker, who will be addressing us shortly.

The 2025 electoral outcomes saw the formation of the inevitable establishment of a Government of National Unity, which saw the Honourable Hlengwa as the Deputy Minister of Transport in the Republic.

We continue to embrace each other, and we have collaborated on a number of programmes, because we all understand that at the centre of our existence is the need to provide services to the Republic.

Hon Hlengwa is a former youth leader and spokesperson of the Inkatha Freedom Party, whose politics has grown from being a regional leader in the Province of KwaZulu-Natala, to being a formidable national leader of the organisation.

He counts amongst a list of few leaders who went to parliament as young people, who have changed the narrative that politics are for the elderly.

Since his appointment as the Deputy Minister of the national Department of Transport, Hon Hlengwa has brought considerable changes to the sector, including heightening messaging on road safety.

Ladies and gentlemen join me as I welcome the Deputy Minister of Transport in the Republic, Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa.

Let's welcome him with a round of applause.