

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR HEALTH IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE, HONOURABLE SELLO LEHARI, MPL, DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF MATLODING CLINIC, RATLOU SUB-DISTRICT

30 September 2026 | Matloding Village, Ratlou Local Municipality

Programme Director,

Kgosi Molebi Marumuloa, Traditional Leader of Matloding, under Kgosi Lekoko;

The Mayor of Ratlou Local Municipality, Councillor Mathhomola Jafta;

MMC M. Monnana and other Members of the District Health Council;

Chairperson of the Matloding Clinic Committee, Mr B. Maleke, and members of the Clinic Committee;

Our Councilors and other elected representatives;

DDG for District Health Services, Mme Tsholofelo Adelekan,

Our District and Sub-District Management Teams,

Chief Director: Ngaka Modiri Molema District Health Services, Ms Mosela Mokhutswane-Kaudi;

Chief Director for Infrastructure and Technical Services, Mr Sentle Moreriane;

The Acting Head of Office in my Office; Mr Tshegofatso Mothibedi,

Director for District Health Services, Ms N. Legobye;

Acting Sub-District Manager, Mme D. Lerumo;

Operational Manager of Matloding Clinic, Mr M. Musingadi, and the entire team of nurses, healthcare workers and support staff;

Representatives of our sister departments and development partners;

Members of the South African Police Service, Traffic Management and Emergency Medical Services;

Our traditional leaders from Matloding, Tshidilamolomo, Logageng and neighbouring villages;

Community leaders, civil society organisations, local businesses and community structures;

Baagi ba Matloding le metse e mabapi;

BoRra le boMma,

Dumelang! Ke itumela go nna le lona mo letsatsing leno le le botlhokwa.

PREAMBLE

Programme Director,

Molaotheo wa Rephaboliki ya Aforika Borwa o baya maikarabelo a a utlwalang mo Mmusong a go netefatsa ka iketlo gore mongwe le mongwe o nna le tshwanelo ya go bona ditirelo tsa tlhokomelo ya botsogo.

Tshwanelo eno ga se fela molaomotho o o kwadilweng mo Molaotheong wa rona. E tshwanetse go bonala mo matshelong a letsatsi le letsatsi a batho ba rona. E tshwanetse go bonala fa mogolo a tla go tsaya melemo ya bolwetse jo bo sa foleng, fa mmè a tlisa ngwana wa gagwe go tla go entiwa, fa mosadi yo o imileng a tlhoka tlhokomelo ya pele ga pelegi, le fa mongwe wa setšhaba a tlhoka kalafi ka ntlha ya bolwetse jo bo tsogileng ka tshoganyetso.

For the people of Matloding, access to healthcare has not always been as straightforward as it should be but we are here to fix that. We are here to demonstrate that government must listen to communities, must respond to their needs and must continuously work to improve the conditions under which our people access essential services.

INTRODUCTION

Motsamaisi wa Lenaneo, ntumelele ke bontshe ditebogo tsa me tse di tswang pelong go botlhe ba ba dirileng gore tiragalo eno e kgonege.

Ke leboga Magosi a rona, Makhanselara, Mmasepala wa Selegae wa Ratlou, Komiti ya Tleliniki, baeteledipele ba setšhaba, badiredibagolo ba Lefapha, badiri ba tlhokomelo ya Itekanelo, mafapha a mangwe a puso, balekane ba tlabololo, mme segolobogolo baagi ba Matloding le metse e e mabapi.

Your presence today demonstrates that healthcare is a shared responsibility.

The purpose of our gathering today therefore, is simple but significant: we are here to officially open Matloding Clinic and to hand this health facility back to the community it is intended to serve.

WHAT MATLODING CLINIC MEANS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Programme Director, Matloding Clinic ga se fela kago e nngwe mo mananeong a mafaratlhatlha a Lefapha la Boitekanelo. Ke lefelo le matshelo a batho a tla amiwang ka lone, malwetse a thibelwa, malwetse le maemo a botshelo a alafiwa, mme baagi ba fiwa tshegetso e ba e tlhokang.

The facility is expected to provide a package of primary healthcare services, including chronic disease management, acute healthcare services, and maternal and child health services. The facility will operate five days a week for eight hours a day.

This is important because the value of a clinic must ultimately be measured not by the size of its walls, but by the quality, accessibility and dignity of the healthcare services provided within those walls.

For a community, having healthcare services closer to home means less time and money spent travelling to distant facilities.

It means an elderly person who requires chronic medication does not necessarily have to travel long distances merely to receive routine care. It means children can access essential healthcare services closer to where they live. It means mothers can access maternal and child health services closer to their communities.

And it means health professionals can work with the community to identify health problems early, promote prevention and encourage healthier lifestyles.

This makes the strengthening of primary healthcare at community level particularly important. The clinic must become the first point of contact where appropriate, with patients receiving the services they require and being referred to higher levels of care when necessary.

THE ROLE OF OUR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

To the nurses and healthcare workers who will serve at this facility, I want to say: this building is now your workplace, but it belongs to the people. The community will judge this clinic by how it is treated when they walk through its doors.

A nurse's responsibility is therefore not only to administer treatment. It is also to listen, educate, advise, prevent illness and treat every patient with dignity and respect.

Our patients must feel that when they come to Matloding Clinic, they are entering a place where they are valued. I therefore call upon the Operational Manager and the entire clinic team to cultivate a culture of professionalism, punctuality, compassion, accountability and continuous improvement.

The readiness report indicates that the clinic has an establishment that includes an Operational Manager, professional nurse, enrolled nursing assistant, cleaner, groundsman, administrative clerk and data capturer.

Every member of this team has a role to play in ensuring that Matloding Clinic becomes a facility that the community can trust.

THE ROLE OF THE CLINIC COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY

Go Matloding Clinic Committee, maikarabelo a lona le one a botlhokwa thata mo tshegetsong ya setheo se. Clinic Committee e tshwanetse go tswela e le kgokagano fa gare ga setheo le basho.

I am encouraged that the readiness report confirms that the Clinic Committee is functional and holds meetings monthly. Please continue to listen to the community, raise legitimate concerns, monitor the quality of services and work constructively with the facility management.

WORKING TOGETHER

Programme Director, ke rata go gatelela gore puso e ka se kgone go dira tiro eno e le nosi. Re tlhoka Kgosi le baeteledipele ba setso go tswela ba rotloetsa le go kopanya ditšhaba tsa rona mo dikgannyeng tsa boitekanelo.

We need councillors and the municipality to support initiatives that improve the wellbeing of residents. We need the Clinic Committee to remain active. We need the District Management Team to provide support and oversight. We need healthcare workers to deliver quality services. And we need communities to take ownership of their health and their health facilities.

CONCLUSION

Programme Director, fa ke konosetsa, ke rata go itsise botlhe gore pulo semmuso e ya gompiano ke karolo ya lenaanr le le fetogileng karolo ya botlhokwa ya mokgwa wa rona wa tiro jaaka Lefapha la Botsogo la Bokone Bophirima.

Lenaane le, le bidiwa:

"A RE BA NEELE TSONA KE TSA BONA!"

Simply translated, this means: “These are not ours; they belong to them.”

In this context, I say to the people of Matloding: this clinic belongs to you.

As MEC for Health, I have committed myself to crisscrossing the length and breadth of our province, officially opening and handing over health facilities to the communities they are meant to serve.

We are not merely opening buildings. We are strengthening the relationship between the Department of Health and the people of the North West.

Matloding Clinic must therefore become a symbol of what can be achieved when government and communities work together.

Today, we officially open Matloding Clinic. Today, we hand it to the community.

“A RE BA NEELE TSONA KE TSA BONA!”

Let us protect it. Let us use it. Let us support those who work in it.

I thank you!

Ke a leboga.