



the premier

Department of
the Premier
FREE STATE PROVINCE

MEDIA ALERT

October 22, 2013

The Premier of the Free State, Mr. Ace Magashule and Members of the Executive Council, will join hands with the religious fraternity of the Free State to pray for rain and cultivation of good crops. This event will take place at the Lekhalong la Mantsopa, Modderpoort, on Thursday, 24 October 2013 at 12h00 midday.

Premier Ace Magashule has been concerned for some time now that the Free State is experiencing the longest drought that threatens food security in many homes across the Free State and neighboring areas, thus threatening our well known status of being the Bread/Food Basket of the country. The latest observations of the food security situation in the country by the Human Science and Research Council are that:

“More than half of South Africans do not have regular access to enough food. The food trends status in South Africa is classified under three sections – food secure, at risk of hunger, and experiencing hunger. On a total national level, two out of four households in the country are food secure, which is 45.6%. Regarding the food insecure, which are those that experience hunger, one out of four households experience hunger”.

In addition, according to Maitland Seaman, Director of the University of the Free State's Cluster for Water Management, if the pressure on South Africa's water supply system does not ease in the near future, the country might have to start thinking about

importing food instead of exporting it. He also pointed out that countries like Zimbabwe, Angola, Zambia and Mozambique might become the places where food will be produced for South Africa.

The last few days have seen showers of rain surge throughout the country, a welcome observation by the Free State Premier. This has further fueled his desire to join hands with the religious fraternity and pray for more.

The Free State Premier, and indeed the Free State Provincial Government at large, will always be concerned about the well-being of the people and the land on which they live.

All media are invited to attend the event.

For further enquiries, please contact:

Mondli Mvambi on 071 864 1419 mmvambi@gmail.com or

Setjhaba Maphalla on 072 907 6391 sk.maphalla@gmail.com

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