



the premier

Department of  
the Premier  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

# Media Release

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## **FREE STATE PREMIER ACE MAGASHULE VISITS THE PEOPLE OF BATHO LOCATION**

The Premier of the Free State, Mr. Ace Magashule and Members of the Executive Council, joined the Provincial Executive Committee of the ANC in the Free State on a service delivery monitoring visit to the Batho Location in Bloemfontein on Monday, 21 October 2013.

The Premier, who addressed the multitudes of African National Congress (ANC) supporters gathered at the Batho Community Hall, embarked on a door-to-door visit to residents of the township – snaking his way through the dusty streets by foot - checking the progress that has been made in the service delivery of basic services to the people of the whimsical township, which is one of the oldest and most iconic in Bloemfontein. The township is, of course, home to the former residential house of Thomas Mapikela, one of the founding fathers of the African National Congress (ANC) in January 1912. The historic house – which served the purpose of important ANC meetings the time - was built between 1924 and 1927 and still stands erect today albeit as a monument.

It was therefore befitting that Premier Magashule, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the ANC in the Free State, interact with and listen to the people of the township and personally hear their views on service delivery – what has been achieved , but most importantly , what can be improved upon. The Premier also urged the youth and first time voters to register to vote and be part of a participatory democracy.

Although basic service delivery issues such as electricity, water, decent sanitation and rubbish removals have been there ever since the advent of a democratic South Africa, there has been significant improvement ever since that crucial turning point in 1994, which then further proves the dictum “South Africa is a much better country than it was

before 1994” as indeed true. The Batho location, although it can still be improved upon incalculably, has experienced a lot of positives ever since the ANC government took over in 1994. Some of them are as follows:

- There are solar street lights in the township.
- There is frequent cleaning of the roads by youth projects that have taken the youth off the streets.
- Houses have been built in the disadvantaged areas of the township.
- The Central Park Clinic has been built.
- There has been great improvement on major upgrading of the nearby CBD, buildings, and parks.
- The paving of Masenya, Theepe, Motuba, and Phatlane streets has regenerated the township and made the roads usable once again.
- A state-of-the-art taxi rank worth R400 million, has been built.
- All developmental projects in and around the area have created close to 2000 jobs for the previously disadvantaged.

Although the Free State Government has done a lot to ensure that the people’s needs are met, Premier Magashule concedes that there is still a lot of work to be done and that working together with the Free State communities, the government is committed to delivering basic services to more people.

Issued by Free State Provincial Government Communication Services.

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