



the premier

Department of
the Premier
FREE STATE PROVINCE

MEDIA RELEASE

21 May 2014

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1ST SITTING OF THE 5TH DEMOCRATIC PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

The cold yet sunny morning of Wednesday, May 21, 2014 saw the first Sitting of the Fifth Free State Provincial Legislature whose business and major thrust was to determine the Political Authority of the Province, with the following being the critical items of the day:

- Taking of Oath and Affirmation by Members of the Provincial Legislature
- Election of the Speaker of the Free State Legislature;
- Election of the Deputy Speaker;
- Election of the Chair of Chairs, and
- Election of the Premier of the Free State Province

This important business of the Free State Legislature happened under the capable and watchful eye of the Acting Judge President MH Rampai who presided over the inauguration and the first Sitting of the Legislature.

The House elected the following Members of the Free State Provincial Legislature to respective portfolios as follows:

1. Speaker – Honourable Elisa Sisi Mabe (ANC)
2. Deputy Speaker – Honourable Sizwe Mbalo (ANC)
3. Chair of Chairs – Honourable Motete Daniel Khoabane (ANC)
4. Chief Whip – Honourable Cornelius Johannes van Rooyen (ANC)
5. Premier – Honourable Sekgobelo Elias Ace Magashule (ANC)

Members of the Legislature

1. Pule Herbert Isak Makgoe (ANC)
2. Nokwanje Selinah Leeto (ANC)
3. Butana Moses Komphela (ANC)
4. Sefora Hixsonia Ntombela (ANC)
5. Motlagomang Grazy Qabathe (ANC)
6. Malambule Sam Mashinini (ANC)

7. Sarah Matawana Mlamleli (ANC)
8. Mosebenzi Joseph Zwane (ANC)
9. Malitaba Sarah Moleleki (ANC)
10. Lucy Nombulelo Mapena (ANC)
11. Thabo Piet Meeko (ANC)
12. Elizabeth Cornelia Rockman (ANC)
13. Benjamin Malakoane (Dr.) (ANC)
14. Limakatso Patricia Mahasa (ANC)
15. Cecilia Shirley Kediinametse Sechoaro (ANC)
16. Mojalefa Patrick Buti (ANC)
17. Dora Kotzee (ANC)
18. Roy Jankielsohn (DA)
19. David Edward Janse van Vuuren (DA)
20. Mariette Pittaway (DA)
21. Lehlohonolo James Letuka (DA)
22. Leona Mary Kleynhans (DA)
23. Mandisa Makesini (EFF)
24. Jacob Tsietsi Tshabalala (EFF)
25. Wouter Wynand Wessels (VF)

Permanent Members to the National Council of Provinces are:

1. Seeiso Mohai (ANC)
2. Manana Tlake (ANC)
3. Phel Parkies (ANC)
4. Jihad Mohapi (ANC)
5. George Michalakis (DA)
6. Lehlohonolo Mokoena (EFF)

The Acting Judge President MH Rampai announced that the Free State Provincial Legislature supports the nomination of Honourable Thandi Modise (ANC) as the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces.

Thereafter, the Acting Judge President MH Rampai opened the floor for nomination after thoroughly explaining the rules of the House to Members. Then Honourable Mosebenzi Zwane of the ANC, who is former MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs rose to nominate Honourable Sisi Mabe of the ANC as the Speaker. This nomination was seconded by Honourable Nokwanje Selina Leeto, who is former Executive Mayor of Lejweleputswa District Municipality. The nomination went un-opposed and the Honourable Elisa Sisi Mabe was duly elected as the Speaker of the House.

Upon her election, the newly elected Speaker, the Honourable Sisi Mabe, who is former MEC for Public Works gave her maiden speech which went as follows:

“Acting Judge President, Mr. Rampai,
Hon. Members of the Legislature,

It is such an honour for me to be recognised by the ANC and finally supported and endorsed by all Hon. Members of this august House to serve as Speaker of the Legislature in this fifth democratic Legislature. Judging from the outcomes of the general elections, one will be expected to serve this institution in a manner that will place the Legislature at the centre of service delivery.

I am humbled that this House is placing its faith and trust in me. I will endeavour to represent you in this House and in all activities that I will undertake outside this House and on behalf of the Legislature with utmost integrity and will perform my functions without fear, favour or prejudice.

I would like to emphasise that this is a responsibility that I am not and will not take lightly. We are living in an epoch that is called a privileged moment of history in which we have an opportunity to have an impact on the formation of a new nation. In our endeavour to unite African people and spearhead the struggle for fundamental political, social and economic change, I will lead activities of the Legislature that are geared, among others, to:

- (i) Enact progressive laws,
- (ii) Facilitate public involvement, access and participation in the legislature and other processes of the legislature and its committees,
- (iii) Refine and implement the customised oversight model of the Legislature for oversight and accountability measures of the Legislature over the Executive.

Hon Acting Judge President, I would like to convey my words of gratitude to all my predecessors, who were bestowed with this responsibility that I am given today since the advent of our democracy in 1994 to date. To those who are late, may their souls rest in peace. To those who are still with us in the world, please note that your efforts and dedication to build the legislative sector cannot go unnoticed.

You have left an indelible mark and footprints that I am going to use a solid foundation upon which an effective legislature will be built.

I am accepting this post of the Speaker knowing clearly that it occupies a pivotal position in our constitutional democracy. The Speaker represents the full authority of the House. The Speaker symbolises the dignity and power of the House over which he/she is presiding. Therefore, it is expected that the holder of this Office of high dignity has to be the one who can represent the House in its manifestations.

This is the responsibility I am willing to carry with the honour it deserves. The responsibility entrusted to me as the Speaker is so onerous that I cannot afford to overlook any aspect of parliamentary life.

Moving forward, as the Executive Authority of the Legislature, I am looking in anticipation and hope that I will enjoy a cordial working relationship with all relevant role players and stakeholders in management of the Legislature. These role players include, among others, the following:

- (i) Deputy Speaker, Chair of Chairs, who will be working with me as Presiding Officers,
- (ii) The Chief Whip and other Whips for smooth running of the business of the Legislature and maintenance of parliamentary decorum under all circumstances,
- (iii) The Leader of Government Business for ensuring that there is good working relationship between the Executive and the Legislature,
- (iv) Leaders of all political parties represented in the Legislature for adherence to the Rules and Orders in management of the institution.

This will be part of the team that I will work with to move the Free State Legislature forward. With this team, I will be expecting the institution to have a better strategy, clear implementation plans as well as effective monitoring and evaluation framework for effective Legislature.

I wish to welcome new and old faces in this House. Let all of us work together in harmony to ensure that we represent the people of the Free State Province with honour and execute our constitutional mandate to bring a better life to all our people.

Finally, I hereby inform Honourable Members that there will be a comprehensive induction programme to be conducted in due course.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THIS HOUSE AS THE SPEAKER IN THE FIFTH DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURE” she concluded.

The Presiding Judge went on to the Election of the Premier of the Free State. The Honourable Premier Sekgobelo Elias Magashule was nominated by Honourable Motlagomang Grazy Qabathe of the ANC, who is former MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development. This nomination was seconded by Honourable Elizabeth Cornelia Rockman of the ANC, who is former MEC for Provincial Treasury. This nomination went un-opposed and the Honourable Sekgobelo Elias Magashule of the ANC was duly re-elected as Premier of the Free State Province. This was met by much fun fare as the House broke into song “Nelson Mandela, Nelson Mandela, there is no one like you, Ace Magashule, Ace Magashule, there is no one like you”.

Upon his election as the Premier, Honourable Sekgobelo Elias Magashule started by thanking the ANC for showing faith in him to lead the Province once again. He further went on to outline the vision of the Province as mandated by the overwhelming support of the 69.87% of the voting public. His brief acceptance speech acknowledged the advances that have been made in restoring human dignity over the past 20 years and amply articulated, in brief, the National Development Plan - Vision 2030 as the service delivery driver over the next 5 years of democratic governance. “Nou is die tyd om die mense van die Vrystaat te dien”, Now is the time to serve the people of the Free State, Jwale ke nako ya ho sebeletsa batho ba Foreistata” asserted the newly elected Premier of the Free State, Sekgobelo Elias Magashule.

End.

Issued by the Free State Provincial Government Communication Services.

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