

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER**

**2009 Media Advisories and Statements**

**2009**

**DECEMBER 2009**

**Media advisory – Hlasela Fund**

**14 December 2009**

Free State Premier ES Magashule will tonight launch Operation Hlasela Project Fund to replace what has been known as Premier's Fund. The Fund will ensure that Operation Hlasela projects are dealt with effectively to address the identified basket of services efficiently. This fund will be managed by both government and business sectors with lesser red tape.

Please note that this event is taking place as follows:

Date: Monday, 14 December 2009

Time: 19h00

Venue: City Hall

For more information and media interviews contact:

Duma Mokete

Cell: 079 693 7667 or 082 422 3891

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**MEDIA CONFERENCE**

**12 December 2009**

Premier ES Magashule invites you to the media conference.

Please note that this media conference will take place as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 15 December 2009

Time: 09h00

Place: Bloemfontein

Venue: Lebohang Building, Louis Botha Hall, C/o St. Andrews and Markgraaff Streets

RSVP with Lerato Jabane by Monday, 14 December 2009

Tel: 051 405 5316

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E-mail: [jabanel@premier.fs.gov.za](mailto:jabanel@premier.fs.gov.za)

For more information contact:

Duma Mokete

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## **THE FREE STATE ACTIVITIES FOR THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM IN THABO MOFUTSANYANE**

### **8 December 2009**

Date: Wednesday, 9 December 2009

Venue: Ha Nchabeng (next to Maluti shop), Masalleng village, Qwaqwa

Time: 09h00

Event: One Thousand Men's March and men dialoguing on their roles and responsibilities in curbing the scourge of gender based violence in their respective communities.

Date: Thursday, 10 December 2009

Venue: Qwaqwa, Nelson Mandela Arena (University of the Free State)

Time: 10h00

Event: International Human Rights Day and the closing ceremony of 16 Days. President Jacob Zuma will make a statement against abuse of our women and children. He will also hand over houses in Qwaqwa.

See the programme for further details.

10 December 2009

Time: 07h00

Session one: Masalleng village, Qwaqwa

07h00: Unveiling of tombstones

08h30: Handing over of houses

Session two: Main event - Free State University, Qwaqwa campus

10h00 to 12h00

Programme Director: Ms Sisi Ntombela, MEC for Social Development, Free State province

Opening remarks

Welcome: Maluti a Phofung municipality Executive Mayor, Honourable Dr Mzangwa

Introduction of guests: Ms M Qabathe, MEC for Agriculture, Free State province

Message of support: Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga

Message of support: Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa

Message of support: First Lady of the Republic of South Africa, Makhumalo Zuma

Victim empowerment, care, prevention and protection: Minister of Social Development, Edna Molewa

Reflection on 2009 campaign: Minister of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities, Noluthando Mayende-Sibiya

Handing over of the torch of peace to Minister Sbu Ndebele by Minister Noluthando Mayende-Sibiya

Introduction of keynote speaker: Free State Premier, Mr Ace Magashule

Keynote address: President of the Republic of South Africa, President GJ Zuma

Vote of thanks: Thabo Mofutsanyane district Executive Mayor, His Majesty Mayor Mathokoana Mopeli

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## **FREE STATE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT VOWS TO TAKE HARSH ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL WASTE**

4 December 2009

The Free State Provincial Government has reacted with shock to the reports on medical waste buried in Welkom. Tons of raw medical waste was illegally dumped in and around Welkom. The buried waste included sharps, viles, syringes, drips, dirty bandages and general medical waste.

“We are horrified by this finding, the lives of our people have been threatened and their health put at risk by this irresponsible action from negligent people who are supposed to take care of our environment. These medical wastes may have caused a health risk to people who might have come into contact with it and may even harm the environment which we are working tirelessly to protect,” said Premier E S Magashule.

The illegal dumping of medical waste is a contravention of section 24 of the Constitution which indicates that everyone has the right to an environment which is not harmful to their health or well being. Some people continue to disregard the laws governing the dumping of medical waste despite the existence of pieces of legislation meant to control that.

- The Environmental Health Investigation team was sent to Welkom to: identify and confirm illegal dumping of medical waste at Maximus Bricks
- estimate or quantify the magnitude of the problem
- identify challenges and possible strategies that can be implemented to track waste from generation to final disposal.

Indeed the team found buried Health Care Risk Waste (HCRW) as it was reported and unearthed by the Green Scorpions. The medical waste included pharmaceutical sharps, sharp containers and disposable red liners with infectious waste. The site where the medical waste was buried is 3 320 square meters and two meters deep. The team quantified the magnitude of the problem to be in the region of 200 tons of dumped HCRM.

“It is totally unacceptable, illegal and immoral for these people to contaminate our environment, working together with our municipalities we must make them pay for their irresponsible behaviour. Harsh measures must be taken against the perpetrators of these illegal activities. Protecting the environment and waste management are issues which are key in sustainable development and it is government priority to ensure that we curb pollution in any way,” said Magashule.

The provincial government is looking at the possibility of legal action against the said business person and also reporting the matter to the Hawks. Moving forward the auditing of government or hospital incinerators will be re-visited to ensure that we have incinerators that have the capacity to treat HCRW on site. The auditing will assist in reducing the costs of treatment, reducing the potential accidents that could occur during transportation and most importantly in reducing the transboundary movement of HCRW.

Our provincial Department of Health in consultation with the Department of Environmental Affairs will consider the establishment of Waste Information Management System to allow provinces to trace the amount of waste generated per institution and amount of waste treated and disposed off by the service providers. Government will also look at the possibility of establishing a centralised (public or private owned) regional waste treatment plants.

“As Free State Provincial Government we applaud the Green Scorpions and the police officers for the swift and appropriate action they took to deal with the perpetrators of this criminal offence. The investigation is still ongoing but we will ensure that individuals and organisations with total disregard for the health of our people and the environment are brought to book. Already the owner has been arrested and charged and we are sending a message to others that government will mete out harsh punishment to criminal activities like these. We cannot and will not tolerate this kind of behaviour from this industry,” Magashule said.

Enquiries:  
Lerato Jabane  
Cell: 071 686 0377

For media interviews:  
Mokete Duma  
Cell: 079 693 7667

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## **NOVEMBER 2009**

### **Free State Provincial Government on the passing away of the spokesperson Teboho Sikisi**

**15 November 2009**

It was with great shock that we learnt of the untimely death of Teboho “Shoes” Sikisi yesterday Saturday, 14 November 2009. The death of our government spokesperson Teboho Sikisi has filled our hearts with sorrow and a tremendous sense of loss. “Shoes” (as he was affectionately called by his comrades and friends) was the head of government communication services in Free State Provincial Government.

Since he joined government in 1994 Sikisi served the Free State Provincial Government with distinction and diligence. A seasoned communicator and a genius, Sikisi became the Office Manager in the office of the then Education MEC before he moved to the Office of the Premier as the Spokesperson and Head of Communication.

He served in that capacity during the premiership of Ms Beatrice Marshoff and the current premier Ace Magashule. As a senior manager Sikisi played a significant role in enhancing professionalism in government. He was a credible spokesperson; good at writing and speaking; was patient and had good memory.

His job required him to have good relationship with the Executive Council Members; senior government personnel, the media and the public at large and he did it extremely well. Even though at times his job was difficult and frustrating, he still managed to avail himself for media interviews to convey accurate information to the public. Sikisi always displayed passion for his job; he was popular among his colleagues with his sense of humour, friendliness and approachability.

On behalf of government and the people of Free State, we would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and comrades. Rest in peace you did a wonderful job and your many years of determination and dedication will always be remembered.

Enquiries:  
Lerato Jabane  
Cell: 071 686 0377

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## **FREE STATE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL STATEMENT**

5 November 2009

The Premier led a regular meeting of the Free State Provincial Executive Council to review progress on the provincial programme of action under the auspices of Operation Hlasela.

The Executive Council welcomed the delegation of the Free State House of Traditional Leaders who was meeting with the Premier and Exco for the first time since elections. The Department of Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlement was tasked to look into matters

raised by the house which includes the proclamation of the traditional affairs bill, the constitution of local houses of traditional affairs and the cooperation with all provincial departments where there is an overlap of functions. Such departments include Health on issues of HIV and AIDS, Education on mass literacy campaign, Police on issues of crime prevention and Social Development on the issue of social security.

The Executive Council also received a presentation on the revitalisation of VIP toilets. It is the view of Exco that the state of these sanitation facilities is way below human standards and a disaster waiting to happen. Exco will institute a process to follow up on contractors and municipal official who approved these structures which do not comply with any SABS standards. Where necessary criminal procedures will be instituted against any contractor and municipal official who colluded to deny our people in Mangaung this basic and human right

The process to drain and revitalize these toilets is proceeding well and to date 23000 VIP toilets have been cleaned mainly in Botshabelo. The project will prioritise Botshabelo, Thaba-Nchu, Mangaung rural and Qwaqwa. In the next and subsequent financial years priority will be given to the provision of waterborne facilities.

The Executive Council approved a plan to do a detailed audit of all RDP houses built. The audit will seek to identify all contractors who defaulted on their contracts and to take corrective action against such.

Exco approved the programme for the Imbizo Focus week which will commence from 17 to 19 November. The main focus area will be in Qwaqwa. The following town have been identified for a full Executive Council visit before the end of the year for interaction with communities: Van Stadensrus, Bethulie, Virginia and Phillipolis. The Premier and Exco will also meet with social workers, farmers and artists before the end of this year.

Exco approved the provincial bursary policy. The policy emphasises prioritisation of scarce skills and access to higher education. A total of 2000 bursaries will be awarded for the 2010 academic year. The framework for the celebration of the World AIDS Day was also approved. The framework places emphasis on stakeholder and community mass mobilisation, voluntary testing and heightened awareness campaign.

The Provincial Budget Lekgotla which will identify key budget priorities will take place on 10 and 11 November. It will prepare for the adjustment budget of 25 November as well as key projects to be launched by the 2010 financial year.

Enquiries:  
Teboho Sikisi  
Cell: 082 947 1571

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## **OCTOBER 2009**

### **FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR FREE STATE BUSINESS DRAWS NEARER AS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (IDC) REGIONAL OFFICE IS LAUNCHED**

20 October 2009

Free State Premier ES Magashule, together with the Chief Executive Officer of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) Geoffrey Qhena, officially opened the Free State Industrial Development Corporation regional office in Bloemfontein.

The state-owned national development finance institution has been established regionally to, amongst other things, proactively identify and drive new business development and provide business support to clients in the Free State, thus assisting in the promotion of Black Economic Empowerment,

development of small, medium and macro-enterprises, regional investment diversification, municipalities to implement local economic strategies and job creation.

According to Premier ES Magashule, the opening of the IDC regional office gives a resounding expression to the theme: "Working together we can do more".

"This is a practical implementation of the promise that we made to our people when we said we will engage the IDC to ensure that they increase their footprint in Free State."

The opening of the regional office forms part Operation Hlasela, the all-encompassing government service delivery programme mobilising resources to provide infrastructure, houses, water, sanitation, health, education, roads and transport. The province is attacking, amongst others, poverty and in regard to the Free State's perspective, through the rural development strategy that aims to place the people and their needs at the forefront of economical development and as such making sure the Free State becomes a bread basket.

"We are committed to the creation of an enabling environment for the empowerment of the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalised groups such as women, youth and people with disabilities to become self-reliant," said Magashule referring to the strategy.

The Free State province is intending to return to its former glory in terms of agriculture and according to Magashule this can only happen through intensified support provided to the farmers so that they can increase local production as part of efforts to combat rising food prices and decrease their reliance on imports.

Magashule however noted with concern that emerging farmers still have serious challenges and need to be unlocked as a matter of urgency. The challenges include access to loan finance for viable farming enterprise, high land prices as well as other requisites such as machinery, implements and input prices, access to markets for the emerging commercial farmers, training and project management as well as poor farm infrastructure.

"We want our farmers to be able to increase their profits, broaden local export base and create additional employment opportunities. I believe that IDC sees a great significant role they have to play in this matter and as Free State provincial government we are looking forward to draw from your expertise. We trust that the opening of this office signals the beginning of greater plans for the people of Free State," said Magashule in conclusion.

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## **SEPTEMBER 2009**

### **PREMIER ES MAGASHULE ENCOURAGES CULTURAL PATRIOTISM DURING HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS IN FICKSBURG**

**25 September 2009**

The scenic landscape of Ficksburg, in Setsoto Municipality, was the place to be on provincial Heritage Day as fads of traditional attire were paraded with pride, cultural music reverberated against naturally beautiful mountains surrounding and the scent of food occupied the nostrils.

Under the theme celebrating South African craft, our heritage, which the provincial government has customised to bonono-letlotlo la rona the mood just reflected.

Speaking at the event, Premier ES Magashule said our culture and heritage is a reflection of where we come from and where we going as people of South Africa and Africa in general. As Africans, we shouldn't forget our culture because if we do, were we are heading the future is dark.

Magashule urged all those present to instil a culture of being African and to teach children to learn and speak their own languages, and not to allow children speak English and yet don't know how to express themselves in their mother tongue. We need to fly our flag with pride and patriotism and remember our tradition.

Adding to Magashule's address, MEC Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation D A M said, "Let us encourage and teach our young people and children to see this day not just as any day but as a special day in recognition of our national identity and their future."

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## **PREMIER AND HIS EXECUTIVES MEET WITH ALL SCHOOL PRINCIPALS OF THE FREE STATE ON NON-NEGOTIABLES**

**15 September 2009**

The Honourable Premier E S Magashule held an imbizo with all principals of Free State schools in Bloemfontein 14 September. This meeting comes after President Jacob Zuma earlier this year met with principals from across the country, reiterating the governments' expectations from the educators.

With a total of about 1 400 principals representing public schools on private property, primary schools as well as secondary schools present, the Kopsie Church at the University of Bloemfontein reverberated the future of education in the province as the exchanging of notes regarding good practices, challenges and recommendations were made.

The role of parents, safety at schools, learner pregnancy as well as improvement of learning and teaching dominated the discussions. According to Magashule, education is the governments' priority as set out in the ruling party's manifesto and that if they don't act immediately on the problems facing the education system, the province and the country will lag behind the rest of the world.

"Our expectation is that educators must be in schools, in classes at all times; they must teach; they must not abuse learners and they must not neglect their duties," Magashule said conveying the non-negotiable. Magashule however acknowledged that challenges faced by the schools in the province are by no means unique and thus pleaded with the principals to have commitment and dedication for the restoration of their profession and to work hard in reviving a culture of learning, teaching and better management of schools.

Making reference to the issues raised by principals, Magashule said, "Indeed we do acknowledge that you have concerns regarding your working conditions and sometimes you may feel that government is not taking you serious. However, we have heard you hence we have committed to promote the status of teachers, ensure the employment of adequate numbers and improve your remuneration and training."

This requires a major renewal of our schooling and education system. As government and principals, Magashule said they need to start applying innovative ideas in the way we do things. There are so many things we can achieve if we put our heads together and prioritise. Magashule committed that education and health will continue to receive the biggest portion of the provincial budget and will henceforth constitute a permanent discussion of the Executive Council.

In closing, Magashule, along with the MEC for education will continue with unannounced visits but most importantly will continue providing support to all principals to be effective managers at their schools. He also reiterated a call to parents, community stakeholders and business and private sector organisation to play an active role in turning schools into centres of community life and excellence.

I am sure if we can work together, we can do more.

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## **PREMIER ACE MAGASHULE AND MEC OF EDUCATION, TATE MAKGOE, COMMIT TO 'HLASELING' POVERTY AND ILLITERACY**

**3 September 2009**

We are going to be hlaseLING poverty and illiteracy, Premier Ace Magashule said in his youthfully self as he addressed a crowd of learners during the launch of the provincial skills development forum in Welkom on Tuesday 3 September.

According to Magashule, the forum, amongst other things, has been established to strategically provide advice on skills development for the unemployed, job creation projects, learnerships, etc. Made up of representatives from government departments, organised labour, business, all Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) and organisations representing the interests of designated groups such as youth, women and people with disabilities, the forum now resides in the Office of the Premier and no longer with the Department of Labour. "In the next five years, as the Free State government, we must feel that we are doing things differently eradicating poverty and illiteracy," Magashule said.

"I want this forum to work and be strategic in the way they operate," for human resource development purposes within the province. However Magashule, highlighted that in order for our communities to come out of poverty and illiteracy, learners need to take education seriously and must not allow themselves to be negatively influenced by peers.

Reiterating his point Magashule said, "When you are educated, logic becomes something easy in ones daily life." In sharing Magashule's sentiments, MEC of Education, Tate Makgoe said, people power is the most important thing to country should have. "As the Free State, we want to be counted as one of the best provinces in the country and the rest of the world by investing in our people." Makgoe went on to encourage matriculates and those who have completed school and have no funding to apply for bursaries before the closing date end of September.

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**AUGUST 2009**

## **PREMIER ACE MAGASHULE ANSWERS TO THE CALL OF JOB CREATION IN FATENG TSE NTSHO**

**26 August 2009**

Job creation was top of the agenda as Premier Ace Magashule addressed the community of Fateng Tse Ntsho, Paul Roux at an Imbizo on 26 August.

As part of Operation Hlasela, Magashule said the provincial government will be giving jobs to those who have volunteered for years at government divisions within the community of Fateng Tse Ntsho.

"Today, we have employed people in different spheres. For example the nursing assistant who has been volunteering since 2003, has been appointed," says Premier Magashule.

Speaking about her appointment, Ms Mkwane said she was happy to be appointed fulltime as a nursing assistant after she went for one year training in 2007 to 2008.

"It's just a feeling of endless joy that I have. After so many years, one finally receives such a motivation," said Mkwane, describing her excitement.

Eight police reservists in the community have also fully qualified in their training. According to Magashule, he will be getting in contact with the South African Police Services in the area to employ them full time because he is aware that there posts that have been advertised.

"I support the reservist and I support them fully because these are individuals who sacrifice a lot for our own safety," said Magashule.

Since there will be the upgrading of roads and pavements in the community, 100 people from the community will also be employed for a period of two years according to Magashule.

Responding to the lack of access to water in the community, Magashule committed to sourcing funds for a water pipeline to be erected from Bethlehem to Fateng Tse Ntsho.

"We must get that pipeline this financial year so that when we build 200 houses here, people can flush their toilets," he said

Speaking about building houses, Magashule said FET Colleges must train unskilled people of the community who are participation in the construction in the area so that they can get certificates and form cooperatives. In return the provincial government will give them other construction jobs in future.

This is the sort of integrated service delivery Magashule is pushing in the province.

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## **MAY 2009**

### **INAUGURATION OF THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE AND ELECTION OF PREMIER**

The inauguration of the Free State Legislature will take place tomorrow, **Wednesday, 6 May 2009**. The programme for the day is as follows:

- 09:00 - Venue: Mangaung Indoor Sports Centre (Inauguration Ceremony)

Inauguration of 30 Members of the Legislature, election of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Premier and appointment of NCOP Permanent Delegates

- 11:00 - Venue: Clive Solomon Stadium, Heidedal (Oath Ceremony)

Premier to take oath of office followed by Thanksgiving Service

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