



the premier

Department of
the Premier
FREE STATE PROVINCE

Media Release

November 11, 2013

PREMIER OF THE FREE STATE ACE MAGASHULE SHOWS HIS PASSION FOR EDUCATION

The Premier of the Free State, Ace Magashule visited the University of the Free State (UFS) Main Campus on November 7, 2013. The Premier met with the tertiary institution's Vice-Rector Professor Driekie Hay and Director: Strategic Communication, Lacea Loader. In the past the UFS faced immense challenges of social integration, prejudice and exclusion, but the Premier was impressed to see how effective the institution has been in developing new strategies for unification, as also evident in their Student Representative Council (SRC) which boasts young, vibrant students from different races. All the members of the SRC met with the Premier, who encouraged them to study hard and one day serve South Africa with pride.

Essentially, the Premier was visiting the university to meet with Ace Mloi, a 21-year old third-year student who recently published a book titled *In Her Fall Rose a Nation* – which tells an educational, inspirational story of a young girl who leaves her rural home to further her studies in the big city life. Loosing herself in the worldly pleasures of student life, she then gets kicked out of university and as a result, she has to find shelter in the streets which consume her last bit of hope of rising again.

The Premier points out that this story rings true and resonates with a lot of young people not only in the Free State, but South Africa as a whole, who are sent to school by their parents yet they lose themselves in worldly activities and never graduate. The Premier wholeheartedly champions education amongst the youth and the important role it plays in society, and thus, took time out from his busy schedule to visit his young namesake, who hails from QwaQwa, and encourage him to continue using his talent and write books which will inspire his peers and also prove that irrespective of where you come from, anything is possible if you use your God-given talents.

The younger Ace's talents were however identified after he completed his matric in 2009. After completing matric, he was awarded a bursary by the Free State Provincial Government which has helped him reach his final year of study, and further empowered him to be able to use his talent of writing books. Premier Magashule has encouraged the young Ace to further his studies and study post-graduate. "When we were young, a free, non-racial society where everyone had equal opportunity to study was a dream", the Premier emphatically said to his younger namesake. "The youth must use the

opportunities given to them to study, and consider post-graduate qualifications because they will be better equipped to plough back to society.”

The Premier’s visit to UFS further emphasizes the Free State Government’s desire to leave a lasting legacy that will increase the number of appropriately skilled people that will, in the future, meet the demands of the emerging economic and social developments and hopefully serve the province which is now ensuring a better tomorrow for them.

Issued by; Free State Provincial Government Communication Services.

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