



**the premier**  
Department of  
the Premier  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

# Media Statement

October 30, 2013

## **PREMIER OF THE FREE STATE ACE MAGASHULE CONDEMNS THE KILLING OF NALEDI FM BOARD MEMBER**

The Premier of the Free State, Ace Magashule has condemned the reported killing of a board member of Naledi Community Radio Station in Senekal, this past weekend.

Such violent acts should not be tolerated as they undermine the basic principles of Ubuntu, which is a unique defining feature of South Africans. Violence runs against the basic tenets of our Bill of Rights as enshrined in the Constitution of the land. This inhumane act of criminality must be followed to detail in order to apprehend the perpetrators.

Our communities cannot be allowed to be play grounds of criminality irrespective of the gravity or apparent legitimacy of the course. The communities of the Free State cannot live in fear and be terrorized by unknown, uncivilized faceless people.

A community radio station is a community asset that plays a pivotal role in disseminating developmental information for the empowerment of the community, and therefore the nation as a whole. This institution also plays a critical role in informing government decision makers about the preferences and the plight of the communities that they serve. The killing has instilled fear in the members of the board, which is now crippling the station as the remaining board members are reportedly threatening to resign.

When people disagree, they must engage with each other and seek cordial conflict resolution to their disputes. Resorting to violence is cowardly, and will never be a viable means of solving conflicts. The alleged infighting at the community station, which has now led to a death, will in the long run destroy the very communities that this radio station serves.

We are hopeful that our law enforcement officers will work around the clock to apprehend the criminals that are responsible for the alleged gruesome act. We urge ordinary citizens to stand and be counted against this violent conduct, which must be rooted out of all communities with the greatest urgency.

Working together with Community Radio and the media at large, the Free State Provincial Government will continue to ensure that through information dissemination we build a united, peaceful South Africa that is a much better place than it was before 1994.

Issued by the Free State Provincial Government Communication Services.

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