



29 October 2012

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Bloemfontein: Premier Ace Magashule will be hosting a Provincial Youth Indaba on the 1 and 2 November 2012 at Phillip Sanders Resort and Conference Centre. This is part of the effort by the Free State Provincial Government to advance sustainable youth development as a recognition that the youth are the oyster of our common and sustainable future.

On the occasion of the State of the Province Address 2012, Premier Magashule pronounced that the Provincial Government will be convening a **Free State Youth Indaba** within the next three months where we will create an opportunity to interact with all youth on matters relating to empowerment and development. Since the State of the Province Address 2012, the Youth Affairs Unit in the Office of the Premier has been hard at work to develop an all-inclusive database of youth organisations, businesses, identification of youth cooperatives, as well as group and individual initiatives and excellence. This has been with a view to widen and broaden youth participation and activism in all spheres of life such as Education, Business, and the wider spectrum of Entrepreneurship.

Premier Magashule further outlined various interventions that were embarked upon by the Provincial Government since 2009 that were meant to advance youth development such as, amongst others:

- Meetings with unemployed graduates in all the Districts of the Province and developing a **database of unemployed graduates**
- Provision of Bursaries to more than 4000 young people since 2009
- Implementing the "One Bursary Holder – One Laptop" Programme as part of educational support to the Provincial Government Bursary Holders
- Provision of support to Provincial Government Bursary Holders through mentorship by Skills Development Officers and dedicated annual visits by Premier and Members of the Executive Council to all Institutions of Higher Learning
- Enrolling 200 students to the Cuba Medical Study Programme
- Creating opportunities for Provincial Government Bursary Holders to be employed in the private sector whilst absorbing more than 200 of these in the various provincial government departments

All these initiatives are an indication of the commitment of the Free State Provincial Government in implementing a sustainable programme to advance sustainable youth development. This programmatic approach is unleashed to secure a sustainable future and a meaningful role and beneficiation of our youth in the current socio-economic and political environment.

Despite these aforementioned set of interventions, Premier Magashule has insisted that this is not enough as this government must and should do more to ensure that we build a future that is secure for our youth, he said. The Youth Indaba is indeed a decisive step towards ensuring that the youth take their rightful place in determining their future and destiny. The Provincial Youth Indaba for more than 400 young people across the Province that responded to our Request for Profiles for Inclusion in the

Database will see experts in various fields and spheres of life interacting with young people over the two days to map the building blocks of the attainment of this sustainable future.

The theme of the Indaba is: “**Advance Youth Development: Working Together To Eradicate Poverty, Inequality and Unemployment**”.

For further enquiries on the Provincial Youth Indaba, Please contact Mr. Thabo Meeko, Manager: Youth Affairs in the Department of the Premier 082 414 9484 or 051 405 4132.

For Media Enquiries, please contact Mr. Mondli Mvambi, Director: Media Strategy & Liaison, Department of the Premier, 082 043 3744 or email mondli.mvambi@premier.fs.gov.za/mmvambi@gmail.com

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