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the premier

Department of
the Premier
FREE STATE PROVINCE

Media Statement

Immediate Release

STATEMENT BY OFFICE OF PREMIER ACE MAGASHULE ON THE PROCESS OF INSOURCING OF CLEANERS FROM UNIVERSITAS ACADEMIC HOSPITAL AND NATIONAL DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Bloemfontein: On the occasion of the State of the Province Address 2011, Premier Ace Magashule pronounced on the phased process of insourcing to be implemented by the Provincial Government. He said "...We have followed a phased approach towards implementing the in-sourcing of services that are currently outsourced by government. In this regard, we have employed 248 cleaners, 119 patient assistants, 302 security officers and gardeners in permanent positions at various health institutions. This obviously contributes to our efforts in creating decent jobs and sustainable livelihoods..."

Subsequent to this pronouncement, Premier Ace Magashule convened a meeting with all Cleaning Staff on the 31 August 2011 wherein he emphasized the need by government to terminate the outsourcing of cleaning services for all these officials to be employed full-time by government and be eligible to receive service benefits such as regular monthly pay with pay slips, security of tenure, medical, leave and pension benefits. Premier Magashule also attended to the alleviation of the plight of cleaners that come from areas as far away as QwaQwa and other small towns. These officials spend their money in transport and rental accommodation and are thus unable to provide for their families.

Premier pronounced that these officials will have to be transferred to service Departments in their home towns. On the occasion of the State of the Province 2012, Premier Magashule pronounced that "...We have made significant progress with the **in-sourcing of identified services** at our public service institutions, specifically with regard to the permanent employment of cleaners and security officers...". Premier further said, "...one of the objectives we had set ourselves was to correct some of the **injustices** to which **our workers** were subjected to during the past. When QwaQwa ceased to exist as a so-called homeland, a number of female workers were transferred from their place of residence to take up employment as cleaners for the

provincial government in Bloemfontein. During our interaction last year with cleaners of the provincial government, it was agonizing to realize that these mothers had spent more than a decade away from their families in some of the lowest-earning income categories in the public service. Today, 18 years later, we are finally able to announce that Me Malitaba Tshabalala, Me Makolo Mahlomaholo, Me Puseletso Moeketsi, Me Linah Motsoeneng, Me Mantoa Motsima, Me Manthathi Motsoeneng and Me Dimakatso Mphuti have been transferred back to their place of residence, QwaQwa, with immediate effect...”.

The Department of Health has been hard at work to ensure that the policy pronouncements of the Premier as articulated in both the 2011 and 2012 State of the Province Addresses are adhered to. As part of the Monitoring of the implementation of this commitment, Premier Magashule convened a high level meeting with the MEC: Health, Ms. Fezi Ngubentombi, Members of Senior Management Service in the Department of the Premier and Department of Health and the delegation of Nehawu on Tuesday, 23 October 2012, to ensure that a clear all inclusive and consultative process is embarked upon to ensure that the decisions of government do not impact negatively on the plight of the workers and their rights.

As it is, a task team reporting to the Premier has concluded a costing model for the implementation of this commitment. The costing model to be presented to the Premier and the MEC: Health accounts for the permanent employment of Cleaners and Human Resource Officers from the Universitas Academic Hospital, Cleaners from the National District Hospital as primary areas and all other government service areas into the future. This will indeed go a long way in ensuring that the quality of life of these officials is improved and that government is able to meet the Presidential injunction of providing decent jobs to the people of our country, especially the poor who are feeling the wrath of poverty and inequality.

Premier Ace Magashule is disturbed by the attempts of his political opponents who are fueling uncertainty and confusion in the lives of these cleaners and other categories of officials. Premier has learnt that there are faceless people who are spreading rumours that he had instructed the structures of the ANC to submit names for full time employment in the place of the aforementioned cleaners from Universitas Academic Hospital and National District Hospital. These rumours are malicious and are meant to discredit the Premier and his efforts to advance development and securing of decent sustainable livelihoods for the cleaners and those in the employ of the Provincial Government. It is stated without any fear of contradiction that the

insourcing of cleaning services and full-time employment of cleaners and other categories of officials is to benefit the current officials that are in the employment of external service providers in these two institutions. The Department of Health is being targeted by the detractors of Premier Ace Magashule as a point where uncertainty and confusion can be fueled. However, as the Provincial Government we are resolved on ensuring that all is done to implement the programmes of government that will result in the improvement of the lives of the poor and vulnerable.

Issued by the Government Communication Services, Department of the Premier, Free State Provincial Government.

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