



the premier

Department of  
the Premier  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**27 May 2014**

### **RESPONSE ON THE PERCEPTION OF FREE STATE GOVERNMENT “MISSING IN ACTION”**

It is unusual for the Free State Provincial Government Communication Services to respond in such detail about the itinerary of the Premier. However, we feel that due to some destructive insinuations from people who are impatient with Premier Magashule, people who seem to find fault where none exists, we should set the record straight about the activities of the Premier and Provincial Government since the Swearing in ceremony of the Provincial Legislature on Wednesday, 21 May 2014. It is hardly a few day since the swearing in of the Premier, but we already receive pressure that seek to portray the Premier as a lazy and uninterested person to the major cause of alleviating the plight of the Free Staters. The Premier is not a meritocrat, he is a democrat that consults widely as he prepares to announce his Cabinet on Thursday, 29 May 2014, well within the prescripts of Legislation as provided for in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

The Free State Legislature Sitting was on Wednesday, 21 March 2014 at which the Members of the Legislature were sworn in and Political Office Bearers elected as follows:

1. Speaker – Honourable Elisa Sisi Mabe (ANC)
2. Deputy Speaker – Honourable Sizwe Mballo (ANC)
3. Chair of Chairs – Honourable Motete Daniel Khoabane (ANC)
4. Chief Whip – Honourable Cornelius Johannes van Rooyen (ANC)
5. Premier – Honourable Sekgobelo Elias Ace Magashule (ANC)

Premier Ace Magashule immediately assumed Office after this day by performing his Constitutionally assigned duties as chronicled below:

On Thursday, 22 May 2014

The Premier of the Free State was already hard at work meeting with various critical stakeholders in the Province such as the Department of Health, Education, Provincial Treasury as well as visiting Health and other service delivery facilities in the Province. The priority given to these Departments is in line with the need to increase levels of efficiency in these Departments as they are Priority Number 1 and 2 and the Treasury is the financial enabler to performing the insurmountable task of Restoration of Human Dignity as asserted by the Premier.

The Premier has never rested but ensures that what has been committed to the people of the Province is delivered in one way or the other. There are many issues that arose in our diagnosis of the 20 year review and the analysis of how far we have come in the last 5 years. The Premier and other Political Executives were with the people throughout their election campaign and have gathered a lot of information beyond what we knew. On that account we are putting systems in place to respond to service gaps. We are not delusional

of other achievements which we have secured over the 20 years, but we take stock of what we could have missed and seek to institute corrective measures, so as to do things better in a sustainable way. And as such, just one day after being elected, Premier Magashule hit the ground running by calling the aforementioned meeting with the various stakeholders to map out a way forward.

We are preparing ourselves as the Free State to implement the injunctions of the National Development Plan – Vision 2030 in line with the Ruling Party's Election Manifesto that characterizes this phase of the 5<sup>th</sup> Democratic Governance as the Second Phase of Transition, with the Socio-Economic Imperatives being the game changers that will make all of us realize the ideals of a country that truly belongs to all its people and those people sharing in its wealth, being provided with Security, Housing and Comfort. These things do not come easily - they take a lot of planning, alignment of planning, building of networks and galvanizing of financial and other material effects that will make them happen.

On Friday, 23 May 2014

Premier was considering the inputs made by various sectors on the Transport Indaba and how this is affecting the province as a whole beyond the Metro.

On Saturday, 24 May 2014

The Premier attended the Inauguration of the President, which on its own, served as a platform for the Free State to negotiate its standing as an important province that must be considered in the decision making and resource allocations in the country, if we are to achieve what we need to as a perceived small province, better, smarter and faster.

It is arguable that there is no person who could be making a case for the Free State to gain better recognition at the National level than what Premier Magashule is currently doing. He is concerned for instance about the need reconsider the manner in which resource are allocated in the Equitable Share and the Division of Revenue Act. The Free State is one province with a Spatial Framework that is different from other Provinces and its case needs to be listened to and Premier Magashule is loudly making the Free State case.

On Sunday, 25 May 2014

The Premier was meeting with Director-General (DG) and Senior Management of Government to give feedback and discuss the outlook of the Free State in the immediate future.

On Monday, 26 May 2014

The DG observed the Child Protection Week whilst he was meeting with Senior Management of Government to put systems in place for the implementation of the 102 days Programme of Government. The Premier was visiting various Children Centres in Bloemfontein and also attending to ANC Business as it is ANC Monday. This was of course a special sitting as he was also mapping a way forward, in consultation with the ANC PEC in the province on various issues of governance.

And so, this brings us to today, 27 May 2014:

After careful consideration and adequate consultation with all relevant stakeholders, the Premier is now confident and ready to announce his Executive Council – a capable team which will work closely and tirelessly work with him to better the lives of the people of the Free State.

We are therefore now busy preparing for the announcement of the Executive Council, which will be on Thursday, May 29, 2014, at the Welkom Indoor Sports Centre, 10am.

It remains the main prerogative of the Free State Government to work together with all people in the province in ensuring a better life for all.

It is indeed now time to serve the all the people of the Free State!

**End.**

**Issued by the Free State Provincial Government Communication Services.**

**For enquiries, please contact:**

<b>Mondli Mvambi</b> Government Spokesperson 072 022 1598 051 403 3238 mondli.mvambi@fspremier.gov.za	<b>Setjhaba Maphalla</b> Media Strategy & News Services 071 302 2591 051 403 3928 Setjhaba.maphalla@fspremier.gov.za
---	--

## **THE PULSE OF COMMUNICATION EXCELLENCE IN FREE STATE GOVERNMENT**

