



the premier

Department of  
the Premier  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

# Media Release

October 31, 2013

## PREMIER OF THE FREE STATE, ACE MAGASHULE LAUDS CHINA'S INVESTMENT

The Minister of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms. Tina Joemat-Pettersson together with her Chinese counterpart, Mr. Han Changfu and the Free State Provincial Executive Council led by Premier Ace Magashule, successfully launched the China-South Africa Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre (ADC) in the windy town of Gariiep Dam, on October 30, 2013.

Accompanied by MECs Mamiki Qabathe of Agriculture and Rural Development, Tate Makgoe of Education, Mayors and Municipal Managers, Premier Magashule welcomed the investment from the People's Republic of China and emphasized ardently that the Free State Province, and indeed the country as whole, is reaping the fruits of a long standing relationship between the two countries – a relationship which began during the painful days of our liberation struggle for freedom, democracy and prosperity.

The Premier acknowledged that the national government, under the leadership of President Jacob Zuma, has invested trillions on many more investments that are in line with the National Development Plan: Vision 2030, a government framework that seeks to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by drawing on the energies of the country's people, growing an inclusive economy, enhancing the capacity of the state, and promoting leadership and partnerships throughout society.

China donated around R45 million to South Africa for the construction of the ADC, while the South African government has invested R7 million for landscaping, roads, signage, cleaning of ponds and so forth. With this partnership, China and South Africa are putting to practical effect what South Africa has committed to do in changing the course of development.

The China-South Africa Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre Project is one of the outcomes of the Forum on China Africa Cooperation meeting held in Beijing on the 4th of November, 2006, where His Excellency, the former President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Hu Jintao announced the eight measures of aiding African countries, including building 14 agricultural technology demonstration Centre projects in African Countries.

“We are proud that the ADC is the first project in the area of agriculture that the Chinese government is assisting South Africa with. We must celebrate the fact that Free State is the chosen destination of international investment”, said the Premier.

The implementation contract to establish the ADC at Gariep Dam in the Free State was signed between China National Agricultural Development Group Corporation (CNADC) and Free State Department of Agriculture on 10 July, 2009.

This strategic partnership with China, has already created 126 jobs for the construction, landscape, general cleaning, electrification, cleaning of ponds, which formed part of the development phase. The second phase, which is the implementation stage, will create more jobs leading up to completion. China will run the first three years of the project, thereafter it will be South Africa's turn to solely to run the project for another three years. After 6 years, both countries will analyse the fruits of this milestone project and plan a mutually beneficial way forward.

Premier Magashule welcomes this investment with great enthusiasm and committedly believes that working together we are ensuring that South Africa truly becomes a much better place than it was before 1994.

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