



**TO: ALL MEDIA  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PREMIER DUKWANA SADDENED BY UNTIMELY PASSING OF MEC  
MAKGOE AND PROTECTOR**

The Premier of the Free State, Mxolisi Dukwana, on behalf of the Free State Provincial Government (FSPG), the Executive Council (EXCO), the entire Education Sector, joins the Free State Community, and indeed all South Africans, in sending heartfelt condolences to the family, colleagues, friends, comrades and loved ones of the now deceased MEC for Education, P.H.I Makgoe, who passed on in a motor-vehicle accident in the early hours of 05 March 2023.

The Free State Emergency Services (EMS) crew responded to an accident outside Winburg on the N1, earlier this morning 05 March 2023 at about 01:30am, and on arrival, found a light motor vehicle which collided with three stray cows. Regrettably, 3 occupants became trapped inside the vehicle as a result.

The EMS utilized the jaws of life to free the occupants and unfortunately, 2 were declared dead on the scene. Regrettably, MEC Makgoe and one male Protector, Warrant Officer Vuyo Mdi, were identified as those declared dead on the scene.



The one male driver of the vehicle, Warrant Officer Pule Nkopane, remains in a critical condition in a Bloemfontein hospital.

Affectionately known as **Tate**, the industrious Makgoe served his people and his country with the utmost of distinction in all his areas of deployment, especially in the Education Sector.

Born in Tumahole, Parys in the Free State, Makgoe went on to become one of the longest serving Members of the Executive Council, having served in various capacities with aplomb and distinction, after joining government during the advent of democratic South Africa, from the early days of the transition from the old regime to the democratic dispensation.

A Chemical Engineering graduate from what was then called Technikon Vaal Triangle, now Vaal University of Technology (VUT), Makgoe held a Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com) degree from the world renowned University of South Africa (Unisa). He later obtained an Honours degree in Bachelor of Commerce from the University of the Free State (UFS) and a Master's in Business Leadership from Unisa. At the time of his demise, Makgoe was enrolled for his PhD in Leadership in Education with the UFS.

Vibrant and politically conscious, Makgoe was always aware of the delicate and volatile political landscape in the country owing to the draconian Apartheid policies.



Makgoe has, from an early age, devoted his life to the disadvantaged and marginalized in order to fully realize the objectives of the true political transformation and the total eradication of grinding poverty.

A well-travelled political administrator, Makgoe, in his colourful journey serving the masses of the people, served in the following portfolios:

- Member of the Free State Legislature **(1994 -2023)**
- Free State MEC for Finance **(1994 – 1996)**
- Free State MEC for Tourism and Environmental Affairs **(1997-1999)**
- Free State MEC for Agriculture **(1999-2003)**
- Chair of Chairs in the Free State Legislature **(2001-2004)**
- Free State MEC for Public Safety, Security and Liaison **(2004 - 2005)**
- Free State MEC for Finance **(2005 to May 2009)**
  - Free State MEC for Education **(2009 until his untimely death, this morning, 05 March 2023)**

“Makgoe, throughout his life, believed in the vision of a better life for all. He was driven by the quest for the total eradication of poverty and underdevelopment, especially through his deployment as MEC for Education, where he catapulted the province to top status as the best performing school for consecutive years.”, said Premier Dukwana. “He now departs, leaving a department that remains on the top echelons of the Education sector in the country.”



The Free State Provincial Government will from this moment, be in constant communication with the Makgoe family, and further updates regarding his burial, shall be communicated.

ENDS ///

*Issued by the Free State Provincial Government Communication Services*

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