



FREE STATE MARCHING TOWARDS
FULL DIGITAL MIGRATION

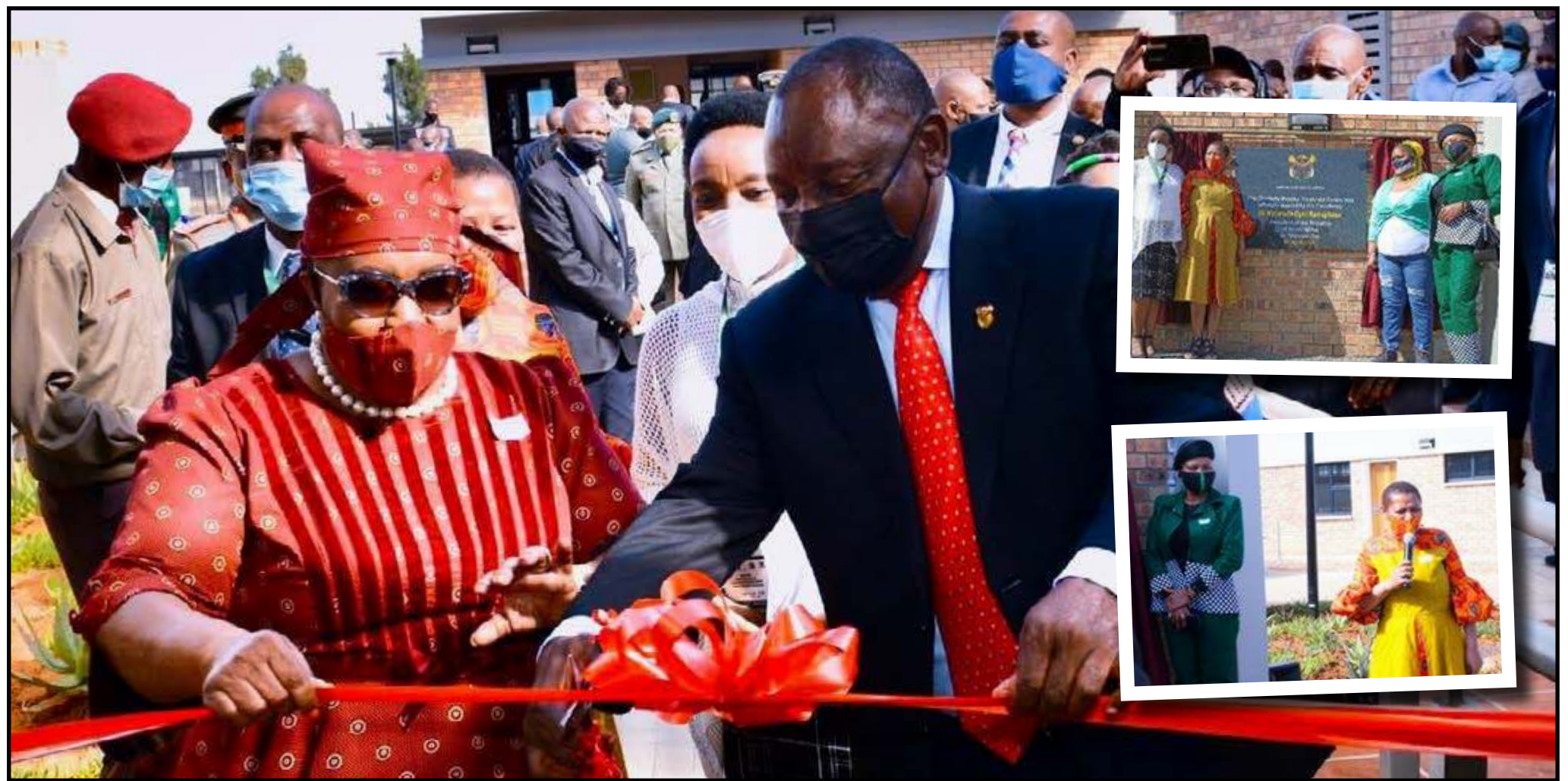
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CHARLOTTE MAXEKE TREATMENT CENTRE TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY

President Cyril Ramaphosa paid tribute to the Free State province, saying it was in the Free State province where many struggles were waged against colonial rule and later the apartheid regime. Ramaphosa led the 2021 Freedom Day celebrations in Botshabelo and officially opened the Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre on Tuesday 27th April under the theme: “The year of Charlotte Maxeke - the meaning of freedom under COVID-19. The Charlotte Maxeke centre is a state of art facility run by the state which provides treatment to people with substance use disorders. This alcohol and drug free facility is situated at section G in Botshabelo next to Botshabelo Regional Hospital. This facility admits both voluntary and involuntary service users in terms of Act 70 of 2008.

Social workers from the Department of Social Development and various stakeholders such as Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, South African Police Services, NGO sector and FBO sector will handle the referrals to the facility for all government subsidized services provided at the centre and service users who can afford to contribute towards their treatment are also welcome to do so following the policies and procedures of the centre. President Ramaphosa together with the Minister of Social Development, Lindiwe Zulu, Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, Premier of the Free State Sisi Ntombela and MEC for Social Development in the province, Mamiki Qabathe, Charlotte Maxeke surviving relatives and Charlotte Maxeke foundation

representatives and other distinguished guests kicked off the Freedom Day Celebration with a tour around the treatment centre. Premier Ntombela announced that over 100 people will be employed at the centre and the majority of the staff members will be women with special preference from local women and youth especially for all entry level posts which does not require previous experience or Matric qualifications. The 104 staff members which includes professional social workers, professional nurses, psychologists, care workers, occupational therapists and support staff ranging from catering services, cleaning services, gardening, administration services and security services will ensure that service users receive effective treatment and a comfortable stay for the entire period of their treatment programme.

The center has been operational and started with admissions in May 2021. The 16 core staff members who were appointed in January 2021 have completed the development of the treatment programme and other relevant policies and procedures for the center. The remaining 84 staff members will also be appointed to assume duty. About 22 staff members were employed from December 2020 at the center to start with the operationalization of the centre and Me Dithuso Monare who is a Social worker by profession for more than 30 years and previous acting Mangaung Metro District Director has been appointed as the Centre Manager and other promotional posts have been filled by provincial and district officials who have been working in the department.

DID YOU KNOW?



1. ABOUT THE NAME

Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre. The Centre is named after a struggle icon and a leader per excellence. Her contribution to the liberation of this country is well documented in the annals of history. The naming and opening of the Centre on the 27th April 2021 was a celebration of her legacy in the very year named : Year of Charlotte Maxeke

2. LOCATION

The Centre is located in Botshabelo Location which is part of the Mangaung Municipality. It occupies 17 hectares. It stands adjacent Botshabelo Hospital.

3. PROJECT BACKGROUND

In July 2013 the Department of Social Development submitted a bid to request funding to support the anti-substance abuse services, which included both funding for prevention services (campaigns), and for the construction of treatment centre. The allocations requested were in accordance with

the prescripts of the Prevention of and Treatment of Substance Abuse Act 70 of 2008, which was proclaimed by the President in March 2013 and the National Drug Master Plan 2013-2017 that was approved by Cabinet in June 2013. The two documents advocated for the strengthening of prevention and treatment services.

The bid was in response to this gap in service delivery. The country had only eight public in-patient treatment centers concentrated in five provinces namely, Western Cape (3), KwaZulu Natal (2), Mpumalanga (1), Gauteng (1), and Limpopo. Free State province had none. Clients referred to the department had to be referred to other provinces for a service. The ever growing demand for the service provided a business case for the bid for construction of this facility.

The construction of the centre commenced during 2015/16 financial year and was completed in October 2020/21.

4. SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

The following services will be provided at the Centre:

- Pre-admission
- Detoxification,
- Treatment,
- Re-integration and After Care (Re-Unification).
- Vocational skills development

The duration of the treatment programme is designed over 3 months (12 weeks) for both adults and adolescents.

5. PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Services will be provided by a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) composed as follows:

- Social Work Manager
- Nursing Manager with nursing staff,
- Psychologist
- Social work supervisor and

Child and Youth Care Workers.

6 INTER-SECTORAL COLLABORATION

Detoxification and all related complications will be handled jointly and with assistance from the Department of Health, as guided by the Implementation Protocol. Vocational skills development will be done in collaboration with other government Departments that have been identified to assist in the skills development of the service users before exiting the programme.

7. INTAKE CAPACITY OF THE CENTRE

Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre has a 40-bed capacity, which will accommodate 20 adult males, 10 adult females, 5 adolescent boys and 5 adolescent girls.

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FREE STATE PROVINCE

FSPG NEWS | Editorial

Although we have made remarkable progress since 1994, inequality, poverty and unemployment remains one of the most glaring obstacles to South Africa's goal of national unity and social cohesion.

At the time of going to print, the Province and indeed the entire country, was right in the belly of what those in the know, call the "third wave" of the Coronavirus Pandemic. This compelled the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, Cyril Ramaphosa, after the necessary consultations, to move the country to Adjusted Level 4 of the National Lockdown on June 28, 2021. It goes without saying that there are some in our communities who are suffering from what is now termed "Pandemic Fatigue", and thus, no longer necessarily adhere to disaster management regulations and observe the necessary protocols, which is putting the lives of citizens in danger, especially at places of entertainment.

People must continue to exercise extreme cautiousness, and urge others to be responsible and accountable for their actions. As communicators, we are heeding the call to assist our caring government in communicating the dangers of the Coronavirus, but also, as part of our strategy, persistently talk to the importance of vaccination. To this end, as you, our avid reader, will see in this first quarter publication, we seek to build awareness and confidence in the vaccine programme and mitigate vaccine hesitancy and misinformation. This is important in order to collectively

defeat this virus which continues to wreak havoc, and restlessly manifest itself in our communities. In this edition, we lead with the exciting visit by President Ramaphosa to the province on Freedom Day (27 April 2021), which coincided with the official opening of the Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre. All this, took place in Botshabelo.

In honour of the iconic Charlotte Maxeke, on this 150th anniversary year of her birth, we are honoured that the President officially opened a 40-bed capacity treatment facility, befittingly named after Mama Charlotte, in commemoration of Freedom Day, in our province – the heart of Freedom, the birthplace of Democracy. The historic event was indeed a symbolic measure in reassuring the South African society that government's commitment to gender equality remains strong and resolute.

We have come to know that what the courageous Mama Charlotte Maxeke displayed in her lifetime, during a very difficult period in our country, was indeed inspirational. As a befitting gesture, the treatment centre named after her, seeks to help to free our community in the Botshabelo area, from substance abuse. As the Premier of the Free State, the mother of our province, Sisi Ntombela, said on the day: "We must remember that with Free-

dom, comes great responsibility - A responsibility to help those who need our help to realise the true freedoms of a fruitful life free of substance abuse."

This edition chronicles some of the good work the Free State Government, under the sterling leadership of Premier Sisi Ntombela. The Free State has a good story to tell, under very strenuous circumstances due to the Coronavirus. Indeed as a province and a country, we have made remarkable progress since 1994, although inequality, poverty and unemployment remains glaring obstacles to South Africa's goal of national unity and social cohesion.

There is no doubt, however that working together as communities, we can defeat the Coronavirus and all social ills South Africa faces, to ensure that we enjoy our hard earned Freedom, in harmony and prosperity.

We do hope you enjoy this edition.

Re Ya Aha!

Setjhaba K. Maphalla

Editor-In-Chief



TEACHER VACCINATION LAUNCH A SUCCESS

The official launch of the vaccination for the teaching staff at the Gonyane Primary School in Mangaung took place on 23 June 2021. Free State Premier Sisi Ntombela joined by Health MEC Montseng Tsiu and Education MEC Tate Makgoe opened the vaccination site where more than 500 educators got their first jabs. The vaccination continued in other parts of the province bringing the total number of vaccinated teachers to 4282 on the launch day. Some of the vaccinated teachers expressed relief and confidence that they will be able to continue with their duties without any fear. The department had made arrangements for the vaccination of 500 teachers but more teachers and non-teaching staff

turned up. The department had to move swiftly to accommodate all of them. MEC Makgoe, who was also vaccinated on the day explained that their plan was compromised by the message the teachers received.

"Apparently some of them were told that the vaccine may finish. But you can understand that people are anxious to get the vaccine. Even when we asked them to go back and come the following day, they refused", said MEC Makgoe.

Education Minister Angie Motshekga announced that the staff in the private and public basic education sector will receive their single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine from 23 June until 08 July. The teach-

ers, teaching staff, administrative staff and cleaners received their shots regardless of their age.

Free State Premier Sisi Ntombela was excited about the vaccination of teachers. "Teachers stood firm and protected the education of our children. These are the soldiers that said we are going to assist our government to fight this war of Covid-19. So today it's their turn to get the jabs. I am happy and excited about it", she said.

The vaccination campaign was expected to take 14 days by national set standards and the Free State was committed to vaccinate their entire 32 000 personnel.



RAMAPHOSA ENGULFS MANGAUNG

PRESIDENT CELEBRATES FREEDOM DAY IN BOTSHABELO

President Cyril Ramaphosa visited Mangaung for Freedom Day commemorations on 27 April.

The commemorations, held in Botshabelo, were also attended by the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture Nathi Mthethwa, acting Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, Premier Sefora Ntombela and Members of the Executive Council.

President Ramaphosa said it has been a difficult but fulfilling journey since South Africa attained freedom in 1994, but added that more still needed to be done to improve the lives of South Africans. He added that most people still live in abject poverty, whilst many more still do not have water and electricity.

"This year marks 27 years since we attained our freedom from apartheid rule. On this day we recall the historic events of the 27th of April 1994 when we voted for the first time... Today we have a country where all enjoy human rights and freedoms. We have a Constitution that is a shield and a

protection for all. We have made great progress towards realising the rights of our people to a better life and in advancing human dignity. And yet, even as we have lived in a democratic country for the past 27 years, we know that across many parts of South Africa, the promise of 1994 has not yet been fulfilled," said President Ramaphosa.

He continued: "For those who continue to suffer from lack of basic services like running water; for those living in fear every day from violence and crime; and for those who have no jobs to support themselves and their families, true freedom remains elusive. The legacy of apartheid remains a defining feature of our land."

The President made an assurance that government was working hard to ensure a better life for all South Africans.

Premier Ntombela thanked President Ramaphosa for choosing the Free State province to celebrate Freedom Day.



ENGAGING BUSINESS FORMATIONS IN MAP



Challenges facing businesses and industries in Maluti-a-Phofung featured strongly in the two previous oversight visits by the Deputy President David Mabuza at Maluti-a-Phofung. These issues were raised by businesses during the presidential visit to the area as one of the identified service delivery hotspots in the country.

The constant disruption of electricity and water supply were some of the main issues that have caused service delivery protests in Maluti-a-Phofung Municipality. Unstable supply of electricity and water has a direct effect on the local economy of the municipality negatively affecting SMMEs' production and manufacturing.

Following these visits, the Deputy President instructed that engagements with business formations in the area be held urgently in order to work out Maluti-a-Phofung SMMEs Multi Sectoral Intervention Plan. This plan will then be presented to the Deputy President and other principals during his follow up

visit.

A delegation made up of DESTEA, Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality, Department of Small Business Development (DSBD), SEDA, MAP SEZ, FDC and the Office of the Premier held a meeting with representatives from business formations on 18 June 2021. More than fifty representatives from eight business associations attended the meeting.

Issues raised at the meeting ranged from lack of business opportunities, unstable electricity and water supply and poor infrastructure within the municipality, lack of communications, poor waste management, lack of support of SMMEs and informal traders, lack of transparency on how FDC buildings are sold and rented and maintenance in the industrial parks.

Ms Mofedi Nkabinde, the founder of GMT Holdings, one of the factories within the SEZ industrial area, lamented the constant disruptions of electricity and water supply which hampers operations of her abattoir business. "Our business relies on water during

slaughtering, and relies on electricity for storage. At times we even consider relocating due to these problems", she said.

Addressing the meeting, DESTEA's Head of Department, Dr Mbulelo Nokwequ said, "Such engagements are critical to enhance government plans towards economic development of the Free State. They should be held quarterly and be monitored for progress and challenges if any. It is however important that business formations form networks and exchange views if we are to avoid regionalization of economic plans. As government, we are compelled to create conducive environment for interaction and effective implementation of plans".

Maluti-a-Phofung is a critical area where important industrial parks, Phuthaditjhaba and MAP SEZ in Tshiame are all situated. Factories in these areas are in the textile, furniture, plastic, agro-processing, leather as well as auto-mechanics and have created more than ten thousand permanent job opportunities.

If these problems cannot be attended to, the local economy will suffer which will result in job losses. Sustainability and success of localization and industrialization depends on reliable supply of electricity and water, good roads infrastructure as well as stable labour force, among others.

The intervention plan to turn the situation around, the meeting agreed, will have to include, among others, improved collaboration with the business chambers; open day with business chambers to identify opportunities available within the SEZ and DESTEA and FDC to set up a steering committee to deal with problems in the industrial parks and develop an urgent strategy to retain and attract investments in the parks. The Department of Small Business Development will also increase the tempo of its campaign on the Township and Rural Economic Programme (TREP) incentives.

LEARNER ADMISSION



Parents are urged to register their children for admission between
01 APRIL to 31 JULY 2021

The admission age of a learner to public school is:

4 and half years turning 5 on or before 30 June in the year of admission for Grade R

5 and half years turning 6 on or before 30 June in the year of admission for Grade 1

The following documents are required for registration:

- A Birth Certificate
- B Immunization Card
- C Transfer or last school report card for learners who have been to school
- D Study permit for foreign learners

Enquiries:		
DISTRICT	NAME OF ADMISSIONS COORDINATOR	TELEPHONE NO.
FEZILE DANI	Mr. MM Mangolane	016 973 9001
THABO MOFURSANYANA	Mr. SA Xekiso	058 863 1609
LEJWEPUTSWA	Mr. D Van Wyk	057 391 7203
MOTHEO	Mr. KB Motshemadi	051 404 4744
XHASEP	Ms. F Lepogo	051 404 0274

'Raising the bar, Closing the gap & supporting learners in all grades'



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 Department of Education
 FREE STATE PROVINCE

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PARENTS URGED TO REGISTER CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL

The Free State Department of Education is urging parents to register their children in time for the 2022 school year.

Registration for children starting Grade R and Grade 1 opened in April and will remain open until July 31.

Education MEC Tate Makgoe encouraged parents to carefully choose the right schools for their children and register them on time and avoid the last minute rush.

He says early child learning and primary school education are very important and children should not be disadvantaged by missing out on those

formative years of education.

"Primary schooling remains our priority as it improves the learning outcomes in Mathematics and languages across all grades," said Makgoe. Children eligible for admission for Grade R are those aged four and half years old and turning five before June 30 in 2022.

Those going into Grade 1 should be five and half years old and turning six before the end of June next year.

The following documents are required for registration: birth certificate, immunisation card and a transfer letter or last

school report card for learners who have been to school.

Foreign learners are required to have a study permit in order to be admitted at school.

The MEC said it's important for learners to be registered by the start of the new school year so that they don't lose time at the beginning, a very important period when starting school.

"The Free State Department of Education will continue to emphasise building the foundations for learning and it's important that these learners start their schooling in earnest in the new year," he said.



BROWN CALLS FOR THE INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

On Wednesday, 16 June 2021, MEC for Finance Gadija Brown, joined by councillors from Letsemeng Local Municipality and community leaders visited Oppermans Intermediate School in Oppermansdorp near Koffiefontein to commemorate Youth Day with learners from grade 6 to 9. Youth Day this year was commemorated under the theme: “The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society.” The school caters for learners mostly

from disadvantaged communities in Oppermans and the surrounding towns. Brown and councillors ticked through a whole host of problems and concerns presented by school administrators and learners, giving young people optimism and the guidance they need to become leaders in politics and business; and, in particular to deal with the challenges that they are facing on a daily basis. “While there are many issues that I care about and intend to work on, I am convinced that the most important thing

we can do as the Free State Provincial Government is to ensure that our economic policy includes youth and that we prepare the next generation of leaders to take up the baton and effect change in our province and the country as a whole” said MEC Brown. She acknowledged that economic inequality and decent education to all young people are the serious public concerns. She maintained, however, that these issues, as well as others affecting young people in particular, would not be re-


solved until the government restructure the system and allow full participation of young people in the country’s mainstream economy. Staff and learners were thrilled after getting donations from MEC Brown. School principal Mr Wiesie thanked both MEC and the councillors for their generosity. “We are very pleased by the donations we received and we believe that they will make a difference to our learners as the majority of their parents are unemployed,” said Wiesie.

GOVERNMENT NEWS

Let's grow South Africa together

Vaccination

- Mask up, wash up, and move up to minimize the spread of COVID-19
- Keeping a safe distance from others is important- as you may be standing next to someone with the COVID-19 virus
- When we practise the health protocols, we are keeping ourselves and loved ones safe
- People over 50 years are encouraged to register for the vaccine, for an added layer of protection
- All essential workers who are 50+ are eligible for vaccination and do not need to wait for a special roll out allocated to their work category
- South Africa #It's in your hands to stop the spread of COVID-19
- Remember the virus doesn't move, we do
- #Vaccinate to Save SA
- Register on the EVDS Self Registration Portal: <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>



2030 NDP

Government Communications (GCIS)



PARTNERSHIP YIELDS GREAT HARVEST

A group of farmers in Bainsvlei outside Bloemfontein, have proven that joining hands can yield great results and a good harvest. This was

evident when, crop farmer Dr Dan Mosia harvested sunflower on his farm Broedersrust on 26 May 2021 with the help of neighbouring farm-

ers who are also in partnership with him. Mosia planted about 1 200 hectares of sunflower. The Head of the Department of Ag-

riculture and Rural Development, Dr Takisi Masiteng and some of the senior managers of the department visited the farm, during the harvest day.

Broedersrust Farm, situated in Ward 26 in the Mangaung Metro, was purchased in July 2012 by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform through the Pro-active Land Acquisition Strategy Programme. Farming activities started immediately after the acquisition and the lease agreement was signed in 2012.

Through a partnership with his neighbour, Mr Frekkie van der Merwe and other farmers, they managed to plant 1200 hectares of sunflower. Last year these farmers suffered great losses following heavy rains that swept most of their crops and continued to damage the fields. MEC William Bulwane had paid them a visit to assess the extent of the damage accompanied by the department's technical teams.

"The department assisted us a great deal, after those floods damaged our crops and caused massive damages to the fields. The support from the department really meant a lot to us", said Van Der Merwe.

The department assisted these

farmers with production inputs for planting of sunflower and maize on 406 hectares. Van der Merwe from Kleinheuwel farm added that they can achieve more through partnerships between the black and white farmers. "Partnerships are very important and ours has grown into a good and productive one and we are proud of our achievements thus far", he added.



They have secured markets for their produce as they also farm with maize and peanuts. HOD Dr Masiteng wished them well and said that farming is not easy. He concluded by appreciating all the efforts and said that much is to be done in order to bring back the Free State province to the status of being the bread basket of the country.



SOUTH AFRICA AND LESOTHO TACKLE CROSS-BORDER CRIMES

Police, Roads and Transport MEC Sam Mashinini, visited the Harapitsi borderline between the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho and South Africa on 28 April 2021 to assess the numerous complaints about cross-border criminality.

MEC Mashinini was accompanied by the Director of Civilian Oversight Mokgethi Masilo. They met with representatives of both countries' law enforcement units, the SANDF, Home

Affairs and the Kingship of the area. The main topic for discussion was on crimes happening along the borderline, including stock and vehicle theft, human trafficking and car-hijacking. People farming in the border areas were also there to raise issues such as illegal grazing on their land, theft of livestock and people without the necessary work permits who earn an income in South Africa. The MEC and the farmers agreed that they will work

together to put a stop to the crime threatening the safety of people on the Harapitsi/Zastron borderline and hampering good relations between the two countries. The Basotho counterparts also agreed to work together with the farmers in the region.

"South Africa and Lesotho are dependent on each other. I urge you to find and implement ways and means to restore peace and unity between our countries. Good relations between

us is vital and in the best interest of all of us," said MEC Mashinini.

MEC Sam Mashinini and his team visited sites along the Harapitsi/Zastron borderline to acquaint themselves about the crime situation between South Africa and Lesotho. Some farmers gave the MEC a practical demonstration on how their fences are jeopardised by cunning criminals to get illegal access to their land



PAVING ROADS TO UPLIFT COMMUNITIES

The Township of Relebohile in the small town of Luckhoff recently enjoyed some form of a relief when its critical local streets received upgrades and jobs were created for the community members. On 21 June 2021 the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure, launched its Township Rehabilitation Programme (TRP) in Relebohile where 600m of local streets received permanent rehabilitation and upgrades.

The need to have the streets upgraded came from the Relebohile Community during an oversight visit in the area. They requested the Provincial Government to

assist in changing the outlook of their key local streets as it was difficult to navigate and move around the area, especially during the rainy season.

Their appeal landed on the doors and ears of the Department and Public Works and Infrastructure MEC Tshidi Koloï gave their request a green light. A two phased paving project was then implemented in Relebohile. Today, the paved streets enables the community to move around easily and the provision of services runs smoothly.

The TRP entails the upgrading of low vol-

ume roads from gravel streets to paved streets utilizing inter-locking paving blocks including the formalization of the storm-water network.

The focus of the programme is the upgrading and paving of township streets as well as the replacement of old infrastructure. In order to fight poverty, develop skills and create work opportunities, the department has integrated training within the TRP

The Department prides itself on these closer to life projects, especially where locals receive training and get certificated. “Our TRP initiatives offer a training

phase wherein participants do practicals when the actual rehabilitation work and paving of the street takes place,” said MEC Koloï.

Thirty five (35) young people from the community participated in the project. At the completion of each TRP Project, the Department makes sure that participants are equipped with the knowledge base (from the class during the inception period) and the practical part (they receive during the implementation phase of the project.) Participants also receive an NQF Level 3 certificate upon the completion of the project.

TRIBUTE TO LEGENDARY AUTHOR

It was with shock and sorrow that the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) learnt of the passing on of Mme Suzan Limakatso Sefatsa, a highly celebrated Sesotho writer and educator. She departed on 27 June 2021 at the age of 90. Mme Sefatsa was born in Senekal (Matwabeng) in a little village called Lebabalasi, on the 29 September 1930. She was a published author and member of MoabSesotho Writers Organization.

Through the MACUFE-WordFest, Mme Sefatsa was honoured by DSACR for the impeccable role she played in the development of literature in the country. DSACR further honoured her in 2015 by renaming the erstwhile Matwabeng Public Library to Suzan Limakatso Sefatsa Public Library. From 1950 to 1952, she studied for her Teachers’ qualification at the Strydom College which was then in Bloemfontein where Pelonomi Hospital is now. In 1953, she started to work as a teacher. In 1970, she became the Principal of the Lejweleputswa Primary School in Meadowlands, Gauteng.



Mme Sefatsa’s parents as well as her husband, Ntate Sefatsa, have since passed away. She then moved to Senekal and in 1986 became a teacher in Senekal.

As a writer, Mme Sefatsa was a Secretary of the writers’ organisation called Lekgotla la Sesotho le Ikemetseng la Bangodi (LESIBA). She was also a member of the Sesotho Language Body. Her contribution to the wealth of Sesotho books came in the form of a drama book called Pakiso, published by Educum in 1979. Some of her other books include Makomo and a series of grammar books for Standard Three, Four and Five, which she wrote with Mr Khotseng. These series are called Mphatlalatsane and were published by Juta Printers.

“The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation is truly saddened by the departure of one of our country’s most revered Sesotho writers. Mme Sefatsa was a legendary figure whom we continued to honour while she was still with us. We call on those she leaves behind to pick up from where she left and continue to develop and promote Sesotho literature. The Department sends its condolences to her family, colleagues, friends and all those who followed her work. May her soul rest in peace” said MEC Limakatso Mahasa.



A FITTING FAREWELL TO THE GOOD DOCTOR

On 5 April 2021, celebrated author Dr. Kgotso Maphalla took his last breath.

The news of Dr. Maphalla's death, fondly known as KPD, sent shockwaves across the province. An author of well over 70 books, Dr. Maphalla was revered across the province for his prolific work and deep love for SeSotho language.

Upon hearing of the death of Free State's favourite son, Premier Sefora Ntombela said Dr. Maphalla's death, at the age of 66, had dealt a massive

blow to literature and added that the province had lost a gifted wordsmith. "Dr. Maphalla was a living testimony that the pen is truly mightier than the sword. Through his works, Dr. Maphalla sought to unite Africans especially during a very dark period in our country. The Free State province has lost a truly gifted and inspirational man. On behalf of the Free State Provincial Government and the entire citizenry of the province, I would like to send my heartfelt condolences to the Maphalla family,"

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ON BEHALF OF THE FREE STATE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND THE ENTIRE CITIZENRY OF THE PROVINCE, I WOULD LIKE TO SEND MY HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE MAPHALLA FAMILY.

//
PREMIER NTOMBELA

Premier Ntombela said.

Dr. Maphalla, said Premier Ntombela, has left an indelible legacy which will live on for eternity. At his funeral service, which was also attended by MEC for Sports, Art, Culture and Recreation Limakatso Mahasa and MEC for Police, Roads and Transport Sam Mashinini, Premier Ntombela said Dr. Maphalla's achievements bore testimony to his genius.

"We look back, with great pride, on a life well lived. It was a rich life. A life of great sacrifice, pain but also a life of

great rewards. His accomplishments bear testimony to a life lived without any fear of the inevitable. His death has robbed us of a fountain of knowledge. A man of immense talents who was only too happy to share his gift with the world. We are grateful that, even in death, Dr. Maphalla's teachings will continue to inspire us," she said.

His son Setjhaba also paid a moving tribute to his father, describing him as his hero.



PREMIER SADDENED BY DEATH OF MR. RAMAEMA

Premier Sefora Ntombela learnt with shock of the passing away of Ntate Thuso Ramaema. Mr. Ramaema, the former Deputy Director-General in the Office of the Premier, passed away on Thursday, 24 June 2021 after a prolonged battle with COVID-19. Ramaema, who was a Certified Fraud Examiner, retired from public service in February 2021, leaving the strategic position of DDG in the Office of the Premier, where he was responsible for Policy, Planning and Governance, and had on various occasions, when called upon by the Premier, acted as Di-

rector-General of the Free State Provincial Government.

During his illustrious public service calling, Ramaema served in various strategic and demanding positions which include being the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Free State Development Corporation (FDC), Head of Department (HOD) at the then Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DETEA), now known as DESTEA.

He also served as Acting HOD at the Depart-

ments of Agriculture and Rural Development and Social Development, respectively.

"Ramaema was an astute, meticulous public servant, and was selfless in the execution of his duties. We are poorer without his frankness, boldness and overall professionalism. On behalf of our government and the people of the province, I wish to convey heartfelt, sincere condolences to his family, extended family, friends, colleagues and those who are directly and indirectly affected by his passing. May his soul receive eternal rest," said Premier Ntombela.



FREE STATE MARCHING TOWARDS FULL DIGITAL MIGRATION



Communications and Digital Technologies Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams led the celebration of the World Telecommunications and Information Society Day in Bethlehem on 17 May 2021. The Minister and her entourage including Education MEC Tate Makgoe and Dihlabeng Mayor Councillor Lindiwe Makhalema used the day to switch off analogue television broadcasting services in that area. To date sixteen transmitters have been switched off in the Free State province since the beginning of March 2021.

World Telecommunications and Information Society Day is celebrated annually on May 17 since 1969 to mark the founding of International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. This year's theme: "Accelerating Digital Transformation in challenging times", magnified the significant role of information and communication technologies (ICT).

On the day, Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams also tested the speed and functionality of broadband connectivity that provide learners with internet. She remotely connected to the school in Makoane village, in Qwaqwa from the public library in Bethlehem. The sites such as schools, clinics and libraries are connected to broadband by the SA Connect project under her department. The school was also given 24 tablets.

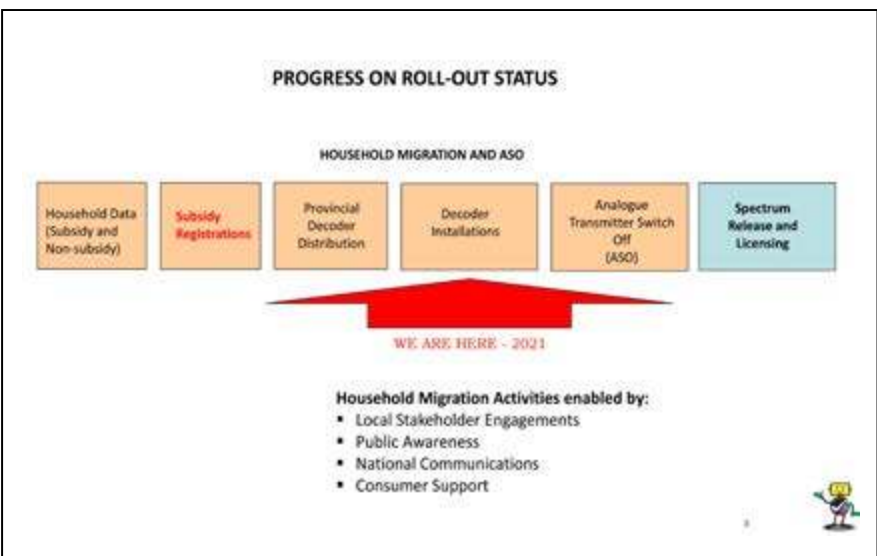
The Minister said: "One of the most important government objectives is to expand broadband access, and the conclusion of digital migration is an important link in achieving this goal. The conclusion of digital migration will further free up valuable spectrum and thus enable widespread availability of broadband for public and private use."

Thanking the Minister for having chosen the province for the celebration of this day, MEC Makgoe used the opportunity to highlight the challenge that Covid-19 has posed to the province. "When Covid-19 hits the education system, the department is forced to change the way they do things. The children attend school for two weeks in a month thus leaving only 100 days for contact sessions. This creates a learning gap. It's only through unlocking of digital technology that we can access learners even when they are home", he added.

DID YOU KNOW?

As at March 2021, a total of 19 transmitters have been switched off in the Free State province. Free State is leading, countrywide, on the rollout of the digital migration programme with only Bloemfontein Transmitter to be switched off. The Free State is forging ahead to be the first province in the country to fully migrate to digital

Household Status - 30 June 2021 (Registration and Decoder Rollout)									
PROVINCE	BASELINE:		TOTAL REGISTRATIONS RECORDED	KITS ISSUED		INSTALLATIONS			
	Estimated Subsidy Beneficiary Households	% of Total National Households		Decoder Kits Issued	Percentage Issued (%) [Against Registered Households]	USAASA	SENTECH	Total Installations Completed	Installations (%) Against Registered Households
SA	845 306	7%	113 070	239 782	86%	132 313	81 881	213 852	77%
NC	111 559	2%	72 473	51 179	71%	20 775	23 711	44 486	61%
NW	382 692	8%	155 580	101 051	65%	85 224	0	85 224	55%
LP	603 825	14%	86 866	42 565	49%	37 381	1 037	38 418	44%
MP	415 027	8%	97 101	52 831	54%	48 625	663	49 288	51%
TOTALS	1 854 409	39%	690 110	482 408	70%	384 216	47 102	431 318	62%



Community members who have not registered for their free government subsidised decoder are encouraged to visit their nearest Post Offices to register for a free decoder.

Previous installation complaints:

- **Contact SENTECH** Call-Centre 0860 736 832 to log the issue experienced – provide address, name and contact details;
- **Visit SAPO branch to register the complaint** – provide address, name and contact details; and/or
- **Reach out to your municipality structures to report issues** – provide address, name and contact details.



DTT Call Centre Number: 0860 736 832

WhatsApp: 072 196 8368



GODIGITAL

SOUTH AFRICA

STAY
SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

BUILDING THE FR



FREE STATE WE WANT



FREE STATE PROVINCE





INDUSTRIALISATION SUPPORT INCENTIVES

Following MEC Makalo Mohale's announcement of the Industrialization Support Incentives on 28 May 2021 the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTE) opened online applications for black industrialists on 31 May 2021. When making the announcement, MEC Mohale committed his department to the integration of black industrialists and SMMEs in provincial supply chain. He highlighted that the "commitment means that support of industrialization efforts is the fulcrum of our approach to rebuilding our economy". R10 million has been allocated for the applicants during this financial year. The Industrialization Support Incentives will be available for the next three years and are aimed at stimulat-

ing local domestic manufacturing and industrialization. They are also aimed at stimulating participation in large businesses and government supply chains while assisting SMMEs to transition to industrial production levels. Job retention and job creation are also included as the Department works to increase economic distribution in the province. The incentives are part of a strategic approach to accelerate and transform the economy while increasing employment opportunities. The incentives will assist industrialists with rental and set-up cost subsidies and is divided into three categories:

- Established Manufacturers' Incentive: To provide established enterprises involved in manufacturing and industrialisation with factory space rental subsidies (R2million max. per

applicant).

- Emerging Manufacturers' Incentive: To provide enterprises at the incubation or start-up stage, who are in manufacturing and industrialisation, with factory rental subsidy (R1million max. per applicant).
- Informal Manufacturers' Incentive: To provide informal/unregistered manufacturers with factory space rental subsidies, and set-up costs grants to support manufacturing and industrialisation operations (R300k max. per applicant).

Potential applicants were advised to study the criteria of each incentive to identify which incentive would best suit their enterprise. Online applications were opened on May 31, 2021 and closed on June 15, 2021.

TICKING THE RIGHT BOXES



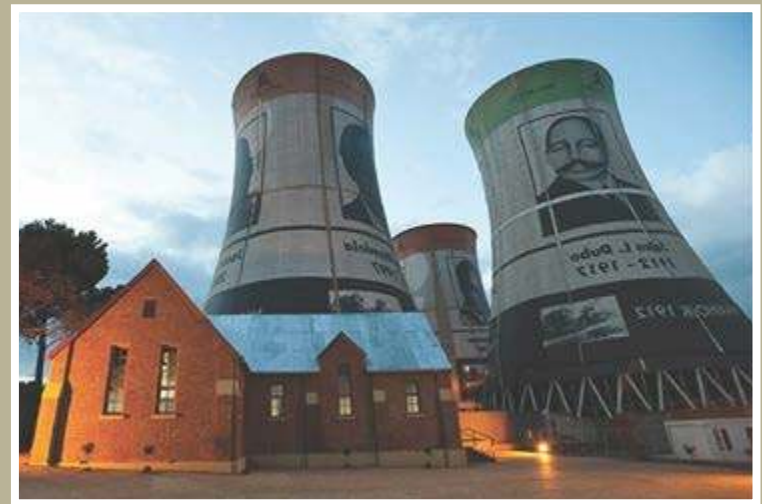
Premier Sefora Ntombela has appealed to mining companies to ensure safety protocols are adhered to, to prevent the spread of Tuberculosis. The Premier made this call during the commemoration of World TB Day in Welkom, Matjhabeng local municipality in March. Premier Ntombela said places such as mines are a fertile ground for communicable diseases such as TB, and as such, implored on the management to put systems in place to safeguard the safety of the work-

ers. "TB remains one of the world's deadliest diseases. By taking the commemoration to the mine, where communicable diseases like tuberculosis are sadly prevalent, we hope that mining communities were once again reminded of the grave danger this disease poses," Premier Ntombela said. She further added that statistics from the World Health Organisation painted a grim picture of infections in the world and equally in South Africa. "Statistics from the World Health Or-

ganisation (WHO) paint a dim picture. According to WHO, there were 360 000 active cases of TB in South Africa in 2019 and 10 million people globally. Sadly, 1,4 million people succumbed to the disease in 2019. These are alarming numbers, more so because tuberculosis is a curable disease. Our message to those who have fallen ill of the disease is to please take their medication and they will recover. Unfortunately, once they start feeling better, some of our people stop

taking their medication and they fall ill once again," Premier Ntombela said. Willem Gouws from Harmony Gold mine assured the Premier that they will work hard together with government to raise awareness and prevent further infections. Premier Ntombela was accompanied by MECs Limakatso Mahasa and Montseng Tsiu and the Executive Mayor of Matjhabeng local municipality, Nkosinjani Speelman

WESLEYAN CHURCH, A MONUMENT TO BE PRESERVED



The preservation of heritage and transformation of the heritage landscape of our country and province is one of the cornerstones of the post-apartheid democratic dispensation. The acknowledgement, recognition and the need to advance the previously marginalised histories is an unequivocal mission that needs to be undertaken in a quest for equity and justice in the heritage arena. Towards this goal the Free State Provincial Government has, through the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR), ensured the declaration, creation and building of heritage landscapes and museums across the province. Amongst several such heritage site and museum is the Wesleyan Church in Bloemfontein. The historical significance of this institution is beyond measure. Its history is inextricably intertwined with the liberation struggle of this country and it places the Free State Province at the centre of this country, not only geographically but historically. The Wesleyan Methodist School Church, in what used to be called Waaihoek, in Bloemfontein, saw the founding of the South African Native National Congress (ANC), later renamed African National Congress in 1912. The party was founded in the school room located at the church. The church stands in what used to be a black township in Bloemfontein. It was here in 1912 that businessmen, clergymen, journalists, lawyers and teachers held a political meeting that laid the foundations of the ANC.

During the Centenary celebration of the founding of the ANC in 2012, the Church served as a stark reminder of the historical significance that it embodies as the celebrations of the Centenary were hosted in the Church. Struggle icons and luminaries from across the country, the continent and from abroad, including the American Civil Rights icon, Reverend Jessie Jackson, set foot in this church with an objective of assimilating the spirit that dominated the congregants in this church 100 years previously. After suffering years of neglect during the apartheid era, even being used as a motor vehicle workshop, a desecration of the memory of those who gathered there in 1912, the Church has undergone significant renovations to preserve it as a monument to popular struggles against oppression. Substantial investment by the Department has been made to ensure that this church serves as a preservation of the heritage of the Free State and the country at large. More work is in the pipeline in terms of the content development in the form of exhibitions as well as the broader development of the surrounding area to be suitable for the museum of this magnitude. The museum can be visited at Fort Street, Waaihoek in Bloemfontein. Visiting hours are from Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 15:30. Visits during weekends and public holidays are by appointment and entrance is free. However, visits will be aligned to the COVID-19 Risk Adjusted Levels.





LAND FOR BATLOKWA BA MOKGALONG

The 26th of June 2021 marked a historic moment for Batlokwa Ba Mokgalong. It was on this day that the Free State Provincial Government, led by Premier Sefora Ntombela, handed Batlokwa land in Vrede, Phumelela local municipality. The Premier said Batlokwa Ba Mokgalong had been robbed of their land many years ago, resulting in destitution. "Like many other tribes across the country, Batlokwa Ba Mokgalong were not spared the brutality and inhumanity of land dispossession at the height of apartheid. The result of this inhumane act, of forcibly moving indigenous people off their land, saw them scattered all over. Once a thriving community in their arable land, Batlokwa Ba Mokgalong were now squatters, hopping from one place to the next," said Premier Ntombela. She said the apartheid regime cared little for the wellbeing of the people, and by removing Batlokwa from their land, visited upon them unimaginable misery. "Our people were dealt a terrible hand. The vicious apartheid regime, fired up by insatiable greed, would stop at nothing to amass wealth for a small minority in the country, to the detriment of the majority of the people," she said. Premier Ntombela said the effects of land dispossession can still be felt today. By getting their land back, said Premier Ntombela, Batlokwa Ba Mokgalong could now walk with their heads held up high. "Today, the Free State provincial government corrected the wrongs and injustices of our painful past. Today, we gave Batlokwa Ba Mokgalong their land back. These long suf-

fering people have now regained their pride. The effects of those evil deeds can still be felt to this very day. The devastating poverty and homelessness that we experience today can be traced back to land possession," said Premier Ntombela. Kgosi Nkgahle Tsotetsi thanked Premier Ntombela and the provincial government for helping them get their land back. The Premier was accompanied by MEC for Cooperative



THE VICIOUS APARTHEID REGIME, FIRED UP BY INSATIABLE GREED, WOULD STOP AT NOTHING TO AMASS WEALTH FOR A SMALL MINORITY IN THE COUNTRY, TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE



PREMIER NTOMBELA

Governance and Traditional Affairs Thembeni Nxangisa, MEC for Health Montseng Tsiu and the Head of Department (HOD) for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Mokete Duma.





OLDER PERSONS GET THE JAB

Social Development MEC Mamiki Qabathe joined the campaign to support the national Covid-19 Vaccine Roll-Out Plan on Thursday 13 May 2021 in Bloemfontein. The campaign was targeting unregistered older persons who are members of luncheon clubs and residents of Boikhucold age home who had not yet registered for the COVID 19 vaccination. Government launched phase 2 of the vaccine roll-out on 17 May 2021 with the aim

of vaccinating five million people over the age of 60 by the end of June. The first phase targeted healthcare workers. MEC Qabathe also registered to be vaccinated with the elderly who had gathered at Boikhucold age home to register for vaccination on the EVD system. MEC Qabathe wanted to also ensure that the officials provide necessary support for the implementation of the national COVID-19 vaccine registration.

She encouraged other old age homes - funded or not funded by the department and are run by NPO's to ensure that registration at these homes is underway before 17 May 2021. The provincial government has also set plans in motion to mobilise older persons not residing in the old age homes to register on EVD system and get vaccinated for COVID-19. The Department of Social Development is a custodian of the Older Persons Act and

is instrumental in assisting with linking up old age homes and older persons, 60 years and above residing in the Free State province to register on the EVD system. Families are urged to assist and register their parents and relatives from 60 years and above by login on their computers, laptops or smartphones and log into: <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za> or use no cost USSD by SMS system and dial *134*832#

SUBSISTENCE FARMERS BENEFIT FROM GOVERNMENT

On 12 May 2021, the representatives from the Solidarity Fund which is an initiative of the Office of the United Kingdom's High Commissioner to South Africa together with the Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development paid a visit to the Thabo Mofutsanyana District with the aim of interacting with beneficiaries of the Fund's Farming Input programme. The visit was conducted in the following villages: Lejwaneng (Thaba Tshweu Tribal Council), Moeding in Tsheseng (Batlokwa TC), Matebeleng, Bakwena TC and Tshela (Kholokweng TC). The Farming Input programme is designed to enable subsistence farmers in all 886 selected traditional councils to purchase key farming inputs with a R2000 e-voucher, allowing them to continue to produce food and prevent their households from being pushed into a poverty trap. The Solidarity Fund approved R75million farming input voucher intervention, as part of its efforts to ameliorate the negative consequences of COVID-19 restrictions. According to Ms Noluthando Nhlapo, Assistant Extension Manager from the Department, the Free State Province has registered 821 farmers out of 780

targeted beneficiaries in Thabo Mofutsanyana District and Mangaung Metro Municipality Traditional Communities. "All 41 excess beneficiaries were also allocated their vouchers. Redeeming of vouchers was approved and is still continuing through the seven selected suppliers within the province: (OVK: Phuthaditjhaba, Harrismith, Fouriesburg, Hobhouse, Bloemfontein Hinterland, Tweespruit and Mosikili Poultry, Pig and Vegetable Enterprise in Phuthaditjhaba)" she indicated. Subsequently, the UK Government committed co-funding of R25million to this initiative, bringing the total budget to R100million. DARD assisted with the identification, verification and registration of input suppliers, while CoGTA and LandNNEs (Land Network National Engagement Strategy) assisted in the identification of beneficiaries. This is one of the great initiatives that the South African government has done with UK High Commissioner in fighting hunger and malnutrition amongst vulnerable communities. It is a programme intended to reach thousands of households affected by the pandemic.



"One of the negative impact that the pandemic has done to communities is the inability of previously self-sufficient households to provide for themselves said Nomahlubi Mosethedi, Humanitarian Pillars Project Manager at Solidarity Fund. She further alluded that the programme is aimed at providing farmers with meaningful and immediate support so that they can continue farming and contributing to their families. The field visit began at Lejwaneng village, where the representatives met with Ms. Sarah Sibilwane, a backyard farm owner who has received the R2000 e-voucher. She told them that she could not watch her family starve and immediately thought of doing something. She started to plant vegetables at her backyard during the hard lockdown. With the e-voucher Sibilwane bought farming inputs such as

fertilizer and seeds. She produces a variety of crops including spinach, carrots, cabbage, tomato, maize, onions, pepper, green beans and sells her produce to local communities. "Farming should be taken seriously as it feeds the nation and the rest of the world. My dream will not be complete without owning a crop farm which I hope the department will assist me with, Sibilwane added. Most of beneficiaries of farming input E-vouchers echoed Sibilwane's sentiment that shortage of water in Thabo Mofutsanyana District will not stop them from farming to feed themselves and the community at large. They urged other farmers and farming communities to share information on how best to store rain water and empower one another.





DSACR EMBARKS ON OPENING OF LIBRARIES

The Free State Provincial Government recognizes the important role that libraries play in opening the doors of learning and of culture to all. The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) has committed itself to continue developing and maintaining libraries that will build our communities despite the difficult economic times we find ourselves in as a country. Library services continues to play an important role in the advancement of government priority number one which is Education. We are delighted about the performance of our province in the last matric outcomes. We have no doubt that access to our over 185 libraries, whether Community Libraries or Dual-Purpose Libraries which are situated in schools, have played a critical role in the performance outcomes of our matriculants. Membership of these libraries, which is around Seven hundred and ten, eight hundred and four thousand library users undoubtedly incorporate school learners. On 15 March 2021, the Department opened the Ishmael Morapela Pub-

lic Library in Smithfield which is just but one of many centers of information excellence that the Free State Provinces boasts. This opening of the library follows immediately after the opening of another library in Luckhoff. Research has indicated that the majority of South Africans do not take pleasure in reading. The Department intends to challenge this notion and make libraries more attractive to members of our society as well as making reading a habit in our households. Apart from extensive book collections, catering for all age groups and educational levels – from preschool to tertiary – and with books in languages prevalent in the Free State, the new libraries that our government is building are also equipped with computers for public use and dedicated on-line connectivity for internet access. All public libraries in the Free State province have already been provided with IT equipment and Internet access, and this service is further enhanced with the provision of tablet computers and Wi-Fi areas. This project will add more equip-

ment and services, such as computers for the visually impaired and educational computer games, to the existing service. The construction of the Ishmael Morapela Public Library was funded from the Community Library Conditional Grant which is made available by the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to provincial departments to transform and upgrade public library services in the country. This well-furnished library also boasts children and adult lending sections, a reading area, reference section, an activity hall, a study hall, computer room and a toy library. The toy library service will not only support early childhood development but games such as chess, scrabble, monopoly and others will cater for the needs of the older child and adults. The library is equipped with computers providing free internet access, e-mail, and word processing facilities. Ten tablet computers will be available for downloading and reading e-books and e-periodicals

MOHALE COMMITS TO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DE-STE) MEC Makalo Mohale has begun a series of stakeholder engagements to ensure that everyone is pulling in the same direction with the goal of revitalizing and growing the Free State economy, particularly the township economy post-Covid-19.

Speaking to Free State's local government leadership which included Mayors, MMCs for Local Economic Development, and Municipal Managers, MEC Mohale acknowledged the devastation that the Covid-19 pandemic is continuing to have on the local economy.

To save many enterprises from definite collapse due to the impact of strict lockdown regulations, the department introduced Economic Recovery Incentives whose aim was to provide financial support to Free State enterprises. These incentives targeted both the formal and informal sectors in the townships and rural areas, in order to save jobs and create new ones. To date, a total of R71million was disbursed to assist over 893 Free State enterprises. DESTEA intends to sharpen its attention on local economic development this financial year in order to ensure inclusive economic growth. Efforts will be made to enhance the District Development Model in order to pool financial and non-financial resources from national, provincial and local government. The role of functional and well capacitated Local Economic Development (LED) offices at local government was identified as being key to driving economic development and job creation. To this end, the meeting agreed that both the district and provincial LED forums will be immediately resuscitated and that

these forums must ensure that the identified strategic projects are implemented. The department was mandated to consult with municipalities and compile a catalogue of catalytic projects which will be used to engage potential investors. The proliferation of illegal businesses, mainly in the townships, was another issue the meeting discussed at length. Businesses in most townships operate without the necessary permits and many do not comply with the applicable business by-laws as well as the Businesses Act. Furthermore, there has been an increase of businesses operated by non-documented foreign nationals. In this regard MEC Mohale reiterated the commitment he made in his budget speech earlier this year when he said, "We will continue to focus on enforcement of business by-laws to curb trade in illicit goods, building of illegal business structures, and trading without business permits". This process, the MEC said, has already started with DESTEA team visiting municipalities to assess the efficiency of available by-laws and to assist municipalities with enforcement strategies. Recently, DESTEA team visited Koppiess in Ngwathe Municipality to roll out this process. The exercise entailed engagement with Municipality LED officials, Law enforcement officials, and the business community. Encouraging progress was made in this regard. The local government leadership took the opportunity to voice their gratitude on MEC Mohale's leadership and commitment towards ensuring a better life for the people of the Free State. They also shared with the MEC, plans being undertaken by their respective municipalities to ensure economic recovery and growth.

- as well as newspapers.
- In addition, the library will provide the following services:
- Book lending services with various library materials.
 - Reference services with a hard copy reference collection of encyclopaedias, dictionaries, atlases, yearbooks and Britannica online.
 - E-publications and access to Internet reference resources
 - Newspapers and periodicals in hard copy and digital formats
 - Business Information Services
 - Government Information Services
 - Educational Toy Library Services
 - Storytelling, reading clubs and community based literary activities will be hosted in the Activity Hall.
 - Holiday Programmes and National Symbols Project.
- This facility is a testimony of the government's commitment to educate and better the lives of our citizens. It is anticipated that in the next MTEF period the following libraries will be completed: Tumahole, Cornelia, Bloogumbusch and Van Standensrus libraries.

WOMEN-OWNED CNDC LAUNCHED



The Free State Department of Social Development in partnership with Meals on Wheels Community Services South Africa in the Free State launched a community nutrition development centre in Virginia, Lejweleputswa District. BoMme Ba Boithatelo Bo Botle CNDC project was registered in 2016 by a group of eight youth and older women in the community of Meloding in Virginia. The centre is currently providing meals to 160 beneficiaries daily.

BoMme Ba Boithatelo Bo Botle CNDC is one of the projects that were identified by MEC for Social Development Me Mamiki Qabathe to improve the livelihoods of youth, people living with disabilities, women and child headed households. The

partnership between the Department of Social Development and Meals on Wheels targets projects such as CNDCs, vegetable gardens and many other projects that serve the interest of communities dealing with social ills. Meals on Wheels contributes by building fully fitted container kitchens for CNDCs, offering members of the centre accredited trainings and capacitating them through skills transfer in business management, entrepreneurship and governance to ensure that CNDCs are operated professionally. The launch of BoMme Ba Boithatelo Bo Botle CNDC coincided with mother's day celebration where MEC Mamiki Qabathe handed out 150 food parcels to vulnerable families in Meloding, Virginia.



GOVERNMENT NEWS

Let's grow South Africa together

Vaccination

- The government encourages all South Africans aged 50 years and above to register for the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The government assures South Africans that all vaccines used in South Africa have been tested and approved by SAHPRA.
- Getting the vaccine will protect you from severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19.
- When you are vaccinated, your immune system will recognize the virus quickly when you get infected with COVID-19 and prevents you from being severely ill or dying.
- Vaccination is one layer of protection - you still need to mask up, wash up or sanitize and keep physical distance.
- #Vaccinate to save SA #It's in your hands



Government Communications (GCTS)



Registration for free COVID-19 vaccination for 35 to 49-year-olds opens on 15 July!

Registering is easy:



Search EVDS South Africa online or go to vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za and follow instructions

OR



Text the word Register to 0600 123 456 on WhatsApp and follow the instructions

OR



Dial *134*832* and reply to the messages

OR



Phone the free Vaccination Hotline on 0800 029 999, and you will be assisted with registration



You will receive an SMS with the details of your vaccination date and site.

You will need the following information when registering:

- Your identification number (Passport, Asylum seeker number, RSA ID or refugee number)
- Medical aid number if you are a member. Your medical aid will not charge you for the vaccine.

Don't delay. Register as soon as you can!



health
Department of Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



United Nations



STAY SAFE
UNITE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA
TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE OUR COUNTRY



2019
NDP

PROVINCE LAUNCHES PHASE 2 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

On Monday 17 May 2021 Premier Sisi Ntombela and MEC Montseng Tsiu launched Phase 2 of the Provincial vaccine rollout In Phuthaditjhaba, QwaQwa. The launch took place at the Thekolohelong Welfare Centre. The Department of Health has taken a conscious stance to focus the rollout around old age homes and clubs

as Phase 2 will focus on vaccinating citizens that are 60 years and older. This week's launch was a success as 397 people received vaccinations at the Thekolohelong Welfare centre, Other sites which conducted Covid-19 vaccinations this week include the Eliza Liddell Home, in Harrismith where 128 vaccines were administered and the Mmabahloli Clara Home in

Petrus Steyn where 54 vaccines were administered. The vaccination statistics are expected to rise drastically as more vaccine sites are opened throughout the next couple of weeks. The current active vaccine sites in the province include the following: In Mangaung Metro: Universitas Hospital, Pelonomi Hospital and Free

State Psychiatric Complex. In Lejweleputswa District: Bongani Hospital, Katleho Hospital and Thusanong Hospital In Thabo Mofutsanyana District: Dihlabeng Hospital The Department of Health continues to urge the youth to assist the elderly in registering for the Covid-19 vaccine through the EVDS system.

GRADE 12 LEARNERS TO ATTEND WINTER CLASSES

About R10 million has been set aside for 28 815 grade 12 learners from 244 schools attending the 2021 winter classes in Free State which will commence from 1 July to 18 July. Free State Department of Education will once again host winter classes for Grade 12 learners whilst ensuring that stringent Covid-19 regulations such as social distancing and sanitisation of schools are adhered. Due to limited space, schools with no hostels will only host their learners in order to be able to control the number of learners attending and benefiting from face to face learning

and teaching. Some learners will be attending in 8 residential areas and the rest at walk-in centres. All will be provided with hearty meals during the period of attendance. which will differ from one school to another. The learners will remain responsible for their transport as usual. Meanwhile, Education MEC Tate Makgoe wished educators and learners a safe winter break. The department announced that the learners will close on Wednesday, 30 June 2021 while teachers will

close on Friday, 02 July 2021 following the President's announcement.



Public schools will reopen on 19 July 2021, instead of 26 July 2021. Schools will make necessary arrangements to continue to provide feeding to those learners who are beneficiaries of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP). MEC Makgoe continued to plead with teachers and learners to observe the non-pharmaceutical protocols of Covid-19 virus. “Following the rise in numbers of Covid-19 infections, schools were forced to close earlier than planned to avoid the spread of the virus. I there-

fore plead with our teachers and learners to continue to observe the non-pharmaceutical instructions of Covid-19 virus by continuing to wash hands, social distance and wearing of mask. I further want to implore all parents to encourage learners to study whilst at home. We are living in difficult times of the pandemic and I wish our teachers and learners a safe winter break”, said MEC Makgoe. The return of all primary school and special school learners to daily attendance will remain to the 26 July 2021 in line with Risk Adjusted plans.

THE BATHO HERITAGE ROUTE



East of the Johannesburg-Cape Town railway line lies Batho Township, Mangaung's oldest existing Black Township. The township was established in 1918 after a decision by the erstwhile colonial municipal council to demolish Waaihoek which was a settlement which defied the existing racial laws. At that time Waaihoek was Bloemfontein's oldest black township, but because of its proximity to white Bloemfontein, Blacks were removed to Batho while the Coloured people were moved to Cape Stands. Later the coloured people were moved to Heid-

edal as part of the mission of the then regime to enforce racial separation or exclusivity. By 1941 Waaihoek's last houses were demolished and the area was reclaimed as a white area known as Oranjesig.

Today many of the typical red brick houses that have become synonymous with Batho can still be seen. Most of these two-, three-, four- and five-roomed cottages were built according to plans that were drawn up by the Bloemfontein Municipality. These houses display the late Victorian style of architecture – a style that

was typical in the 1920s and 1930s in Bloemfontein. Many of Batho residents even laid out English-style gardens to complement their houses.

Batho is a township with a rich history and is of great significance for a number of reasons. One reason is that in its early years Batho was seen as a model township in terms of its lay-out and infrastructure. Another reason lies in the many historical buildings and sites that may be found there.

One such building is Mapikela House. This house was built by Thomas Mtobi Mapikela, a founder member

and speaker of the African National Congress (ANC). Other important buildings include: Wesleyan Church; Mapikela House; Caleb Motshabi Centre; Sehunelo Secondary School; Masenkeng Stadium; 'Ramkraal' Prison; Batho Community Hall; Magasa Hall and several others.

As the Department works towards the establishment of the liberation route in the Free State, as part of the National Liberation Heritage Route project, Batho will certainly find its place in such a significant milestone.

CITIZENS 50 YEARS AND ABOVE

You can register using USSD
It is free to all South Africans
 Dial *134*832*IDNumber#
 If you do not have an ID number
 Just dial *134*832#

When you are done the system will send an SMS to the phone number you have provided
 This SMS will tell you that you have registered
 When its you turn to be VACCINATED, the system will send you another SMS with a date and venue for your vaccination

Should you encounter problems during the registration process contact the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999

THE FACTS

JOHNSON & JOHNSON AND PFIZER

How many shots do you need?
 Johnson & Johnson - 1
 Pfizer - 2, 21 days apart

How is the shot given?
 both are given in the muscle of the upper arm

What are the side effects?
 For both:
 In the arm: pain, redness, swelling
 Throughout the rest of the body: tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea

Who can get the vaccine?
 Johnson & Johnson - people 18 and older

Safety data for Johnsons, Johnson
 Side effects common within 7 days of getting vaccinated. mostly mild to moderate

Safety data for Pfizer
 Side effects common within 7 days of getting vaccinated, mostly mild to moderate
 Side effects more common after the second shot
 Small number of people had severe side effects that affected their ability to do daily activities



AARTO EDUCATION IN FRANKFORT AND VILLIERS

The Department for Police, Roads and Transport (DPRT), together with the Road Traffic Infringement Agency (RTIA), hosted a two-day roadshow on 3-4 June 2021 to inform motorists and the public about the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Act (AARTO) at Villiers and Frankfort.

The two-fold programme started with the "Know Your AARTO Traffic Fines Status" campaign at the Frankfort Driver and Learners' Testing Centre (DLTC) on Thursday and continued in Villiers on Friday.

Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula announced that phase one of the implementation of the AARTO Act amendments, which officially began on 1 July 2021, would run until the end of September. He said there would be three more phases, lasting until July 2022.

In light of June being Youth Month,

the events specifically focused on the younger generation as road users of the future. Mr. Lefa Modise, from the RTIA explained to the youth that one of the main goals of young people is to achieve a driver's licence. What they might not be aware of is that although they need to study and train to achieve a license - that licence in fact belongs to the state. If a driver does not adhere to the terms and conditions - such as not obeying the rules of the road and observing road safety precautions at all times - his or her licence may be revoked by the state.

Road users were also assisted to check their AARTO infringement status, and received advice on how to resolve it by selecting from the legislated elective options. The AARTO Act will enhance law enforcement in municipalities by introducing a standard, equitable and fair traffic contravention system. AARTO will soon be imple-

mented throughout South Africa and will introduce the following significant changes that will affect motorists' behaviour and conduct on the road:

- The introduction of a Traffic Demerit Point System is aimed at tackling repeat offences in road transport who do not adhere to the rules of the road.
- The delivery of traffic fines and notices electronically (fines will be sent via email, amongst other electronic means of receipt).
- The Road Traffic Infringement Authority (RTIA) will have the power to administer prescribed rehabilitation programmes for habitual infringers.
- Traffic infringements will be handled differently - the process commences when a person who is alleged to have committed an infringement receives an infringement notice.

PROMOTION OF MULTI-LINGUALISM IN THE FREE STATE

The promotion of all languages in our country and province is at the centre of our post-apartheid democratic dispensation. The Constitution as well as the National Development Plan enjoins us to ensure the preservation and promotion of all official languages.

In a quest to eradicate the disparities in the treatment of indigenous languages in the Free State, the Free State Provincial Government, through the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR), has embarked on several initiatives to ensure the elevation of these languages. Amongst some of these initiatives is the promulgation of the Use of Free State Official Languages Act.

The Use of Free State Official Languages Act, Act No.1 of 2017, came into effect on 01 June 2017 as proclaimed in the Provincial Gazette on 12 May 2017. This Act applies to all Free State provincial departments and provincial public entities with the objective of regulating and monitoring the use of official languages for government purposes, promoting equitable treatment of official languages of the Free State, and good language management for efficient public service administration while serving the inhabitants of the Free State province. The Act gives expression to the Free State Provincial Government language policy adopted by the Executive Council; and empowers the MEC for the Depart-

ment of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) to establish a provincial language unit to advise her on policy and strategy relating to the above mentioned objectives; and an interdepartmental language forum to promote coordination, cooperation, and consultation between provincial departments and public entities on the use of official languages for government purposes. In terms of this Act every provincial department or entity must appoint a Language Official to advise its HOD or Accounting Officer on the implementation of the language policy and to compile a report for submission to the MEC for DSACR. The HODs and Accounting Officers are obliged to report to the MEC for DSACR on the implementation of the language policy in their departments and entities annually. The MEC will, in turn, report annually, to the Provincial Legislature of the Free State, on the status and use of official languages by the Provincial Government for government purposes.

Commenting about the significance of this Act, MEC Limakatso Mahasa stated that, "To date we have assisted all local municipalities in the province, and the Mangaung Metro, to develop their own Language Policies. We will further assist these municipalities in the implementation and monitoring of implementation of their language policies."

30 JUNE 2021

GOVERNMENT NEWS

Let's grow South Africa together

COVID-19 VACCINE ROLL-OUT

- COVID-19 vaccine registration for people aged 50 years and above will open on 1 July 2021, and the vaccination rollout will start on 15 July 2021.
- People aged 60 years and above are urged to continue registering and visiting vaccination sites as scheduled to receive a jab.
- Vaccines are safe, effective and save lives.
- Government calls on the youth to assist the elderly with online registration for COVID-19 vaccination.
- Those who are registered for vaccination are encouraged to honour their vaccination appointments.
- People must continue to follow the public health guidelines even if they are vaccinated.
- #Vaccinate to Save SA



PULE MALEBO REMEMBERED BY DSACR



The Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Mrs. Limakatso Mahasa joined the sporting community in sending heartfelt condolences to the Malebo family and the entire sport fraternity on behalf of the Department following the passing on of one of Bloemfontein Celtic's greatest fan, mobiliser and columnist – Mr Pule Malebo.

According to reports, Mr Malebo passed on in a motor vehicle accident on Saturday 05 June 2021. At the time of his passing Mr Malebo was also a columnist for Mangaung Issue newspaper and had, over the years, expressed his passion, analysis and knowledge for football particularly about Bloemfontein Celtic with his readership.

Having learnt about Mr Malebo's untimely departure, MEC Limakatso Mahasa conveyed her message of condolence as follows, "We are deeply saddened and shocked about the passing on of our province's greatest football enthusiast and administrator Mr Pule Malebo. On behalf of the Department, I wish to convey our heartfelt con-

dolences to his family, friends, club and fans. Indeed Mr Malebo played a pivotal role in promoting football and building the Bloemfontein Celtic brand. We will surely miss his football analysis which he did through his newspaper columns. May his soul rest in peace."

CITIZENS 50 YEARS AND ABOVE



WhatsApp
 You can register using WHATSAPP
 Data required
 Send the word **REGISTER** to **0600 012 3456**

When you are done the system will send an SMS to the phone number you have provided
 This SMS will tell you that you have registered
 When its you turn to be VACCINATED, the system will send you another SMS with a date and venue for your vaccination

Should you encounter problems during the registration process contact the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999



CITIZENS 50 YEARS AND ABOVE



You can register using a **HOTLINE**
 It is Toll free to all South African Mobile Networks
Register by calling
0800 029 999
 Open from 08h00 – 18h00
 Monday through Sunday

When you are done the system will send an SMS to the phone number you have provided
 This SMS will tell you that you have registered
 When its you turn to be VACCINATED, the system will send you another SMS with a date and venue for your vaccination

Should you encounter problems during the registration process contact the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999

