

THE UPDATE

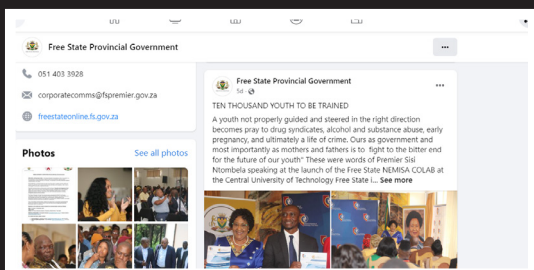
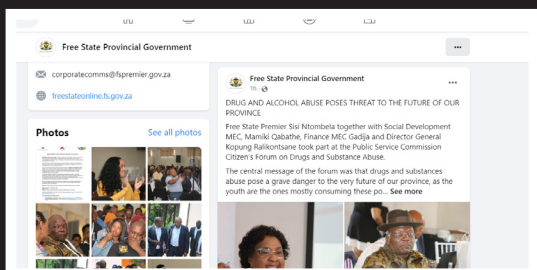


FREE STATE PROVINCE

“THE PULSE OF COMMUNICATION EXCELLENCE IN THE FREE STATE GOVERNMENT”



SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS FEED



FOUR ON THE TROT!

SIMPLY THE BEST

The Free State province achieved a feat never attained before when it was announced as the best performing province in Matric results of the year 2022.

The announcement was made by the Minister of Basic Education, Mme Angie Motshekga in Gauteng province on Thursday, 19 January 2023. By being crowned the best performing province, the Free State has set a record of being the only province to achieve this milestone in four successive years.

Premier of the Free State province, Sefora Ntombela said the Matric class of 2022 has made the province proud. Premier Ntombela also reserved special praise for MEC Makgoe, under whose leadership, the Free State Department of Education continues to thrive.

“This is a remarkable achievement and I am humbled by the performance of our learners whose hard work, under extremely challenging circumstances, is admirable.

We have set records that are not going to be broken anytime soon. Under the able leadership of Mmampudi, MEC Makgoe, the Free State province, a largely rural province, has become the envy of the entire country. I want to congratulate you my brother, Mmampudi wa rona. Your name will definitely be etched into the annals of history and your province will always honour and respect you,” said Premier Ntombela.

She continued: “Achieving this feat for a fourth consecutive year was by no means an easy feat, however, the dedication and hard work of MEC Makgoe is clearly infectious and has paid dividends.

What these children have achieved is nothing short of amazing. As if becoming the best per-

forming province was not enough, four of our districts, namely Motheo, Fezile Dabi, Xhariep and Thabo Mofutsanyana, made it into the top ten of the best performing districts in the country. As if that was not enough, both Motheo and Fezile Dabi districts with 90.8 % and 90.4 % respectively, are the two leading districts in the entire country. You are simply the best.”

A triumphant MEC Makgoe said he was extremely proud of the class of 2022. “Our top grade 12 learners are indeed true ambassadors of public schooling. They represent the entire basic education system on their shoulders and represent the hopes and aspirations of their schools, families and communities.

A publication by Government Communication Services for more information and queries please contact the Deputy Director: Inter and Intra- Department Communications , Ms. Simphiwe Mngomezulu

A NATION BLEEDS

WOMEN AND CHILDREN BEAR BRUNT OF VIOLENCE

The brutal killing of a 28 year – old mother of three, allegedly at the hands of her live in partner drew strong condemnation from the Premier of the Free State province, Sefora Ntombela.

Lindiwe Motseki was subjected to vicious assault on New Year’s day in Botshabelo, Mangaung Metropolitan municipality. Motseki would succumb to her injuries a week later in hospital. Premier Ntombela visited her family and spoke out against the violence against women and children which remains a serious matter across the country. It is alleged that the perpetrator, who has been

charged with murder, also assaulted the victim’s 8 year – old son who tried, in vain, to help his mother.

“On the 1st of January, as we ushered in the new year, an 8 year old boy attempted, in vain, to consume poison. This was after he witnessed his mother being subjected to a vicious beating at the hands of her lover. Relatives say, having seen his mother lying motionless on the floor, bruised and bloodied, the little boy felt it would be best if he too, died with his mother. This was before he put up a heroic fight in an attempt to rescue his moth-



er, but he too, was allegedly attacked,” Premier Ntombela said.

Motseki sustained terrible injuries which left her unrecognizable. On the 10th, nine days after she was assaulted, Motseki succumbed to her injuries and died, leaving behind three young children aged 8, 6 and two years.

“Once again, gender based violence has claimed another life and yet again, children are left without parents because of senseless violence,” said the Premier.

Meanwhile, the Bloemfontein Magistrate’s court sentenced a 22 year – old man to 20 years in prison for raping a 13 year – old child. Keabetswe Christiano raped his victim in Bloemspuit, Mangaung in 2020. His sick deeds were uncovered after the victim fell ill and was taken to a doctor, who confirmed that the girl was five months pregnant. In another horror story, a three months – old baby was found with dead with stab wounds in Bronville, near Welkom. Police said the victim had stab wounds to her back and head. Her left leg had also been cut off with a sharp object.



MEC DUKWANA CONDEMNS ARSONISTS

Member of the Executive Council responsible for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Mxolisi Dukwana, condemned, in the strongest terms individuals who destroyed property during a service delivery protest march in Kroonstad and Parys.

The march took place on 16 January and resulted in the home belonging to the parents of the Executive Mayor of Ngwathe local municipality Victoria de Beer – Mthombeni, being set alight. In a statement released by the department, the MEC called on the police to move with the necessary speed to bring those responsible to justice.

“MEC Dukwana sympathizes and empathizes with concerns about service delivery. However, the MEC finds no justification for violent attacks on councillors and / or their families...accordingly, MEC Dukwana appeals to the police to speedily arrest perpetrators of this cowardly deed that violates freedom and security of the parents of the Executive Mayor. MEC Dukwana is thus of the firm view that, sustainable service delivery, can only take place, in a climate of peace and development.”

Several people were arrested for public violence in the aftermath of the protest action.

FREE STATE HOSTS GLOBAL CHANGE CONFERENCE



The University of the Free State is hosting the 5th National Global Change Conference under the theme “Research and innovation accelerating transformations to global sustainability”. The conference started on Monday, 30 January 2023 and will conclude on Thursday, 02 February 2023

The conference is jointly organised by the Department of Science and Innovation, the National Research Foundation and the South African Global Change Science Committee.

Global change conferences have become key in tackling the worsening impact of climate change, which affects societies across the world.

Member of the Executive Council responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development, Thembeni Nxangisa delivered welcoming remarks on the behalf of

Premier Sefora Ntombela.

In his speech, MEC Nxangisa said Climate Change is one of the crucial challenges globally and have caused economic losses. He further said agricultural sector is also working hard to deal with natural disasters such as floods, drought, veld fires and others as it hampers food security and economic growth.

Other dignitaries who graced the conference include UFS Vice Chancellor Prof. Pietersen and Deputy Vice Chancellor Dr. Qhobela, Department of Science and Innovation: DG Dr. Phil Mjwara and DDG Mr Imaran Patel, National Research Foundation Prof. Fulufhelo Newamonde.

The dignitaries also planted trees in honour of the late Prof Bob Scholes and Prof Maarten de Wit.

SLIGHT DIP IN FESTIVE SEASON FATALITIES

On 17 January, Minister of Transport, Fikile Mbalula released the festive season road safety statistics at the Grasmere Toll Plaza in Gauteng province.

Minister Mbalula said that during the period 1 December 2022 to 11 January 2023, one thousand, four hundred and fifty one (1 451) people lost their lives on South African roads.

This is a 13.9% reduction in fatalities compared to the previous period (1 685). Gauteng is the only province that has an increase in fatalities (275 to 290) during the festive season.

The Free State has a 1,7% decline in fatal road crashes during this period, compared

to the corresponding period from December 2021 to January 2022.

“In the previous festive season, the death toll on our province’s roads was 119. This year it is 117. This is not a huge difference, but still it is reassuring that less people have died. Still, the demise of 117 people on our roads is a huge loss and I would like to send my condolences to those who have lost loved ones during this period,” said MEC for Police, Roads and Transport William Bulwane.

According to the statistics released by Minister Mbalula, most of the accidents were caused by human error and occurred over weekends between 17:00 and 22:00.



Human factors remain the principal driver of fatalities on the roads, accounting for 87% of all crashes. These are followed by road and environmental factors at 8%, with vehicle factors at 5%.

Minister Mbalula also said the success of the festive season campaign was dependent on the co-operation of every road user because road safety is everyone’s responsibility. Road Safety education and awareness cam-

paigns must be increased so that people have more knowledge on road safety tips, according to Minister Mbalula. The theme “It starts with me” means that road safety is everyone’s responsibility for 365 days a year.

During the festive road safety campaign, a number of roadblocks were held across the province together with stakeholders such as the South African Police Services (SAPS), Road Accident Fund (RAF), the

Road Traffic Infringement Agency (RTIA) and South African Breweries (SAB).

MEC Bulwane thanked the stakeholders for their participation in roadblock activities, and also acknowledged traffic officers who worked tirelessly to curb road carnage.

“We expect to see a huge reduction next year in road fatalities in the province,” said MEC Bulwane.

BONGANI HOSPITAL SUCCESSFULLY OPERATED 19 ORTHOPEDIC PATIENTS



The Free State MEC for Health, Ms. Montseng Tsiu has sent a word of appreciation to the Bongani Hospital Clinical Cluster and Management for the Orthopedic Surgeries that were performed over the past weekend, 28 January 2023. This team continued from where they left off in 2022 by starting with their first procedures for 2023.

There were 20 patients scheduled for operation and due to an anaesthetic risk as a result of high blood pressure on 1 patient, the clinical team resorted to postponement of

the procedure, so that they can control the blood pressure and redo the said patient at a later date as an elective surgery.

This team of specialists and medical officers volunteered to come and give services over the weekend in order to reduce the extensive backlogs of patients awaiting Orthopaedic surgeries.

Dr. Jabu Mofokeng, Orthopedic Surgeon at Bongani Regional Hospital led the team in this very successful Ortho Blitz weekend.

THE MINISTER AND MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MEET THE FREE STATE OLDER PERSONS PROVINCIAL FORUM

On 9 January, Minister of Social Development, Lindiwe Zulu was joined by the MEC for Social Development Mamiki Qabathe for a meeting with the Free State Older Persons Provincial Forum and Older Persons.

the elderly while at the same time encouraging them to participate in sporting activities. The minister also encouraged the elderly to make use of services provided for by the department.



care of elderly people. We also need to share information of services offered or provided by the department of Social Development to elderly people in order to do away with any form of abuse against them.

in sports programs to keep them healthy and active,” said Minister Zulu.

The Older Persons Forum assists senior citizens with financial, spiritual and emotional support.

Minister Zulu called on society to take care of

“It is important for us as a country to take

We also need to encourage them to be active



WELLDONE FUNCTION

