

THE UPDATE

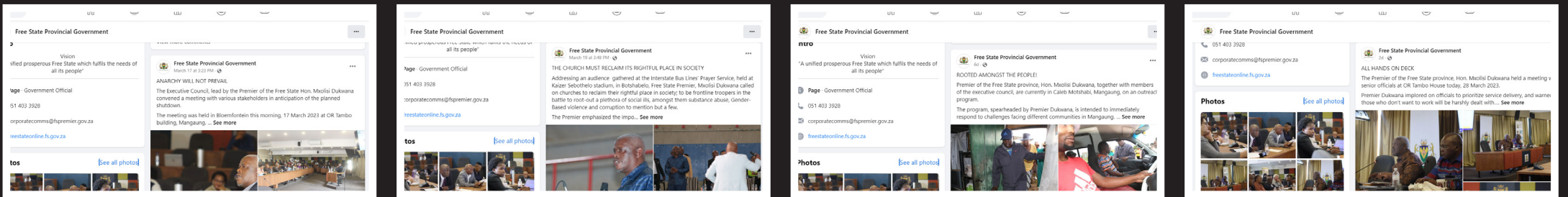


FREE STATE PROVINCE

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



SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS FEED



FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATED IN SASOLBURG

MEC MAHASA PAYS HOMAGE TO HEROES

The Free State Provincial government commemorated Freedom Day in Zamdela, Sasolburg, on Saturday 29th April 2023, under the theme “consolidating and safeguarding our democratic gains”. Freedom Day is an annual celebration of South Africa’s first ever non-racial

democratic elections, which were held on 27 April 1994. It is a significant day as it marks the end of over three hundred years of colonialism, segregation and white minority rule and the establishment of a new democratic government led by late former President Nelson Mandela.

When delivering her Freedom Day message, MEC for Sport, Arts Culture and Recreation, Limakatso Mahasa, reminded the community particularly the youth that their biggest task is to safeguard their hard earned freedom more than anything.

“On this day, we also honour those unsung heroes and heroines who fought for freedom and paved the way for an equal, representative, non-racial society. We must also acknowledge the role of Nelson Mandela, Mama Winnie Madikizela Mandela and Oliver Tambo who played an enormous role

in our liberation”. The celebrations were categorized by exhibitions which entailed literature material about the South African freedom struggle, cultural programmes and a music festival where artists such as Press, Maleh, the famous 2.1.Kgosi and many others performed.

THE UPDATE | Editorial

LONG ROAD TO FREEDOM

It finally happened.

The long arduous journey to freedom finally reached its destination on 27 April 1994. After years of trying, in vain, to convince the nationalist government that the very idea of an apartheid regime was not only daft, but also evil, South Africans finally could decide on a government of their choice.

However, it came at a price. A heavy price of gross human rights violations, economic oppression and loss of human lives. The 1994 elections were, in all fronts, a miracle.

Hard headed white supremacists were determined to prevent elections from taking place. The country watched in collective horror as far right winger, the late Eugen Terreblanche and his army of Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging ultras, rammed their military styled vehicles into the World Trade Centre as negotiations for a peaceful transitions into a democratic state were taking place.

Their feeble attempts were fortunately thwarted. The

paranoia which had, undoubtedly, paralyzed some in the country, would reach extremely dangerous levels as they sought to do everything in their might to deny the people a government of their choice.

Matters reached, or so nearly did, boiling point when on the morning of 10 April 1993, the much adored freedom fighter Chris Hani, was brutally killed in Boksburg.

The killing of the revered Hani left the country tinkering on the verge of what would have certainly been a devastating civil war along racial lines. It was all thanks to the leadership at the time, particularly of the late Nelson Mandela, that a blood bath

was avoided.

Madiba, a master strategic, saw right through the intention of Hani's assassins. He knew, in his wisdom, that the bullets that ripped Hani's torso and shattered his skull, were



aimed at destabilizing the country and would therefore prevent elections from going ahead.

That was not going to happen. Not after all the killings, displacement of people and the flames that had incinerated the country. A small group of backward thinking criminals

were not going to deny South Africa her destiny. Neither were they going to prevent her people, both black and white, an opportunity to shape the future of their country.

And so it happened. On that morning of 27 April 1993, aerial footage of snaking queues of ordinary South Africans waiting to cast their votes dominated television screens. Finally, after all the years of fear, hate and bloodshed, the moment had finally arrived. The moment of the rebirth of a country which had been at war with itself. Finally that moment had arrived for South Africa to stake its rightful claim to the world.

The sounds of guns had finally died down. The blood drenched soil of our country replaced the blood with the water that gave birth to life. Mothers whose children had been mercilessly murdered by the regime could finally smile for a new day was hovering on the horizon.

Freedom at last!

MEC MOKOENA HOSTS A STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDER DINNER



In a bid to further strengthen and ensure that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development achieves its goals and mandate, MEC Saki Mokoena has seen it fit to meet and engage with captains of the agricultural sector who strive to the building of agriculture as a sector and an economic growth. The said engagement took place after the MEC had tabled his budget vote speech on the 18th of April 2023

The objective of the dinner was to formally meet, greet and network but also to share ideas with stakeholders. About 30 stakeholders in various sectors such as agricultural sector and financial institutions attended the said dinner. During his speech at the dinner MEC Saki Mokoena shared with the stakeholders his vision and goals for the agricultural sector. He pleaded with stakeholders that everybody should be embraced for their contribution in securing food for the nation and also emphasized the importance of working together.

"For South Africa to thrive, we need to heal this divisive past and consolidate a united pact that will serve the interest of all of us. We cannot allow this element to continue to undermine the potential the sector has, we need to continue to work towards achieving both in reality and perception that agriculture is for all of us, both black and white. It therefore calls on all of us to exercise visionary leadership in overcoming some of the obstacles I believe us as a nation and people are capable of resolving. A divided agricultural sector will take us nowhere" said MEC Mokoena.

SEWER SPILLAGED SEWED



Premier of the Free State province, Honourable Mxolisi Dukwana visited the Ntlola household in Phahameng, Mangaung on the 6th April 2023.

The Premier strongly condemned the poor state that many people in the province are subjected to. At the heart of his discontent is the seemingly absent leadership to address and attend

to service delivery issues that people are faced with. In Phahameng, Premier Dukwana saw first-hand the terrible situation that Mme Noku Ntlola and her family live in.

For the past few years, the Ntlola's have had to put up with a spilling sewer which leaves, in its wake, a nauseating stench which has become unbearable for the family. Premier Dukwana said this was as a result of leaders who care very little about the communities they lead.

"This situation is indicative of government officials who simply do not want to work and whose love for the people that they are supposedly leading does not exist in their hearts. The question that continues to worry me is how we, as elected officials, can proudly claim to be leaders when people like Mme Ntlola practically live in pigsties," be-

moaned Premier Dukwana.

He, however, sent a stern warning to government officials tasked with a responsibility of ensuring provision of services, that failure to do so will not be tolerated. Premier Dukwana further expressed faith that government is on the right track in turning the tide. "I would like to assure the people of the Free State province that service delivery remains our top priority. I also wish to assure them that decisive action will be taken against officials who fail to deliver on their mandate.

In the coming weeks, we will be engaging with different stakeholders with the aim of ensuring that our towns, townships as well as our villages are clean and that we also speedily attend to service delivery challenges. I have faith that our province will rise from the ashes. I have belief in the tenacious nature of our people to defeat the odds."

Premier Dukwana was accompanied by MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure, Dibolelo Mahlatsi and the Director General of the Free State Provincial Government, Kopung Ralikontsane. The acting mayor of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Gregory Nthatisi was also present. Engineers from the municipality were called to the house and immediately began working on fixing the sewer.





THREE STREAM MODEL IMPLEMENTATION ON TRACK

Free State Department of Education is well on track in implementing the three stream model which intends to provide academic, vocational and technical skills in schools. During the tabling of the budget speech on 14 April 2023 in Sasolburg, the Honourable MEC Makalo Mohale announced that Wongalethu Secondary School is now a fully fledged technical school.

Addressing about 500 delegates, MEC Mohale is well pleased with the made especially in the Xhariep District, two more schools forms part of the three stream model, Boaramelo Combined School which offers Automotive and Engineering Graphics and Design in grade 10 and 11 in 2023 and Reikaletse Secondary School will also start with Automotive and Engineering Graph-

ics and Design in grade 10 in 2023.

All the Engineering Graphic and Design learners in these schools were equipped with drawing boards and drawing equipment.

“We will spend R53 million this financial year to construct workshops at these three school” says MEC Makalo.

Furthermore, the department will convert

Tempe Warehouse into a Schools of Skills / Artisan School in Bloemfontein to further strengthen the three stream model at a cost of R 14 322 817, 85 which should be completed in this year. The academy will offer the following skills ; welding, automotives, plumbing, electrical and electronics. Another school in Motheo District, Reamohetse Secondary School in Botshabe-

lo which will be upgrade into an Articon School which is under construction , about R 18 089 401, 98 has been injected for the programme.

MEC Mohale says the implementation of the three stream model will go a long way in offering occupational skills, to encourage people to be entrepreneurs and create jobs.

FORMER PREMIER BEATRICE MARSHOFF PASSES AWAY



Former Premier of the Free State province Beatrice Marshoff passed away at a Johannesburg hospital on 15 April 2023.

She was 66 years old. At her funeral service, held at Norman Doubell hall in Heidedal, Mangaung, speakers described the late former Premier as a principled leader who loathed corruption.

The Premier of the Free State province, Honourable Mxolisi Dukwana, said leaders of the caliber of late Premier Marshoff were increasingly becoming a rarity.

“As government and the people of the Free State, we share the pain of the loss of this principled and untiring servant of the people,” said Premier Dukwana.

He added that the late former Pre-

mier left behind a great legacy of servant leadership which had no room for malfeasance.

“As she reposes, she leaves no whiff of malfeasance or corruption behind her. She leaves instead, a legacy of humaneness and humanism, which only the principled would dare weave into a mosaic of stoicism that we witnessed in her lifetime,” Premier Dukwana said.

Having worked together with her, Premier Dukwana said he found late former Premier Marshoff to be a dedicated servant of the people.

“I had the privilege to work with her, while she served as the MEC for Social Development and later on as Premier, in my various other roles and responsibilities. I found her to be firm, principled and value-driven – attributes that our Constitution

requires -- of both executive authorities and public servants, in service to the people.”

Mourners included Members of the Executive Council, former Premier Sefora Ntombela and Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Maggie Sotyu.

Late former Premier Marshoff was laid to rest at Bainsvlei cemetery on Sunday, 23 April 2023.



REST IN PEACE

Beatrice Marshoff

