

THE UPDATE

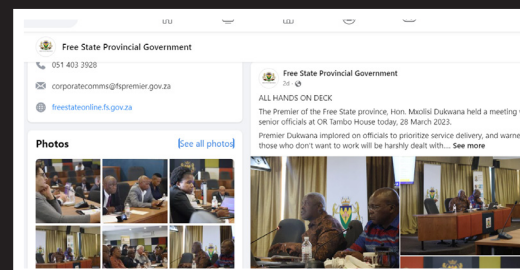
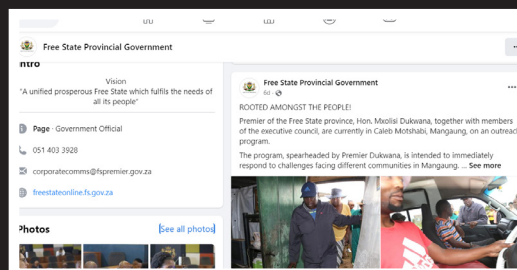
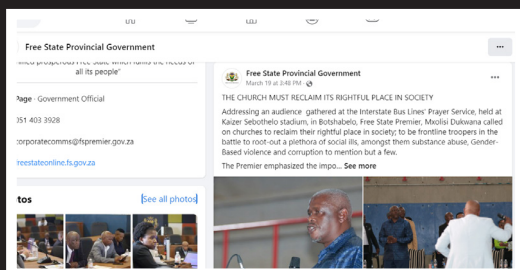
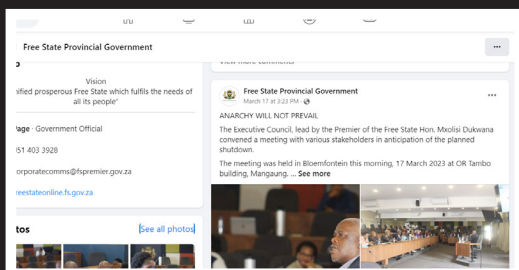


FREE STATE PROVINCE

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



SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS FEED



TRAGIC END FOR MEC MAKGOE AND HIS PROTECTOR

PROVINCE MOURNS AS MEC MAKGOE AND PROTECTOR PERISH IN CAR CRASH

The province woke up to the news of the death of former MEC for Education Pule “Tate” Makgoe and his protector, Warrant Officer Vuyo Mdi on Sunday, 05 March 2023.

MEC Makgoe was travelling from Johannesburg when his vehicle, driven by Warrant Officer Richard Nkopane, ploughed into cows, on the N1 highway near Windburg.

Warrant Officer Nkopane is still receiving medical care in hospital. News of the death of the much loved MEC Makgoe sent shockwaves across the province.

At his funeral service, held on 11 March in Bloemfontein, Premier of the Free State province, Honourable Mxolisi Dukwana paid a beautiful tribute to MEC Makgoe, whose

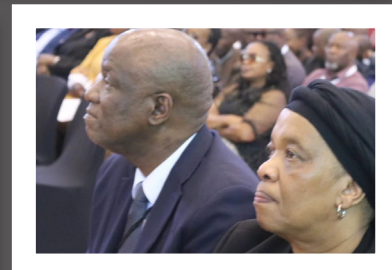
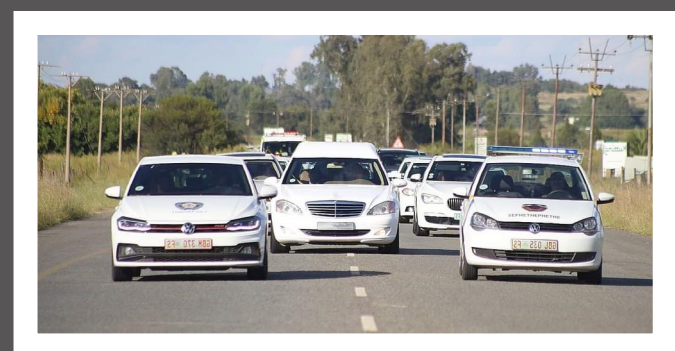
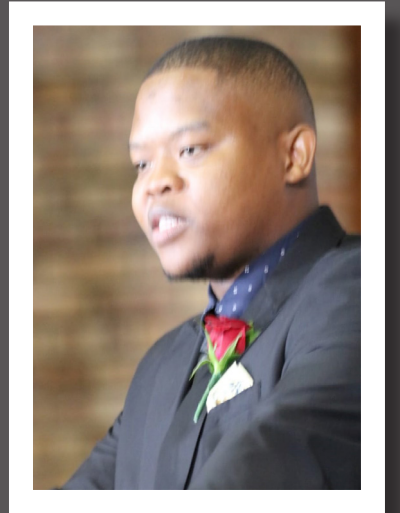
leadership of the department, which resulted in four consecutive number one Grade 12 examinations positions, earned him the nickname of ‘Simply The Best.’

“MEC Makgoe was the longest serving member of the executive council. He excelled at his job and he will be greatly missed. The Free State province will be poorer with-

out him,” said a teary eyed Premier Dukwana at the funeral service. Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga said what impressed her the most about Makgoe was his dedication to his job.

“He was a very hardworking and innovative individual. During a recent trip to Cuba, MEC Makgoe was not feeling well, but because of his dedication and love for educa-

tion, he insisted on attending one of the seminars. I am deeply saddened by his death and may his soul rest in peace,” Minister Motshekga said. The funeral service was also attended by former premiers, members of the executive council, former transport minister Mr. Fikile Mbalula and other dignitaries. MEC Makgoe was buried at the Bainsvlei cemetery in Bloemfontein.



'GOT YA BACK'



HERO PROTECTOR LAUDED FOR HIS LOYAL SERVICE

Warrant Officer Vuyo Mdi was hailed for his loyal service to the people of the Free State province at his funeral service, which was held on 10 March 2023. Mdi, a decorated police officer, died together with the MEC for Education Pule "Tate" Makgoe when their vehicle crashed into stray cows on the N1 highway near Windburg. Both MEC Makgoe and Warrant Officer Mdi were declared dead on the scene. The driver of the vehicle, Warrant Officer Richard Nkopane is still currently receiving medical attention at a Bloemfontein hospital. The trio were travelling from Johannesburg to Bloemfontein when the accident happened.

Addressing hundreds of mourners who had converged inside a school hall in Bloemanda, Mangaung, Premier of the Free State province hailed Mdi for his work.

"He was a loyal servant until the very end and we would like to thank him for his selfless service to the people of our province. We also wish to extend our gratitude to his family for allowing Warrant Officer Mdi to serve his people," Premier Dikwana said. Speakers described Mdi as a devoted family man who loved his job. The Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Maggie Sotyu was one of the mourners.

FIGHTING SALE OF ILLICIT ALCOHOL



Subsequent to the tipoff that the illicit trade of alcohol is thriving in East End Business Park-Bloemfontein, the officials of the Consumer Protection unit of the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (Destea) together with the South African Police Services (SAPS) Crime Intelligence and the South African Revenue Services (SARS), swiftly responded by raiding the area on 27 March 2023. The operation task team found male suspect of Chinese

origin in possession of boxes of alcohol whose labels and bottle caps were tampered with. This is in contravention of the Consumer Protection Act. The business address of the suspect reflects as Botshabelo, but the business operates in Bloemfontein. Furthermore, the suspect was found not to have a working permit and his visa had expired.

The joint task team confiscated boxes of illicit alcohol and the suspect was charged with contravention

THE UPDATE | Editorial

HUMAN RIGHTS TRIUMPH ALL

The Sharpeville massacre exposed to the whole world what the apartheid regime truly was; a paranoid, evil and murderous regime.

The tragedy that befell the people of Sharpeville on 21 March 1960, when 69 were callously killed by the trigger happy police and left scores injured, finally awoken the world to the monster that was apartheid South Africa.

Having suffered the indignity of being forced to carry passes, a form of identification, in person for a long time, residents organized a peaceful protest at the local police station where they had planned to burn their passes. This was a calm before the storm as, what would later happen, left devastation and carnage in the aftermath.

Having got wind of the peaceful protest, the then government sent police to the area. This irrational decision would lead to untold tragedy as, without

any provocation; police aimed their guns at the protesters and opened fire.

One after the other, the protesters dropped. The thick smell of smoke, blood and dust filled the air. The agonizing groans and piercing wailing of relatives at the realization that their family members had been killed reverberated across Sharpeville. The murderous regime had lived up to its reputation.

The killings drew worldwide condemnation. Our leaders, such as Nelson Mandela, openly burnt their passes in solidarity with the

people of Sharpeville. It became increasingly clear that the regime was fast running out of ideas and resorted to heavy handedness to deal with the rapid defiance across the country.



However, what the regime failed to understand was that by shooting unarmed people to death, they were unwittingly shooting themselves (government) on the foot.

In the aftermath of the massacre, South Africa became increasingly isolated in the international community. The events of that day showed the world what cruel

regime apartheid was. The world finally got to understand the conditions that black people were subjected to in the land of their birth by a small minority. That day, the world woke up.

When the first shot was fired and the first body dropped, it was the beginning of the end of apartheid. It kicked into effect a chain of events which would eventually lead to the end of apartheid.

Sixty three year later, remnants of that regime are stubbornly still with us. The events of Christmas Day in Maselspoort resort where grown-ups were seen, allegedly, assaulting young black children were a painful reminder of what we went through as a country.

In the memory of our heroes and heroines, who laid their lives on that fateful day, we will continue to reject any form of prejudice, based on race, creed and gender. We will honour our martyrs by ensuring that human rights are respected.

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA HAILS 'REMARKABLE AND OUTSTANDING' MAKGOE

President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa paid tribute to late MEC for Education Tate Makgoe following his death on Sunday, 05 March 2015.

MEC Makgoe and his protector, Warrant Officer Vuyo Mdi, died when their vehicle ploughed into cows on the N1 highway near Windburg. The two were declared dead on the scene. In a message read out at MEC Makgoe's funeral service, President Ramaphosa described the decedent as a remarkable leader.

"The people of the Free State and the nation at large are united in mourning the passing of "Tate" Makgoe, a remarkable person, an outstanding leader and a passionate champion of education as the root of personal and societal transformation.

It is natural in circumstances such as these that our attention is drawn to the fact that Tate Makgoe has been taken from us so shortly before his landmark 60th birthday. His was a life devoted equitably



to our liberation movement and his development as a person and a leader through a passionate pursuit of education," said President Ramaphosa.

The president further said MEC Makgoe was driven by a desire to see an equal society and a better life for all. This, said president Ramaphosa, could be achieved through education.

"His personal journey made him the invaluable champion he became of education in his home

province. His lifelong commitment to a better life for all the people of the Free State gave him a profound appreciation for education as the portal to individual and collective realisation, dignity and prosperity.

Tate Makgoe was passionate about the African child and worked night and day to ensure that a child in the township and rural areas had as much opportunity to thrive and excel, as a child in the city. He recognised that government alone

cannot fix education and as a result, he built a network of partners from corporates and civil society to ensure success." President Ramaphosa further said MEC Makgoe's achievements as MEC for Education set him apart from his peers.

"In 2009 when he joined the education portfolio, the Free State had achieved 71.8% pass rate in the national senior certificate and today, he leaves us having led the department to achieve 88.5%. Not only did he lead the department to achieve outstanding matric results, but ensured that the Free State also topped the charts in primary school results, school nutrition and championing social welfare programmes in schools.

Tate Makgoe's legacy is one that will keep on giving as generations of young Free State citizens step into progressively better futures through the doors of learning he helped to open," President Ramaphosa concluded.

a collective, we can achieve more. This is a promising journey proving that we can reclaim our economy, reconstruct and restore it" said MEC Meeko. He vowed that his department will leave no stone unturned to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

He further urged members of the public across the province to report any illegal/illicit alcohol trade to the nearest police station or send a WhatsApp message to DESTEA Customer Care Unit on: 082 947 5394



PRAYER SERVICE IN BOTSHABELO

PREMIER DUKWANA AND MEC LETSOHA MATHAE HONOUR THE INVITE

On 19 March 2023, Premier Mxolisi Dukwana, accompanied by MEC for Community Safety, Roads and Transport Maqueen Letsoha Mathae attended a prayer service at the Kaizer Sebothelo Stadium in Botshabelo.

The service was organised by bus company Interstate Bus Lines and intended to pray for an end to road accidents, particularly on the N8 highway, which links Bloemfontein and Thaba Nchu. Premier Dukwana used the opportunity to appeal to residents

to also address societal ills plaguing different communities.

“The service, held at Kaizer Sebothelo stadium, was to seek the Almighty’s intervention to rid our society of the many ills we are currently faced with. The message we wanted to share was that, each and every one of us, has a role to play in building a society we wish to live in.

The disregard for human life and the manner in which marauding criminals kill, the

devastation that drugs and alcohol wreck in our communities, the abuse that the vulnerable, particularly the elderly are subjected to, and many other societal ills, must end,” Premier Dukwana said.

Regarding the road accidents which have claimed many lives on the N8, Premier Dukwana said: “We also prayed for an end to road carnage which have claimed many a life, particularly on the N8 road which links Bloemfontein and Thaba Nchu. Many souls have perished on this and

many other roads in our province, therefore, we fell on our knees in prayer, asking for help from our creator.

It was only a few weeks ago when our province, and indeed the country, suffered one of its most devastating loss with the death of the former MEC for Education, Ntate Pule ‘Tate’ Makgoe, who together with his protector, lost their lives in a car accident.”

He appealed to leaders and the community at large to address these challenges as fail-

ure to do so, will lead to moral decay.

“We do acknowledge that prayer alone won’t solve our problems. As leaders, we must lead from the front in addressing these problems. While doing so, we plead to our people to help us wage war against these challenges. That means, our homes must be a haven where, in our children, values of love, respect, care and patriotism are taught. If we achieve this, our province will rid itself of the unenviable tag of being home to all manner of bad things,” Premier Dukwana concluded.

FREE STATE TOWNS TO GET MAKEOVER



The Free State Provincial Government, led by Honourable Premier Mxolisi Dukwana will travel the length and breadth of the province visiting different towns.

The purpose of these visits is, working with local municipalities, to clean the said towns, townships and villages. These visits will also afford the executive council an opportunity to engage communities regarding service delivery challenges.

The first program was launched in Edenburg, in Kopanong local municipality, a fortnight ago.

That was followed by Caleb Motshabi in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality on Friday, 24 March.

These programs, said Premier Dukwana, are intended to clean different towns and to return the dignity of the inhabitants of those particular areas.

Premier further said government intends to make good on the commitments made during the State of the Province Address.

“It has become patently evident, while engaging with

mayors and ward councilors alike, that water provision and road infrastructure remain the two major challenges bedevilling our respective communities.

During the State of the Province Address, we made a bold pledge to aggressively attend to water challenges across all five districts in the province,” he said.

He further said that provision of water and sanitation remain a priority for the Free State Provincial Government.

“We committed that we must direct our focus to the basic service delivery imperatives – reliable and clean water supply, proper and decent sanitation services, regular refuse removal, decent roads as well as the creation of an enabling environment for job creation.”

That is why, in our engagements, we insisted on the need to move with the necessary speed to attend to these challenges,” he concluded.

The Premier will lead the executive council to Welkom, Matjhabeng local municipality today, 31 March, for the latest cleaning campaign.

YOUTH CAREER EXPO



The Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (Destea) MEC Thabo Meeko was attended the opening of the 2-day Youth Career Expo held in Kroonstad, Fezile Dabi District on the 27th and 28th March 2023. The EXPO was attended by stakeholders in various fields inclusive of SETA which led to the provision of 4389 internships, learnerships and apprenticeship opportunities for young people since 2019.

Whilst addressing the youth, MEC Meeko emphasised that he knows that young people want opportunities to better their lives.

“We need willing and dedicated stakeholders from all the sectors to play their part in order to reduce the high rate of unemploy-

ment, poverty and inequality that is currently besieging us”, MEC Meeko said.

He further announced that the Province will convene a Provincial Skills Development conference with all the SETAs in August to enhance initiatives aimed at maximizing the skills development programmes.

MEC Meeko reiterated government’s commitment to assist the youth of Free State. “We want to create job creators from the youth so that their potential is realised. Our responsibility as leaders, bomme le bontate, and the society at large, is to provide opportunities and a conducive environment for the youth to thrive. What is encouraging is that the young people of our province have hope. They remain hopeful of a brighter and better day, and we dare not betray that hope”.

SHUFFLE THE PACK

Premier of the Free State province, Hon. Mxolisi Dukwana has made changes to the provincial executive council. The new Members of the Executive Council are:



Ms. Nokwanje Selina Leeto
MEC for Health



Mr. Makalo Mohale
MEC for Education



Ms. Maqueen Letsoha Mathae
MEC for Community Safety,
Roads and Transport



MS. MOTSHIDISE KOLOI
MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Mr. Thabo Meeko
MEC for Economic, Small Business
Development, Tourism and
Environmental Affairs



Ms. Gadija Brown
MEC for Finance



Mr. Ketso Makume
MEC for Cooperative Governance,
Traditional Affairs and Human
Settlements



Ms. Dibolelo Mahlatsi
MEC for Public Works and
Infrastructure



Ms. Limakatso Mahasa
MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture
and Recreation



Mr. Teboho Mokoena
MEC for Agriculture and Rural
Development

Premier Dukwana thanked the former MECs and congratulated the newly appointed ones, adding that he has confidence that they are all up to the challenge of delivering on their mandates.