

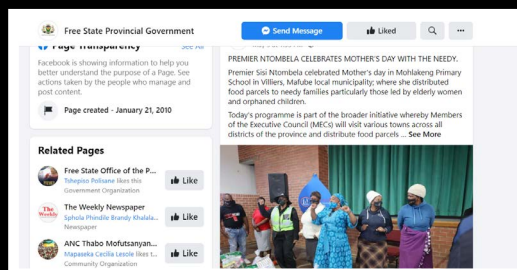
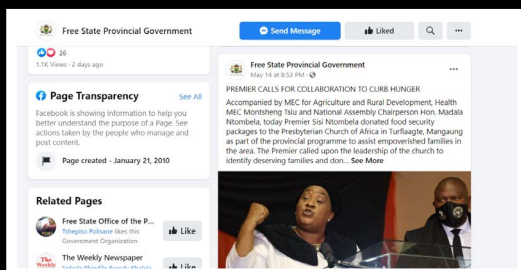
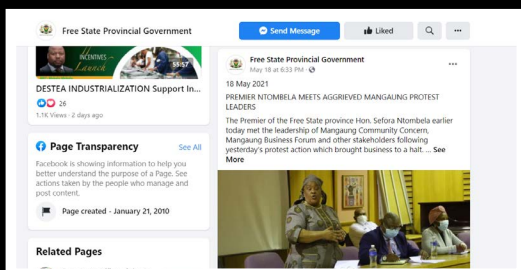
THE UPDATE



FREE STATE PROVINCE

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

SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS FEED



DEPUTY PRESIDENT MABUZA VISITS QWAQWA

Deputy President David Mabuza kept his promise to return to Maluti-A-Phofung – only 21 days after his last visit.

The Deputy President's visit was to further engage the Free State Provincial Government and the leadership of the municipality on challenges that the municipality is currently faced with. There have been challenges bedevilling the municipality, and

Deputy President Mabuza acknowledged that it will require the cooperation of all stakeholders concerned to get the municipality on solid footing.

Deputy President Mabuza further promised to once again return to Maluti-A-Phofung in June. “There are obviously still outstanding issues, but I am pleased that we are at least making progress. I will be coming back again in June to further

look into outstanding issues because what we all want is a municipality which will deliver services to the people,” said Deputy President Mabuza.

He further promised to bring along the Minister of Small Business Development, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni. This was after business people complained about lack of business opportunities. “We must find ways of empowering and supporting

business in this area so that we get the local economy working. That can only be achieved if our municipality is fully functional, and I have no doubt that we can achieve that,” he said.

Premier Sefora Ntombela thanked Deputy President for his visit and said the Free State Provincial Government will establish a task team made up of senior government officials, business people from Malu-

ti-A-Phofung and other stakeholders to iron out outstanding issues before Deputy President Mabuza's June visit.

“There is absolutely no doubt that there are many challenges in Maluti-A-Phofung. It may take time, but ultimately we are going to bring stability to the municipality. Much was achieved and we can only progress from here,” Premier Ntombela said.

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

THROWING JABS AT THE VIRUS



PREMIER AND MEC OPEN VACCINATION SITE AT UNIVERSITAS HOSPITAL

Premier Sefora Ntombela and MEC for Health, Montseng Tsiu opened a COVID-19 mass vaccination site at Universitas Academic hospital in Bloemfontein on Tuesday, 25 May. The Premier said the opening of the site happened at the right time as the Free State province is currently battling the third wave of coronavirus. Premier

Ntombela also said that she was encouraged by the large numbers of people who arrived at the venue to register for the vaccine. A long queue of people had formed and patiently waited their turn to be vaccinated. "The opening of the vaccination site is an important milestone in our efforts to stop the spread of the virus. Most encouraging was the high turnout

by those we aim to vaccinate, which is citizens aged 60 years and above. The second phase of the vaccine roll out is currently underway and this, at a time when the Free State province is battling the third wave of Coronavirus," said Premier Ntombela, adding that she was concerned by the high infection numbers in the province. Said the Premier: "The con-

tinuous spike in reported new cases is a grave concern for government and we appeal to our people to continue to exercise caution. We are losing people at an alarming rate and unless we change our ways, we are going to lose more lives to this killer virus." MEC Tsiu echoed Premier Ntombela's sentiments, adding that the Department of Health

aims to vaccinate large numbers of people. "We are happy with the progress that we have made so far, but our aim is to reach as many people as possible. The vaccine will help and save a lot of lives," said MEC Tsiu. Premier Ntombela and the MEC were joined by interim Head of Department, Godfrey Mahlatsi.



FS GOVERNMENT MOVES SWIFTLY TO PUT OUT MANGAUNG FIRES

PREMIER MEETS WITH SEETHING PROTEST ORGANISERS

Residents of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality embarked on a massive service delivery protest on 17 May 2021. The protest was marred by unrest and business in Bloemfontein city centre came to a stop. In nearby townships, roads were blockaded and littered with debris as residents demanded services and changes to the administration of the municipality. Upon learning of the seriousness of the march, Premier Sefora Ntombela con-

vened a meeting between government, Mangaung Concern Community and Mangaung Business Forum, who had organised the march. The protesters had complained mostly about:

- Lack of service delivery
- Lack of access to business opportunities
- Lack of access to land and
- A demand of sound management of municipal affairs

The Premier, who was joined by Members of the Executive Council, assured

organisers of the march that government wanted nothing more than to see an end to the march and their concerns listened to. "We agree that issues raised by the leaders of our community are genuine and must be looked into as a matter of urgency. The state of our municipality is not at a desired level, and that is precisely why the provincial government has intervened. We are all in agreement that we want a functional municipality and we can achieve that if we join hands and

work together," Premier Ntombela said. On the 19th May, all the parties met once again where a decision to put an end to the protest march was agreed on. Unfortunately, the protest had already claimed the life of Jevano Siegel, a 15 year-old Heide primary school pupil. Premier Ntombela met Siegel's family where she expressed regret over the death of the young man. She also announced that government would carry the costs of the funeral service. Siegel was buried on Saturday, 29 May 2021.

ANALOGUE SWITCH-OFF IN BETHLEHEM

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 Major 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 Maboane 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.

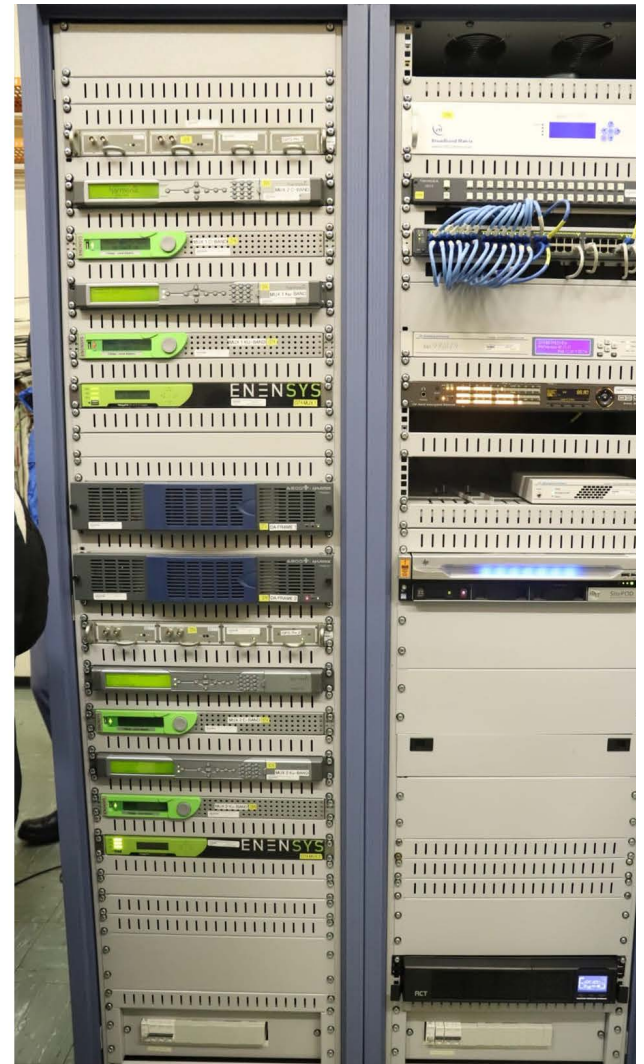
The Minister said: "One of the most important government objectives is to expand broadband access, and the conclusion of digital migration is an important link in achieving this goal. The conclusion of digital migration will further free up valuable spectrum and thus enable widespread availability of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



MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION IN MANGAUNG

As part of Mother's Day celebration, Agriculture and Rural Development MEC William Bulwane extended a helping hand to 150 mothers around Mangaung area by donating food packages at Matla Primary School in Phase 6, on 09 May 2019. Addressing the mothers, MEC Bulwane said that motherhood is not only defined by giving birth but it's about the ability to form a maternal bond with someone, to have the urge to be there for them and pray that they turn out to be great humans.

He added that mothers play a critical role in contributing towards the economy and being pillars of their families; also being active participants in food security across the province and the country at large. They are the backbone of the economy. "Mme o tshwara thipa ka bohaleng".

Mme Emily Mofokeng from Ward 46 in Mangaung Metro, one of the beneficiaries of food packages, expressed her gratitude and appreciated the MEC's gesture.