

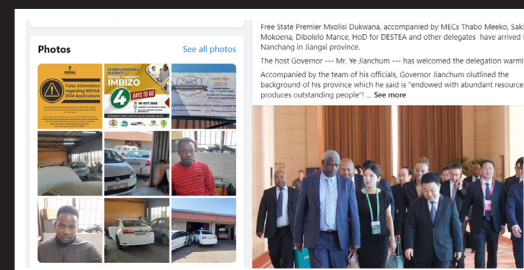
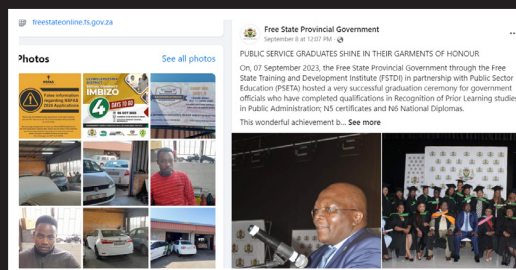
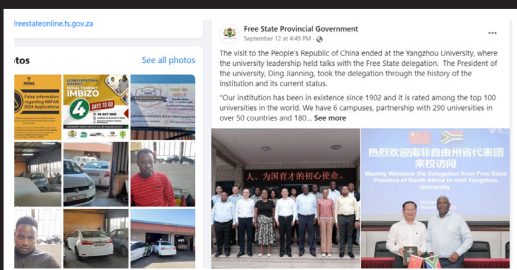
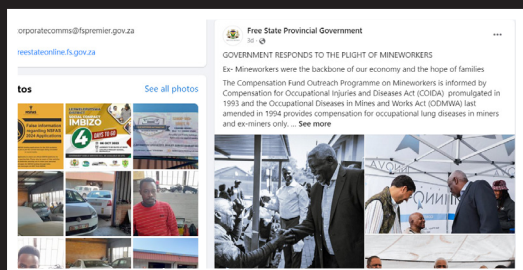
# THE UPDATE



FREE STATE PROVINCE

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

## SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS FEED



# OX'S MOTHER PROUD OF HIM

## FREE STATE BOKS' STAR PRIDE OF THE NATION

Keitumetse Nche used to watch legendary footballer Doctor Khumalo mesmerize opposition and supporters alike with his silky football skills.

Watching the beloved former Bafana Bafana star, Nche, from Thaba-Nchu, would wonder how Mabel Khumalo, the football star's mother, felt having a superstar son.

“Doctor Khumalo was so loved across the country and I always asked myself what it felt like for his mother to have a son so talented and admired. It was my wish to also have a son as beloved and revered as Khumalo,” said Nche.

Her wish was realised when on 23 July 1995,

**It's a great feeling  
and I'm immensely  
proud of my son**

- Ms Nche

Nche gave birth to Retshegofaditswe Nche. The boy would go on to be a household name in South African Rugby. His combative style earned Nche the nickname OX. Nche is part of the South African Rugby national team currently participating in the World Cup taking place in France.

“It is a great feeling to watch my son being part of the team playing at the World Cup. He might have been a little naughty as a child like any boy his age, but Retshegofaditswe has always been a respectful and obedient child and I thank the Lord for him,” she said.

The prop honed his skills when he went to Lou- is Botha high school in Bloemfontein and his

mother says she knew then that he was destined for stardom.

“He was passionate about the sport. Just before the World Cup, he suffered a slight injury and he was worried that he might not make it into the team going to France. I prayed for him and assured him that he would go, and it is a joy to see him at the tournament,” she said.

When the Springboks defeated Tonga 49-18 in their Group B match at the Stade Velodrome on Sunday 01 October, Mme Nche, together with Moshe and Goitseone, Ox' siblings and other relatives and friends, were cheering the star on.

“It's a great feeling and I'm immensely proud of my son,” said Ms. Nche.



# SWANSONG FOR MR. TANG

## PREMIER DUKWANA PRAISES OUTGOING CONSUL-GENERAL

Free State Premier Mxolisi Dukwana led a team that participated at the celebration of the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on Friday, 22 September 2023 in Johannesburg.

Amongst the team there was MECs Mohale Makalo, Thabo Meeko, Dibolelo Mance, Tshidi Koloi and Gadija Brown. The event highlighted the strides, progress and achievements of PRC under the Communist Party of China to achieve national independence, prosperity and the opening up of China since 1978.

PRC boasts momentous steps such as the elimination of poverty, moderately prosperous society, quality development and steady growth for the past 74 years.

In his keynote address, Premier Dukwana alluded to the long-standing good relations between PRC and South Africa and their highly successful strategic partnership.

"In our province, we have cooperation with no less than 6 provinces of China, two of which we visited recently, namely Jiangxi and Jiangsu. We are excited about the benefits that we will derive

from the strengthened cooperation emanating from the visit and from the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)" said Premier Dukwana.

The prestigious event which drew government officials and leaders of the opposition parties concurred with the farewell function of the Consul General of China in Johannesburg Mr. Tang Zhongdong. He served as the political counselor in the Chinese Embassy in Pretoria in 2016 until he took up the position of Consul General in 2019 until now.

In bidding him farewell, Premier Dukwana commended the role he played for the past seven years in that office.

"The Consul General office has always supported us. During the Covid-19 pandemic he provided our province with the Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). Last year in September during the disaster that befell our province when the Jagersfontein tailings dam broke loose, you availed yourself to assist us. We appreciate your commitment and generosity. I wish you well in your new journey".



Premier Dukwana further committed that the Free State province will continue to cooperate with the People's Republic of China to attain economic growth and prosperity for the province and the country.

In his farewell speech, Zhongdong applauded the Chinese people living in Gauteng and Free State provinces. He said they contributed immensely towards the success of China President Xi Jinping's visit to South Africa and the BRICS summit.

"I am deeply impressed that they still practice the Chinese virtues of being hard-working and generous. They continue to help both the vulnerable groups in local neighbourhoods in South Africa and the disadvantaged people in China" he said.

Speaking about his memories of South Africa, he said the country has had a positive impact on

him. "South Africa has the most valuable cultural heritages, the richest tourism and mineral resources, the longest road network, the largest stock exchange and the busiest airports and sea-ports in Africa" he continued.

"I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all those who support China-South Africa friendship, and to all those who have provided me with support and assistance in performing my duties. Today is both an end and a new start. I look forward to hearing more good news about China-South Africa relations" concluded Zhongdong.

More Chinese people are said to be living in Gauteng and Free State provinces. There are more than 200 Chinese companies investing in South Africa. More than \$25billion has been invested and more than 400 000 jobs have been created for local communities.

# TOSO FAMILY REGAINS DIGNITY

## FREE STATE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTS FAMILY WITH A HOUSE



There was a time, not long ago, when Dikeledi Toso would panic at the sight of rain clouds.

Heavy downpours meant that Toso would have to rearrange the shack she shared with her parents to ensure that damage from the water, which would

make its way inside their abode, did not cause a lot of damage.

So, when the rains fell this past weekend, Toso of N Section in Botshabelo, had flashbacks of a waterlogged shack, a damp smell and muddy floor whenever it rained.

Even worse, whenever it poured down, like it did at the weekend, she would also have to move her frail parents from their bedroom to another room to shield them from the stingingly cold rain drops. Fortunately, speaking to Toso at her modest home, she snapped back to reality.

While the past few years were characterised by hardships, the Free State Provincial Government, the government of the people by the people, stepped in to provide a decent house for the family. For Toso and her frail 97-year-old father, who celebrated his birthday on the 10th of September, the rains signalled a new beginning, a fresh start and a promise of a better and a brighter tomorrow.

The Intervention unit in the Office of the Premier, having learned of the family's hardships, reached out to the

relevant authorities which then set the ball rolling. The family recently moved into their new house, which boasts two bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen and lounge. "We finally have our own house which has brought our family dignity. It was



difficult staying in a shack while also looking after my two elderly parents, but fortunately, the government helped us," said Toso.

Her father John Mokebe Toso has aged. He uses a walking frame because his knees, having withstood nearly hundred years, cannot cope anymore. Mr. Toso can barely hear. "Are you looking for my wife?" he enquired. With the new house, the old man and



his family have a place called home. "He brags that, unlike in the previous years, he now has his own bathtub," said Mr. Toso's proud daughter.





# OFFICE OF THE PREMIER BIDS FAREWELL TO MR VENTER

After 27 years in government, Mr Bertus Venter has taken leave to retire. The Deputy Director General of Corporate Administration and Co-ordination will best be remembered for his unflinching dedication to upholding the rule of law. During one of his farewell events, an emotional Mr Venter lamented the bitter-sweet feeling of receiving his final salary. “Today is the 15th and a Friday, people cherish this day because it’s payday. This morning when I received my salary I was happy but on the other hand also sad because it’s the last time that I will receive that

message,” he said.

Mr. Venter thanked all of his colleagues for being his friends through the years.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to spend my last days working with you, I will sincerely miss all of you“ he bemoaned.

Several senior managers in the Office of the Premier had touching final messages for Mr Venter. Director, Lerato Nibe praised Venter for contrib-

uting towards the formal registration of courses at the Free State Training and Development Institute.

“That is your legacy, you are aging with grace, go and enjoy and relax,” said Nibe.

Mr Gerald Modise added that Mr Venter left very big shoes to fill.

Ms Lerato Ramanamane from the Bursaries unit said:

“Your leadership and guidance will forever be cherished. Even if we had differences of opinion, you took time to listen to our views.”

Director of Corporate Communications, Mr. Setjhaba Maphalla said goodbyes are never easy. The Director quoted a traditional Gaelic blessing “May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand”

# HEARTBREAK AS MAGISTRATE FOUND DEAD

## MEC LETSOHA — MATHAE EXPRESSES SHOCK AT GRUESOME DISCOVERY OF THAMAE’S BODY

The discovery of Magistrate Mamello Thamae in the boot of her car has left the people of the Free State province in a state of shock.

According to the police, Thamae arrived at her home in Heilbron on 21 September 2023. Her lifeless body would later be found stuffed in the boot of her car which was traced to a guest house in Mokgotlong, Lesotho. MEC for Community Safety, Roads and Transport, MaQueen Letsoha – Mathae said she was deeply saddened by Magistrate Thamae’s death. “I am deeply saddened and disturbed



by the tragic loss of Magistrate Mamello Thamae. Her untimely death is not only a profound loss to her family but also to the entire legal community and our province and country as a whole. Magistrate Thamae was a dedicated and passionate member of our judiciary, who tirelessly upheld the principles of justice and the rule of law. The heinous circumstances surrounding her murder in Lesotho serve as a stark reminder of the pervasive issue of gender-based violence that continues to plague our society,” said MEC Letsoha – Mathae. The MEC further said the depart-

ment will continue addressing the scourge of Gender Based Violence in the province.

“As the MEC of the Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport, I reaffirm our commitment to addressing gender-based violence and ensuring the safety of all our citizens. We will work tirelessly with law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and civil society to break the silence surrounding this issue and to create a safer environment for everyone, irrespective of their gender. Our thoughts and condolences go out to Magistrate Tha-

mae’s family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time. May her legacy inspire us all to stand against gender-based violence and uphold the values of justice and equality that she held dear. Together, we must take concrete actions to put an end to this scourge and ensure that no more lives are lost to such senseless acts of violence.

Thamae’s husband has been charged with murder and is currently in custody in Lesotho. His next court appearance is on Monday, 09 October 2023.