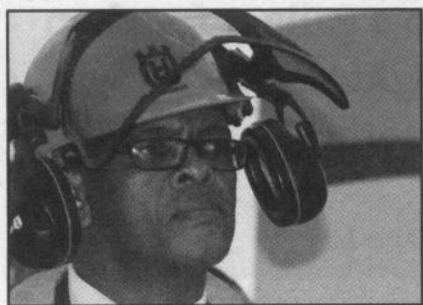


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ANC government has delivered

Since we took over in 2009, we have made it our daily business to promote economic development and improve the living standards of our people



Ace Magashule
Premier
Free State Province



ALL OUT OFFENSIVE: Premier Ace Magashule with the late MEC of Health Fezi Ngubentombi during Operation Hlasela in Brandfort

We have been at the helm of the Free State provincial government for nearly four years. We are very pleased to report that the ANC-led administration has delivered on the election mandate.

Most of our initiatives have been very successful despite the global financial crisis and unnecessary bureaucratic red tape and, at times, a frustratingly rigid civil service.

We have achieved successes due to the innovative approach we have adopted in dealing with service delivery issues.

We answered President Jacob Zuma's call to change the way government works. We have adopted a new approach to ensure we work with speed to address the needs of our people.

We launched Operation Hlasela as our new service delivery model characterized by an integrated and coordinated approach to ensure accelerated service delivery in an economic, efficient and effective manner.

Operation Hlasela fosters collaboration, not only between provincial government departments and public entities, but also between the national, provincial and local spheres of government. We have succeeded to join hands with the private sector as we strive to bring about real, quality improvement to the lives of our people.

In simple terms Operation Hlasela is a strategy based on the ANC Elections Manifesto, which focuses on mass mobilisation, intervention, collaboration and partnership to fulfil the notion of "working together we can do more".

Since we took over in 2009, we have made it our daily business to promote economic development and improve the living standards of our people.

EDUCATION

In addressing the priority outcome of education, some of our major achievements include the creation of 1118 posts for educators and 201 posts for centre managers on the establishment of the Department of Education to correct the past classification of Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) educators and centre managers as "casual workers".

We completed the construction of 13 state-of-the-art schools in various Free State towns. One of our proudest achievements has been our bold decision to invest in our youth through the allocation of bursaries and the increase in learnership. The provincial government has allocated more than 6000 bursaries since 2009. For the first time in the history of the provincial government, the Premier, MECs, Heads of Departments and other senior government officials have met with our bursary holders at the institutions where they are studying across the country to deepen our understanding of their challenges, to motivate and encourage them to fulfil their obligations to themselves and to the Free State provincial government.

HEALTH

When we took over in 2009, we faced specific challenges around Health. As

a result of our specific interventions, we have improved the functionality of the Medical Depot and stabilized the availability of medicine and supplies both at depot, hospital and clinic level.

The appointment of 1038 officials enabled us to address critical shortages in medical and administrative personnel at all levels of our health care services.

The township revitalisation programme implemented by the Department of Public Works symbolises our commitment to bring about real change in the lives of our people through the Operation Hlasela approach. We have implemented the township revitalisation programme in towns throughout the province.

In November last year, we hosted the provincial Census 2011 results by statistician-general Pali Lehohla. The Census results confirm what we have been saying all along; the Free State provincial government

"Operation Hlasela is our service delivery model characterized by an integrated approach to ensure accelerated service delivery"

has recorded steady growth in the provision of basic services to our people since 1994. According to Census 2011, access to electricity, toilet facilities and water increased in most parts of the province. These results point to a lot of progress we have made as a province since the dawn of democracy. The Free State population grew by a marginal 1.4% over the past decade from 2 706 775 to 2 745 590 in 2011. Our province recorded the highest drop in the number of households using the bucket latrine toilets compared to other provinces. The proportion of households using the bucket toilets significantly dropped from 20.5% in 2001 to only 5% in 2011. We remain committed to eradicating the water and sanitation backlog in the Free State within the next few years. The provision of electricity had also increased significantly since 1996 when only 57% of households had access to electricity. Census 2011 results indicate that electricity is now available to about 90% of households in the province.

I would like to thank all our social partners for supporting us. Working together we can build better communities.