

FREE STATE NEWS
APRIL 29 – MAY 5 2011 edition

QABATHE PROMISES BETTER LIFE IN WAKE OF TATANE DEMISE

By Bongani Tshabalala

The imbroglio continues over the actions and repercussion of the eight policemen involved in the alleged assault and death of Sello Andries Tatane. This was pursuant to a service delivery protest march which took place outside the Municipal offices in Ficksburg recently. Tatane's funeral was an exceedingly sombre one at the weekend.

It was a moving funeral, graced by National Freedom Party Leader (NFP), Zanele ka Maqwaza Msibi; Cope President Mosiuoa Lekota; DA MP Wilmot James; MEC for Sports Arts and Culture, Dan Khothule, among others. Also present was the dynamic MEC for COGTA and Deputy Secretary of ANC in the Free State, Mamiki Qabathe.

Speaking at the funeral last Saturday, the ANC Free State provincial Secretary Sibongile Besani addressed the crowd of more than 1 000 mourners who attended the Megheleng Stadium under the pertinent marquee tent.

He assured the people that the ANC will provide better life for the people in the area. "The death of Tatane has given us a salutary order to bring poor service delivery to an elevated standard, and not let our people wallow in dissatisfaction," a calm Besani said.

Mme Qabathe condemned the burning of council buildings by youth during the protest that erupted after Tatane's death. She went the extra mile for the community when she announced that her Department will carry all the costs of rebuilding the Library, for one; "as it is our children's future at stake here...I also call on religious leaders to bring peace and stability in this town in their intercessions. We promise a better life for all, as that is our mission,"

Tatane's sister, Seipati, nipped in the bud the efforts of those she perceived as wanting to use Tatane's funeral as an opportunity for electioneering. It appeared that various political parties tried to unfurl banners and chant slogans during the proceedings. "Please do not turn Tatane's funeral into a political spectacle," she said. "Understand our pain and loss," Meanwhile Mr. Lekota called for the eradication of the bucket system in Meqheleng, and for better service delivery in general.

Mothusi Lepheana of the SAHRC in Free State described Tatane's death as a "waste", saying the Commission would monitor the investigation into Tatane's death every step of the way. "We shall take legal steps to help the family to preserve Tatane's dignity," he said. "The Commission is in discussion with the Tatane family as regards the possibility of bringing a civil lawsuit against those liable for the violation of his rights and ultimate death,"

Molefi Nonyane, the man who famously held Tatane, with consternation etched on his face after he had been shot - a photo that has now gone around the world - told the mourners: "The late Tatane was spiritually ill and perturbed due to poor service delivery. In his heart he was troubled because of the problems here, but his body was healthy,"

Tatane was laid to rest at Ficksburg cemetery. Hundreds of mourners dressed in T – shirts bearing Tatane's photograph braved the rain, singing lustily as they led the procession to the cemetery which lies on the northern outskirts of the town. And the tears came cascading down...

[source: <http://freestatenews-eric.blogspot.com/2011/04/free-state-news-april-2011-editions.html>]