



**destea**

department of  
Economic, Small Business Development,  
Tourism and Environmental Affairs  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

Media Statement

11 December 2025

Immediate release

### **MEC Makume bids farewell to the outgoing HOD--Dr Mbulelo Nokwequ**

The Free State MEC for Finance, Economic Development, and Tourism, Ketso Makume announces that the Head of Department (HOD), Dr Mbulelo Nokwequ, will be leaving the department as of 01 January 2026 to pursue other opportunities outside the Free State Provincial Government.

Dr Nokwequ has served the department for 10 years (from 2016 to date), of which the last 7 years have been serving as the Head of Department.

In line with the Public Service Act prescripts, the HOD is currently serving a prescribed notice period of one month from 01 December to 31 December 2025.

MEC Makume explains that Dr Nokwequ has been a dedicated and committed public servant who has guided the department in delivering on its mandate, including the attainment of the Clean Audit report for 2024/25 financial year.

"We wish him well in his new endeavours and to continue contributing to the strategic implementation of the key priorities of the seventh administration.

It was indeed a great learning experience to work with Dr Nokwequ. I do not have any doubt that the people and entity, whom he is joining, are going to benefit from the wealth of experience he has.

Once more, we wish him well and hope to benefit from his new endeavours as it is not a complete departure from the Economic Development family," said MEC.

All of the best. Tsela tshweu!"

### **Issued by the Free State Department of Economic Development and Tourism**

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