

PROFILE OF THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MAMIKI QABATHE



An avid political activist and former unionist who has campaigned for workers' rights and contributed immensely to the political development in the Free State Province, Motlagomang 'Mamiki' Qabathe now leads the Department of Social Development in the Free State Province – a position she accepted with humility and unwavering determination to carry out her task with utmost diligence.

Ms. Qabathe was appointed MEC for Agriculture in January 2008; Sport, Arts and Culture in October 2008; and re-joined Agriculture in May 2009 after the inauguration. She was then

appointed MEC for Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlement in February 2011. In March 2015 Qabathe was appointed as the Free State Legislature Speaker.

Ms. Qabathe, whose political drive is her focus on grassroots, believes that she must always act in alignment with the needs of the communities she serves and thus, to meet these needs, always hit the ground running, as the delay of a development agenda cannot be accepted

She was born in Henneman and grew up in Meloding Virginia, in the Free State. She cut her teeth in politics in 1983, when she became an activist. She was introduced to student politics in 1986 while studying at Vista University in Bloemfontein, where she joined Azania Student Organisation (AZASO).

Ms. Qabathe was employed at the Meloding Town Council in 1987. She soon took part in the fight for the rights of the workers who at the time were un-unionised. Ms. Qabathe was an instrumental figure in the South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) and quickly rose through the ranks to the different levels of leadership.

While still with SAMWU, Ms. Qabathe was elected:

- ❖ **Areas shop steward-council treasurer**
- ❖ **COSATU Regional Treasurer**
- ❖ **SAMWU Provincial Treasurer**
- ❖ **SAMWU National Second Deputy President.**

In 2000, she formed part of the provincial ANC Interim Leadership Core (ILC) that was established to, inter alia, revitalise and realign structures of the ANC in the Free State. Ms. Qabathe was part of the first crop of democratic municipal leaders, as she became the first Executive Mayor of the Lejweleputswa District Municipality.

Ms Qabathe is a dedicated member of the African National Congress. In 2001, she was elected the ANC Women's League Lejweleputswa regional chairperson. She was a member of the ANCWL Provincial Executive Committee, currently ANCWL National Executive Committee and ANCWL National Working Committee. Ms. Qabathe is currently the Provincial

Executive Committee (PEC) member and is the Deputy Secretary of the ANC in the Free State Province.

She values education and it was no surprise when, in 2017, Ms. Qabathe completed her Graduate Diploma in Governance and Public Leadership.