

LIVE WISELY



with Pastor Matefu Mokoena

Rise above toxicity and the toxic environment

Toxic environments are sickening, destructive, stressful, intimidating, terrifying, scary, intimidating and frustrating. The moment you find yourself in this environment you feel like moving out

of that town, section, street, school, company, department, church, organisation, home, friendship and relationship. You may find yourself in a toxic and hostile environment today - negativity, gossiping, bullying, intimidation, abusive, infighting, plotting, scheming, harassment, intimidation, belittling, demeaning,

deception and sarcasm. The list is endless. It is time to rise above the situation. Be strong, remain focused, know what you want in life, serve the Lord purposefully and live according to the word of God.

Never allow yourself to be part of toxicity and to let what is toxic to poison you.

In the book of Samuel in the Bible, we read about Samuel himself growing in a toxic house of Prophet Eli but he survived toxicity and became the most powerful prophet of God, who made instrumental in the anointment of David as a King.

We read the story of Samuel in 1 Samuel 2. He found himself in the midst of the corrupt sons of Eli. Verse 12 describes them as scoundrels, who had no regard for the Lord. They neither had respect for their father, Eli, and the worshippers, who always came to the temple to make sacrifices. They also slept with women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting. The Lord was not pleased with them as explained in verse 17 that "this sin of the young men was very great in the Lord's sight, for they were treating the Lord's offering with contempt."

But as for Samuel knew why he was in the house of Eli - to serve the Lord

and he did so diligently. "But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—a boy wearing a linen ephod," states verse 18.

Samuel became a breath of fresh air to the worshippers and the people of Israel, who were belittled, undermined and scorned by Eli's sons every time they appeared before the Lord at the Lord. He rose above toxicity and toxic environment. In verse 26 we read thus, "and the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people." You can also do so rise above toxicity and survive the toxic environment.

Never allow any negativity, belittling and demeaning to defocus you. Push forward. Reach out for better things, better environments and a happy life. Samuel chose to focus on his assignment and calling. He made the Lord his source of strength and refuge.

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The church celebrates one of its own as Makume gets MEC post

The newly appointed MEC for Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlement in the Free State, Moses Ketso Makume has been described as a people's person, politically astute and matured, possessing vast knowledge and experience in politics and most of all a God fearing Leader. This is according to his spiritual leader Reverend Thabiso Mashiloane of the City of Love & Restoration – Full Gospel Church in Zamdela Sasolburg, the Church which Makume belongs to since the year 2010. Born and bred in Zamdela, Makume has been a member of the African National Congress through the years and at some point during his journey in politics, held the position of Executive Mayor of Fezile

Dabi District Municipality.

"As the Presiding Pastor of City of Love & Restoration, I am very proud of the achievement of one of our own. We are delighted as a Church to have produced a leader of his calibre from amongst us. "I do believe that this is the right time for him to ascend to this position as he is certainly not a newcomer in politics; he is matured, well experienced and knowledgeable. He has also experienced rejection as well as hardship during the course of his political journey which he accepted with humility and grace," said Mashiloane.

MEC Makume has been tasked with overseeing the department of Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlement in the Free State Province, a department

which was last led by the current Premier of the Free State Province, Mxolisi Dukwana.

The new MEC is facing an uphill battle and a mammoth task of reviving and stabilizing various struggling municipalities in the province which continue to grapple with challenges of basic service delivery such as, water and electricity supply, dilapidated roads, lack of housing amongst others. But with the vast knowledge, education and experience which Makume possesses, Mashiloane believes that he will lead with integrity and thrive in this highly demanding role.

"Remember, Makume has formerly worked in the 'same' department at national level under Minister Mamoloko Kubayi, and has also

worked at national level in various other department, hence I believe that he is well equipped and empowered to lead and govern.

"There are a lot of expectations from the citizens of this Province and of course he will face many challenges but I know him as a man who always seeks for guidance and strength from God at all times.

"The people of Zamdela, Metsimaholo, Fezile Dabi District and the whole province can be assured that they are being led by a true and seasoned leader. I truly believe that his appointment will also serve as an inspiration to many young people in Zamdela, the Fezile Dabi District and the entire province," added Mashiloane.

Dukwana made changes to the Provincial Executive Committee as follows:

1. Ms Nokwanje Selina Leeto (MEC - Health)
2. Mr Makalo Mohale (MEC - Education)
3. Mr Thabo Piet Meeko (MEC- Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs)
4. Mr Moses Ketso Makume (MEC- Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlement)
5. Ms Kathleen Dibolelo Mahlatsi (MEC-Public Works and Infrastructure)
6. Ms Maqueen Joyce Letsoha Mathae (MEC- Community Safety, Roads and Transport)
7. Ms Motshidisi Koloi (MEC- Social Development)