

Academy to develop a new breed of leaders

BY LEBOGANG SEALE

Gauteng will soon house an academy that aims to produce fearless and honest leaders in Africa.

The institution, the African Leadership Academy, is situated in Honeydew, north of Joburg.

It boasts state-of-the-art facilities, a comfortable 350-seater auditorium, a laboratory fully equipped with computers, and a printing room for the publication of newspapers and magazines. It also has a fully furnished kitchen, multipurpose dining rooms, dormitories, and soccer and rugby fields.

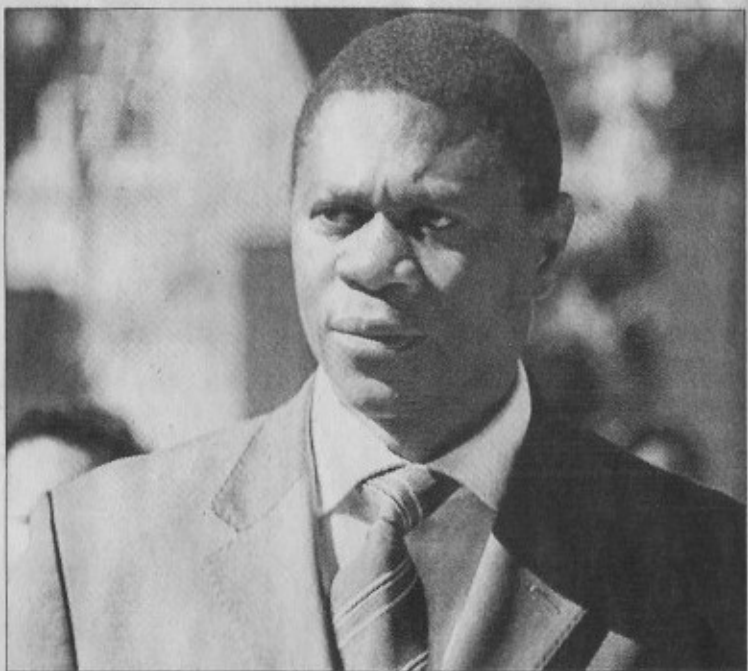
Although these facilities are being rented out from Cross-media, plans are under way to purchase the premises.

The project is a brainchild of Fred Swaniker, a Ghanaian businessman who has served as a director of several institutions.

The academy is financed by, among others, the Industrial Development Corporation.

Plans are at an advanced stage to register it with the Gauteng Department of Education before it opens its doors to the first group of 250 students, all younger than 18, from South Africa and across the continent in September next year, said Swaniker.

The closing date for applica-



SUPPORT: Gauteng Finance MEC Paul Mashatile visited the African Leadership Academy in Honeydew, north of Joburg, yesterday. **PICTURE:** BONGIWE MCHUNU

tions is November 30 and admissions will be based on merit, with students experiencing financial difficulties being awarded scholarships. Upon completion of the two-year course, which includes a matric qualification, students can further their studies in related fields with some of the best universities in Africa and the world.

The core of the academy's curriculum will be maths and science, entrepreneurship, history, languages and African leadership.

At yesterday's unveiling, Swaniker, the academy's CEO, said they hoped to rid the continent of the dearth in leadership and business skills.

"Our hope is that this school will serve as a model of

excellence in Africa by developing leaders who will bring peace, stability and prosperity," he said.

"Key to our admission criteria will be students who have demonstrated good values and a track record of giving back to their communities," Swaniker later told *The Star*.

Gauteng Finance and Economic Affairs MEC Paul Mashatile pledged the province's support for the academy.

"The challenge of poverty, underdevelopment and unemployment that our continent and country faces require innovative thinking, entrepreneurial spirit and a strong yearning for excellence ... and we hope this project will contribute greatly towards that goal," he said.