



Me too, I bow my head in front of our common ancestor...

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Public Works' MEC Jerry Thibedi said he had to bow as a gesture of respect to the historical human skull dubbed Taung Child Skull and as an honour to the now retired Wits University professor, Phillip Tobias.

Accompanied by MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Darkey Afrika, to the campus recently for purposes of understanding the Taung Skull and its origin, Thibedi said he left the university "enchanted and extremely happy".

"It was fulfilling for me having learnt that two and half million years ago, what is often referred to as a missing link or a transition from animal hood to human hood was discovered.

"Not just in Africa, but in South Africa, not just South Africa but in the North West Province and not just the North West but in Bophirima jo bo kgakala (in the far west)," he said.

The skull preserved and kept by the university was discovered in 1924 at the Buxton Quarry, in Bophirima, by an Australian Anthropologist and Paleontologist, Raymond Dart.

Thibedi said Professor Tobias confirmed that it took the world many years to believe in Darts' discovery that the origin of man was in Africa.

However the uncertainty about the history and significance of the fossil discovered in the province was buried, when then curator at the Pretoria museum approached Dart and according to Professor Tobias said:

"I bent my knee in front of this skull which is our common ancestor ..."

Thibedi said he also touched the skull during his visit to Wits and as said to Professor Tobias in the presence of others:

"I bow my head in front the skull and you seated here".

He said the Taung Child Skull was a very important fossil of our history.

"It is knows no colour. It is not black or white," Thibedi said.

Professor Tobias is the country's famous scientist renowned world-wide for his work on genetics, fossils and early human origins and also an author of more than 1 000 books.

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