

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

### Media Statement

22 June 2023

### **Metsimaholo Local Municipality holds a Youth Summit to empower young people.**

The Office of the Executive Mayor held a two-day Youth Summit themed “Social entrepreneurship as a tool to decrease youth unemployment and create better communities”. The Summit took place at the Refenkgotso community hall this week.

The purpose of the summit aimed at opening networking channels for youth that aspire to start their own businesses or platforms that can create income as well as improving their lives. It also aimed to develop skills and boost their insight on various matters that will equip them for job creation.

On day one of the Summit, Member of Mayoral Committee, MMC for Community Services and Special Programs Cllr Ruanda Meyer welcomed the guest and Stakeholders. MMC for Spatial Planning and Human Settlement, Cllr Thulani Mbana gave a supporting message and outlined the importance for youth to participate in growing the economy.

Presentation by speakers from different Stakeholders took place. They shared their expertise on business and shared information with attendees. SEDA, Department of Agriculture, Department of Social Service, DESTEA, MYB Consulting and Youth Matters were the Stakeholders that presented information. The presenters promoted sound knowledge on how the youth can navigate spaces both in government and private sector. They gave insight on how the young people of Metsimaholo can uplift their communities through Public Sector programs that are taking place.

On Day two, Executive Mayor Cllr Jeff Zwane joined the teams to give a word of support and encouraged the participants to grab and make use of opportunities provided to them. Cllr Zwane reminded the youth of the importance of being an active community member that can positively contribute to society. The Municipality is mindful of the challenges that the youth of today are facing, hence the activation of the summit in order empower them with the necessary skills and information.

MYB Consulting offered a 12-week short course that will assist those that are interested in starting a business. The Department of Agriculture committed to mentor young people that are interested in food plantation. They will provide them with fertilizers and seeds.

The Office of the Mayor has a dedicated youth officer that is available to offer advice on matters affecting the youth.

## **Media Enquiries**

Communications in the Office of the Executive Mayor