



## From Promises to Progress: Leadership Takes Service Delivery to the Streets



*The journey began in Ward 9, Zamdela, under Ward Councillor Cllr Mqhwathi, where the team inspected the upgrading of water pipes – a project that ensures dignity, health, and reliable access to water, a cornerstone of daily life. Leaders assessed the quality and progress of the installation, reinforcing that the infrastructure being built today will serve generations to come.*

On the morning of 23 January 2026, leadership in Metsimaholo Local Municipality stepped out of boardrooms and reports to witness development where it truly matters – in the heart of communities. Executive Mayor Cllr Jack Malindi, together with Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs), conducted an on-the-ground oversight of four critical infrastructure projects, sending a powerful message: development must not only be planned but seen, felt, and verified.

The delegation reflected a strong alliance of political and administrative leadership, including MMC for Technical and Infrastructural Services Cllr M. Poho, MMC for Special Programmes Cllr Theo du Toit, MMC for Parks, Sports, Arts and Culture Cllr Mapule Mofokeng, Cllr Linda Day, Cllr Thabang Rankoe, Director of Technical Services Dr Diao Ramabitsa, Cllr Soetsang, and MMC for Human Settlements Cllr Mahadi Nkgelwane.

Across all four sites, the message was clear: progress is happening, and accountability remains a priority. The Executive Mayor and MMCs commended the teams and communities for their efforts and stressed the need to maintain momentum, quality, and transparency.

This morning’s visit was more than oversight – it was leadership in action, a vivid demonstration that Metsimaholo Local Municipality is transforming plans into progress and promises into visible, lasting results.



## A New Chapter Begins: Metsimaholo Welcomes New Employees into Service



On the morning of 29 January 2026, Metsimaholo Local Municipality set a powerful tone for the future, proving that service excellence begins from day one. At the Civic Centre in Sasolburg, the municipality officially inducted all newly appointed employees who joined from October 2025 to date, marking not just a formal process, but the start of a shared journey in public service.

The induction programme, attended by Municipal Manager Basi Motloun, senior management, and the new recruits, was designed to do more than introduce policies. It created a space to align purpose, instil values, and build a collective understanding of what it means to serve communities with integrity and accountability.

Welcoming the new employees, Mr Motloun emphasised that joining the municipality is stepping into a position of public trust. He reminded them that their roles are not merely administrative, but deeply impactful shaping the daily lives of residents through responsive, ethical, and professional service delivery.

As these new employees step into their roles, the message is clear: they are not just starting jobs, they are becoming custodians of service, entrusted with the responsibility to make a real and lasting difference.



## Setting the Foundation for Fairness: Metsimaholo Secures New Valuation Roll

On 29 January 2026, Metsimaholo Local Municipality marked a significant milestone in strengthening its financial governance with the official handover of the Certified General Valuation Roll (GVR) for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2031. The handover, conducted at the municipality's 7th Floor Boardroom, was led by Manna Holdings (Pty) Ltd CEO Arthur Lelosa, accompanied by the company's Manager for Data and GIS. Representing the municipality were Municipal Manager Basi Motloun, Chief Financial Officer Fikile Mareka, and Manager: Revenue Disema Mokoena.



More than a formal exchange, the handover of the General Valuation Roll represents a cornerstone of municipal operations. It provides the basis for fair and equitable property valuations, ensuring accurate billing and strengthening revenue sustainability. In doing so, it directly supports effective financial planning, legislative compliance, and greater transparency in how municipal resources are managed.

As the municipality prepares for the next valuation cycle, this milestone reinforces its commitment to sound governance and accountability. Through initiatives like these, Metsimaholo Local Municipality continues to build a stronger, more transparent system that enables consistent and reliable service delivery for all residents.



## Breaking Ground, Building Futures: Metsimaholo's Bold March Toward Dignified Living

What unfolded in Metsimaholo on Tuesday, 04 February 2026, was far more than a routine site visit—it was a powerful statement of intent. On this day, the Municipality turned policy into progress, demonstrating how committed leadership can reshape communities and restore dignity where it is needed most.

Led by MMC for Human Settlements, Cllr Mahadi Nkheloane, alongside Ward 1 Councillor Cllr Jabulani Radebe and a team of municipal officials, the Municipality rolled out a hands-on informal settlement upgrading programme. This was governance in action, visible, practical, and deeply impactful.

The session was expertly chaired by Dr Len Konar, Chairperson of the Risk Management Committee, whose guidance continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening the municipality's governance and risk management framework. The meeting was attended by the Municipal Manager, Mr Basi Motloun, senior management, and departmental managers, reflecting a collective commitment to ethical leadership, compliance, and risk-aware decision-making.



At its core, this programme is about more than land. It is about building sustainable human settlements, places where residents can live safely, access services, and invest in their futures. It is about restoring dignity, fostering community cohesion, and ensuring that development is both inclusive and enduring.

Importantly, this effort extends beyond the wards visited on the day. Metsimaholo has identified Oranjeville and Deneysville as the next areas for informal settlement upgrading, reinforcing a commitment to equitable development across the Municipality.

This is what responsive local government looks like: present, proactive, and people centred. With every peg placed and every erven demarcated, Metsimaholo is not just redesigning spaces—it is rebuilding hope and shaping a future where every resident has a place to call home.



## CBD Comeback: Sasolburg Rises in a Bold Two-Day Renewal Drive



Sasolburg is reclaiming its heart.

On the morning of 12 February 2026, the Metsimaholo Local Municipality officially launched the Sasolburg Central Business District (CBD) Renewal Initiative, a high-impact, two-day integrated operation aimed at restoring cleanliness, enforcing compliance, and rebuilding civic pride in the town's economic hub. Concluding on 13 February 2026, the initiative marks a decisive step toward a safer, healthier, and more dignified CBD.

Leading the charge, MMC for Parks and Recreational Facilities, Cllr Mapule Mofokeng, addressed a united coalition of stakeholders, including the South African Police Service (SAPS), the Department of Home Affairs, and municipal teams from multiple departments. Her message set the tone for the operation: transformation requires discipline, collaboration, and shared accountability.

Across the CBD, Environmental and Health Officers carried out detailed inspections of businesses, focusing on food safety and compliance. In a firm demonstration of zero tolerance, several establishments were shut down on the spot after officials discovered rotten meat unfit for human consumption. These interventions send a clear message: public health and consumer protection are non-negotiable.

Municipal teams were equally active on the ground. Streets and public spaces were cleaned, waste was cleared, and By-Law Enforcement Officers worked to ensure that traders operated within municipal regulations, laying the groundwork for a more organized and welcoming business environment.

This is not the end, it is the beginning of a sustained effort to protect public health, restore order, and build a CBD that reflects the dignity and potential of its people.



## Power to the People: MPAC Takes Accountability to the Streets



In a powerful display of transparency and public engagement, the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) of Metsimaholo Local Municipality brought governance directly to the people from 9 to 13 February 2026. Moving beyond the confines of Council Chambers, the Committee hosted its first-ever public discourse on the Municipality's 2024/25 Annual Report, transforming oversight into an open, participatory process. The Annual Report, tabled before Council on 30 January 2026, became more than a document under review

All submissions received during the engagement will now be carefully reviewed and consolidated into a Draft Oversight Report, set to be tabled before Council by 31 March 2026. In the next phase of its work, MPAC will conduct targeted oversight visits to key projects and hold strategic sessions with senior management to address the concerns raised and strengthen accountability mechanisms.

What unfolded over these five days was more than compliance, it was democracy in action. It reaffirmed a simple but powerful principle: that transparency must be practiced, accountability must be continuous, and the voice of the people must remain at the centre of governance.

Metsimaholo has taken a meaningful step forward opening its books, inviting scrutiny, and building a culture of accountability that belongs to everyone.



## Metsimaholo Cracks Down on Utility Losses in High-Stakes Reform Push

Metsimaholo Local Municipality has taken a decisive step toward restoring service reliability and financial health, launching a bold new effort to tackle escalating water and electricity losses.

In a high-level strategic session held at the Civic Centre in Sasolburg, Municipal Manager Mr Basi Motloun, alongside senior leadership and municipal officials, met with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) to confront one of the municipality's most pressing challenges: non-technical losses.



At the centre of the engagement was the rollout of the SALGA-SARPA joint initiative, a focused intervention designed to curb these losses while strengthening governance and operational efficiency. SALGA representatives introduced a comprehensive framework that will provide Metsimaholo with technical expertise, practical tools, and policy guidance to address revenue leakages and improve accountability. Mr Motloun underscored the urgency of the initiative, framing it as more than a financial recovery plan. "Every litre of water and every unit of electricity lost undermines our ability to serve our residents," he said. "We must act decisively, collaboratively, and strategically."

This partnership signals a turning point for Metsimaholo. By aligning with SALGA and embracing innovative solutions, the municipality is positioning itself to protect critical infrastructure, improve financial sustainability, and deliver more reliable services to its communities.

The message is clear: Metsimaholo is no longer tolerating losses, it is transforming them into an opportunity for reform, recovery, and renewal.

## Powering Change: Metsimaholo and Eskom Unite for Cleaner Air and Healthier Homes

Metsimaholo Local Municipality is taking a bold step toward a cleaner, healthier future following a strategic engagement with Eskom on a transformative Air Quality Offsets Project.

On the morning of 2 March 2026, municipal leadership convened at the Municipal Offices in Sasolburg, where Eskom formally introduced the initiative to Executive Mayor Cllr Jack Malindi and Municipal Manager Mr Basi Motloun. The session marked a significant milestone in advancing sustainable energy solutions and improving living conditions across the municipality.

Eskom's presentation outlined a targeted programme already making strides in Mpumalanga and the Vaal, focused on helping low-income households transition from coal and wood to cleaner energy alternatives. The initiative is specifically designed for communities located near power stations, areas often most affected by poor air quality and its associated health risks.

At the heart of the project are practical, life-changing home upgrades. Qualifying households will receive insulation retrofits to improve indoor comfort and reduce reliance on polluting fuels. These enhancements include ceiling insulation, draft proofing, and necessary electrical rewiring.



*Executive Mayor Malindi welcomed the partnership, emphasising the importance of collaborative efforts that deliver tangible benefits to residents while advancing sustainability goals. Municipal Manager Motloun echoed this sentiment, highlighting the critical role of partnerships in addressing service delivery challenges and improving quality of life. This engagement signals more than just a project rollout, it represents a shared commitment to cleaner air, safer homes, and inclusive development. As plans progress, Metsimaholo residents can look forward to a future where environmental responsibility and community well-being go hand in hand.*



## **Metsimaholo Local Municipality Triumphs at National Awards as Communications Team Crowned Most Proactive and Responsive in South Africa**



Metsimaholo Local Municipality has emerged as a national leader in public communication after its Communications Team was named Most Proactive and Responsive Team (Local Municipality) at the prestigious SALGA National Communicators Awards.

The award was presented during the 9th National Communicators Forum, hosted at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 25 to 27 February 2026. The event brought together metropolitan, district and local municipalities from across the country to celebrate excellence in government communication.

This marks the first time that Metsimaholo Local Municipality entered the national awards, and the result was nothing short of historic. Dr Gino Alberts, Communication Manager, described the recognition as deeply meaningful.

“For us, this award is more than a trophy; it is an affirmation of our commitment to transparency, accountability and ethical public communication,” said Dr Alberts.

“This was the very first time that Metsimaholo Local Municipality entered the SALGA National Communicators Awards, and to emerge as winners is both humbling and inspiring. It confirms that consistent, professional and responsive communication at local government level truly matters.

We do not take this recognition lightly. It reflects the long hours, strategic planning and unwavering dedication of a team that understands that communication is not an afterthought, it is a constitutional responsibility.

Dr Alberts emphasised that residents are at the centre of the municipality’s communication strategy.

Executive Mayor, Cllr Jack Malindi, congratulated the Communications Team, commending their professionalism and dedication. He noted that the award reflects the municipality’s broader commitment to accountable governance and community-centred service delivery.

## **Clean Sweep Rising: Metsimaholo Fights Back Against Illegal Dumping**

Illegal dumping had quietly but steadily taken hold across parts of Metsimaholo’s townships, transforming open spaces into unsightly, unhealthy dumping grounds. In communities such as Iraq, Mooidraai, Amelia, and sections of Refengkgotso, the signs were impossible to ignore overflowing skip containers, scattered litter, persistent odours, and an increasing presence of pests.

For many residents, this was more than an inconvenience, it was a growing threat to health, safety, and dignity. But in late February 2026, a turning point arrived.

On 23 February, Metsimaholo Local Municipality’s Waste Management Unit, in partnership with Waste Partner, rolled out a targeted clean-up intervention aimed at reclaiming these affected areas. The initiative focuses on removing illegally dumped waste, restoring and maintaining skip containers, and improving overall environmental conditions, particularly in areas not yet serviced by regular refuse collection.

This programme comes in response to a challenge years in the making. Rapid population growth in unserviced settlements, combined with limited waste collection infrastructure, has forced many residents to rely heavily on communal skip containers. Without consistent maintenance, these quickly overflow, spilling waste into surrounding spaces and creating informal dumping sites that expand over time. The impact has been far-reaching. Beyond the visual blight, accumulated waste attracts rodents and insects, contributes to foul smells, and increases the risk of disease. It can also contaminate land and water sources and block stormwater drainage systems, raising the likelihood of flooding during heavy rain. In Metsimaholo, the fight against illegal dumping is gaining real traction, one clean-up, one container, and one community at a time.





## On the Ground for Accountability: MPAC Tightens Oversight on Metsimaholo's Infrastructure Projects

In a decisive move to strengthen accountability and improve service delivery, the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) of Metsimaholo Local Municipality, led by Chairperson Cllr Morena Molawa, conducted an extensive oversight visit to key infrastructure projects across the municipality on 12 March 2026.

The visit forms part of MPAC's ongoing mandate to ensure transparency, sound financial management, and the effective implementation of municipal capital projects. With a focus on project progress, contractor performance, compliance with labour and SMME requirements, and potential service delivery risks, the committee engaged directly with multiple project sites.



One of the first stops was the recently completed road resealing project in Vaalpark, Sasolburg. While the work focused on resurfacing rather than full reconstruction, concerns were raised about the quality of the finished road surface. The committee also noted the frequent use of the road by heavy-duty trucks, despite it being designed for light-duty traffic, an issue that could compromise the lifespan of the infrastructure. MPAC has requested a detailed final inspection report and clarity on measures to manage inappropriate road usage, while the contractor has been instructed to address defects within the liability period.

Cllr Molawa underscored the significance of these oversight efforts, stating that they are essential to safeguarding public funds and ensuring value for money.

"MPAC will continue to closely monitor infrastructure projects to ensure that they deliver meaningful improvements in the quality of services provided to our communities," he said.

The committee has requested detailed reports from relevant departments and contractors to address the issues identified during the visits. Additional oversight engagements are expected to continue in areas such as Gorton and Deneyville as part of MPAC's commitment to strengthening governance and service delivery across Metsimaholo.

Through hands-on oversight and firm accountability measures, MPAC is reinforcing its role as a guardian of public resources, ensuring that development is not only delivered but delivered effectively.

## From Zamdela to the Nation: Young Champions Ignite a School's Dream



*The learners are set to represent the Free State at the National Athletics Championship in Cape Town, taking place from 18 to 21 March 2026, a milestone not only for them, but for the entire school community.*

*As applause filled the air, Mayor Malindi addressed the assembly with a message that resonated far beyond the celebration.*

The morning of 18 March 2026 began like any other at Thuto Ke Tsebo Primary School in Amelia, Zamdela, until it didn't.

As the first light stretched across the school grounds, a wave of anticipation swept through learners and teachers alike. Something special was about to unfold. And when Metsimaholo Local Municipality's Executive Mayor, Cllr Malindi, arrived alongside Ms Beauty Jantjie from the Mayor's Office, the moment transformed into one the school would never forget.

At the heart of the gathering stood three young learners, quiet, composed, yet carrying the weight of extraordinary achievement. These were not just pupils; they were rising stars in athletics, whose journey had been shaped by discipline, sacrifice, and an unyielding belief in their abilities.

Their path to success was anything but easy. From dominating the Sasolburg Zone to excelling at the Fezile Dabi level, pushing through Inter-District competitions, and ultimately shining at the Free State Championships, they proved their excellence time and again. Competing in track and field events, they consistently secured top positions against strong competition.

Now, their hard work has earned them a place on the national stage.

***On this unforgettable morning, three young athletes were honoured, but a generation was inspired.***



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