

THE UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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Vol 13 • April–June 2026



Top News

- Service Delivery
 - Safer Communities
-
- Community Participation
 - Youth Empowerment



Putting Our People First

TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

From Invitation to Inspiration: Mayor Malindi Champions Youth Empowerment at Sasol's Bridge to Work Event

04

Building a Compliant and Competitive Contractor Base: Metsimaholo Empowers Local Construction MSMEs

05

Indigent Registration Campaign Off to a Strong Start in Sasolburg

06

Uniting against GBVF: Building Safer Communities for All

07

Metsimaholo Tables Service Delivery-Focused Budget for 2026/27

08

Municipal Leadership Strengthens Employee Engagement Through SAMWU Meeting

09

Stronger Together: Community Voices Shape Metsimaholo's 2026/27 Budget



From Invitation to Inspiration: Mayor Malindi Champions Youth Empowerment at Sasol's Bridge to Work Event



The Executive Mayor of Metsimaholo Local Municipality, Cllr Jack Malindi, joined government leaders, industry partners and community stakeholders at Sasol's Bridge to Work Youth Day Event, held at the Boiketlong Centre in Sasolburg on Thursday, 25 June 2026. His attendance followed a special invitation from Sasol, reflecting a shared commitment to empowering young people through skills development, employment opportunities and entrepreneurship.

The event served as a dynamic platform connecting unemployed youth with employers, entrepreneurs, training institutions, placement agencies and development partners. Through meaningful engagement and access to practical resources, participants were encouraged to explore pathways to sustainable employment and self-employment.

Addressing attendees and members of the media, Mayor Malindi called on young people to embrace innovation, invest in skills development and seize every opportunity available to improve their futures. Reflecting on the legacy of the youth of 1976, he encouraged them to remain resilient, determined and forward-looking, reminding them that today's preparation lays the foundation for tomorrow's success.

"Young people must position themselves to take advantage of every opportunity that comes their way. Through education, skills development and entrepreneurship, they can become active contributors to the growth of our local economy," the Mayor said.

Participants had the opportunity to explore training and career opportunities in high-demand sectors, including Biodiversity Management, Business Digital Services, Welding and Renewable Solar Installation, equipping them with valuable knowledge to navigate an evolving job market.

The event also featured the participation of the Free State MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Ketso Makume, and the Minister of Employment and Labour, Ms Nomakhosazana Meth, who both emphasised the importance of collaboration between government, the private sector and development partners in addressing youth unemployment and creating sustainable economic opportunities.

The Bridge to Work Youth Day Event demonstrated the power of partnerships in transforming lives. By bringing together key stakeholders committed to youth development, the initiative reinforced a shared vision of building a future where young people are equipped not only to seek employment, but also to become entrepreneurs, innovators and drivers of inclusive economic growth.

As Metsimaholo continues to prioritise youth development, initiatives such as Bridge to Work remain vital in creating opportunities that inspire hope, unlock potential and build a stronger, more prosperous community for future generations.



Building a Compliant and Competitive Contractor Base: Metsimaholo Empowers Local Construction MSMEs

Metsimaholo Local Municipality continues to strengthen local economic development by investing in the growth and sustainability of emerging businesses. Through its Department of Local Economic Development (LED) and Planning, the municipality hosted the Metsimaholo Local Contractors MSMEs/Stakeholders Compliance Workshop at the Harry Gwala Multi-Purpose Centre in Zamdela on Friday, 19 June 2026.

The workshop brought together local contractors, construction-sector MSMEs, government stakeholders and industry experts to equip participants with the knowledge, compliance requirements and practical tools needed to compete successfully within South Africa's construction industry.

Welcoming delegates, MMC for Local Economic Development and Tourism, Councillor D. Bucibo, reaffirmed the municipality's commitment to creating an enabling environment that supports local contractors, promotes entrepreneurship and stimulates economic growth through increased participation in infrastructure development projects.



Director of Local Economic Development and Urban Planning, Ms Moyagabo Tihapane, outlined the purpose of the workshop, emphasising that compliance, professionalism and continuous business development are essential for contractors seeking to remain competitive and access new opportunities within the sector.

The interactive nature of the workshop encouraged meaningful engagement, allowing participants to ask questions, share experiences and network with government officials and industry stakeholders. This collaborative approach strengthened partnerships while promoting a better understanding of the resources available to support local businesses.

The Compliance Workshop forms part of Metsimaholo Local Municipality's broader commitment to empowering Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and cooperatives as drivers of local economic development. By providing access to information, industry expertise and business support services, the municipality is helping to build a compliant, skilled and competitive contractor base capable of contributing to infrastructure delivery, job creation and sustainable economic growth.

As the construction industry continues to evolve, initiatives such as this workshop ensure that local contractors are well positioned to meet industry standards, access new opportunities and play a meaningful role in building a stronger and more resilient Metsimaholo economy.



Indigent Registration Campaign Off to a Strong Start in Sasolburg



Metsimaholo Local Municipality has successfully launched its 2025/26 Indigent Awareness and Registration Campaign, with residents turning out in encouraging numbers to access information and register for indigent support services. The campaign officially commenced on, Wednesday, 10 June 2026 at the Harry Gwala Multipurpose Sports Centre in Sasolburg.

The initiative forms part of the Municipality's ongoing commitment to ensuring that qualifying low-income households continue to benefit from free basic municipal services while promoting greater awareness of the support available to vulnerable members of the community.

Representing the Revenue Collection Department, Mr Disema Mokoena provided residents with an overview of the campaign, outlining its objectives and the Municipality's dedication to ensuring that eligible households receive the assistance they need. Mr Thami Khoza further engaged community members by explaining the importance of registering or renewing their indigent status to maintain access to municipal support programmes.

Throughout the day, officials from the Revenue Collection Department assisted residents with new applications, renewals and enquiries, providing guidance on the registration process and eligibility requirements. The positive response from the community reflected the importance of the programme in supporting households experiencing financial hardship.

The Indigent Awareness and Registration Campaign seek to improve access to free basic municipal services for qualifying households earning below the approved income threshold. By simplifying the registration process and bringing services closer to communities, the Municipality continues to strengthen its efforts to ensure that no eligible resident is left behind.

Residents who qualify for the programme are encouraged to register or renew their indigent status during the campaign to continue benefiting from the Municipality's support initiatives. Through programmes such as these, Metsimaholo Local Municipality remains committed to promoting social inclusion, improving service delivery and enhancing the quality of life for its residents.



Uniting against GBVF: Building Safer Communities for All



Sasolburg, 09 June 2026 – In a demonstration of collective action against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), Metsimaholo Local Municipality hosted the MEC for Social Development, Mme Mathabo Hlalele, alongside key stakeholders, community leaders, councillors, and residents at the Harry Gwala Multipurpose Centre in Sasolburg for a GBVF Awareness Campaign.

The event brought together government, civil society, and community members under a shared commitment to confront one of South Africa's most pressing social challenges and to strengthen support for survivors of violence. Delivering the welcome address, Executive Mayor Cllr Jack Malindi reaffirmed the Municipality's unwavering commitment to safeguarding women, children, and vulnerable members of society.

He emphasised that GBVF continues to devastate families and communities, calling on every sector of society to play an active role in prevention efforts. "The fight against GBVF cannot be won by the government alone. It requires the collective effort of families, schools, faith-based organisations, businesses, community leaders, and every resident to create safe spaces where violence is neither tolerated nor ignored," said Mayor Malindi.



The Mayor further highlighted the positive impact of collaborative interventions undertaken in GBVF hotspot areas across Metsimaholo. Through partnerships involving the National Prosecuting Authority, the Thuthuzela Care Centre, various government departments, law enforcement agencies, and community stakeholders, significant strides have been made in improving access to support services, strengthening community safety, and ensuring greater accountability for perpetrators.

A key highlight of the programme was the official handover of a donated vehicle by MEC Hlalele to the Curious Future Movement Shelter. The vehicle will significantly enhance the shelter's ability to provide critical support, emergency assistance, and protection to survivors of gender-based violence. The awareness campaign served not only as a platform for education and dialogue but also as a call to action for communities to stand united against all forms of violence.

By strengthening partnerships, expanding access to essential services, and promoting awareness, the initiative contributes directly to building safer, more resilient communities throughout Metsimaholo. As the campaign concluded, a clear message resonated throughout the venue: ending gender-based violence is everyone's responsibility. Together, through unity, awareness, and action, we can break the cycle of violence and build a future where every resident feels safe, valued, respected, and protected.

Metsimaholo Tables Service Delivery-Focused Budget for 2026/27

Metsimaholo Local Municipality has adopted a service delivery-focused budget that places infrastructure renewal, operational efficiency and improved service delivery at the forefront of its priorities for the 2026/27 financial year. The Executive Mayor, Cllr Jack Malindi, delivered the State of the Municipality Address and Budget Speech on 29 May 2026 at the Refengkgotso Community Hall in Deneyville.

The Council sitting, chaired by Speaker Cllr Lucas Fisher, brought together councillors, municipal officials, stakeholders and community members to reflect on the Municipality's progress and outline its plans for the year ahead.

In his address, Mayor Malindi reflected on the Municipality's journey since the current administration took office in 2021 and the leadership transition in 2023.

He acknowledged the challenges experienced over the years while highlighting the importance of political stability, cooperation and responsible governance in advancing service delivery. The Mayor emphasised that the 2026/27 Budget represents a renewed commitment to restoring municipal capacity and improving the quality of services delivered to residents across Metsimaholo.

A key highlight of the budget is the approval of a comprehensive fleet and yellow plant acquisition programme aimed at strengthening the Municipality's operational capacity. The investment, to be financed through a finance lease, will equip municipal departments with the resources needed to respond more effectively to service delivery challenges.

The approved acquisition programme includes passenger vehicles, light delivery vehicles, water tankers, refuse compactors, tipper trucks, skip loaders, cherry pickers, front-end loaders, backhoe loaders, tractors, road maintenance machinery, crane trucks and other specialised equipment required to support municipal operations.

The additional fleet and equipment are expected to improve road maintenance, waste collection, water supply support, grass cutting, infrastructure maintenance and emergency response services. The acquisition of additional water tankers is particularly significant for communities that have experienced recurring water supply challenges, while new road maintenance machinery will enhance the Municipality's ability to maintain and rehabilitate local roads.

In a strong demonstration of unity, the 2026/27 funded budget received unanimous approval from all councillors present. The adoption of the budget reflects Council's shared commitment to accelerating service delivery and ensuring that the Municipality has the resources required to meet the needs of its growing communities.

The approved budget marks an important milestone in Metsimaholo Local Municipality's efforts to strengthen governance, rebuild institutional capacity and improve the quality of life for residents. As implementation begins, the Municipality remains committed to translating its budget priorities into visible improvements that will benefit communities across Metsimaholo.



Municipal Leadership Strengthens Employee Engagement Through SAMWU Meeting



Metsimaholo Local Municipality continues to promote constructive labour relations through ongoing engagement with employees and organised labour. On 21 May 2026, the Municipality's political and administrative leadership met with employees affiliated to the South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU) at the Zamdela Hall in Sasolburg to discuss key workplace matters and strengthen communication between management and staff.

The engagement was led by Executive Mayor Cllr Jack Malindi and Municipal Manager Mr Basi Motloutng, reflecting the Municipality's commitment to fostering a collaborative and responsive working environment. The meeting provided an opportunity to address concerns raised by employees in a formal submission to municipal management. Discussions focused on a range of workplace matters, including the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), tools of trade, the implementation of Local Labour Forum (LLF) resolutions and other labour-related issues affecting employees.

During the engagement, Municipal Manager Mr Basi Motloutng responded to the matters raised in the submission, providing clarity on the Municipality's position and outlining measures aimed at addressing employee concerns. Employees were also given an opportunity to engage directly with the Municipality's leadership by asking questions, sharing their experiences and contributing to constructive dialogue.

In his opening remarks, Executive Mayor Cllr Jack Malindi welcomed employees and reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to open communication, mutual respect and ongoing engagement with its workforce. He emphasised the importance of maintaining positive labour relations and working together to create a productive environment that supports effective service delivery.

The engagement reflects Metsimaholo Local Municipality's continued commitment to strengthening relationships with employees and organised labour through transparent communication and collaborative problem-solving. By providing platforms for meaningful dialogue, the Municipality aims to address workplace challenges, improve employee wellbeing and enhance the delivery of quality services to the communities it serves.



Stronger Together: Community Voices Shape Metsimaholo's 2026/27 Budget

Metsimaholo Local Municipality has reaffirmed its commitment to participatory governance through a series of Draft Annual Budget Public Participation sessions held across all 23 municipal wards. The engagements, conducted in the Municipality's three towns, formed part of the consultation process for the 2026/27 Draft Annual Budget, providing residents with an opportunity to contribute directly to the Municipality's planning and service delivery priorities.

The public participation programme was led by Executive Mayor Cllr Jack Malindi and the MMC for Finance and Integrated Development Planning (IDP), Cllr Lebohlang Makhefu, who presented the Municipality's proposed budget priorities, planned projects and key service delivery interventions for the upcoming financial year.

Ward councillors facilitated the meetings by welcoming residents and introducing the municipal leadership, while Members of the Mayoral Committee, Municipal Manager Mr Basi Motloung and senior officials from the Finance and Technical Services departments supported the engagements by responding to questions and providing technical information on issues raised by the community.



Residents participated actively throughout the consultation process, sharing their views on municipal services and identifying areas requiring greater attention. Water supply challenges emerged as one of the key concerns raised during the engagements. In one of the meetings, responding on behalf of the Technical Services Department, Mr Radebe explained the factors contributing to the current challenges and outlined the measures being implemented in partnership with Rand Water to improve water supply and strengthen the Municipality's water infrastructure.

The public participation sessions provided an important platform for meaningful dialogue between the Municipality and the communities it serves. By encouraging residents to share their priorities and concerns, the Municipality continues to promote transparency, accountability and inclusive decision-making in the budgeting process.

Metsimaholo Local Municipality extends its appreciation to all residents who attended and contributed to the consultations. The valuable input received will help shape a responsive and people-centred 2026/27 Annual Budget that reflects the needs and aspirations of communities across the municipality, while supporting sustainable service delivery and local development.

TALK TO US

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