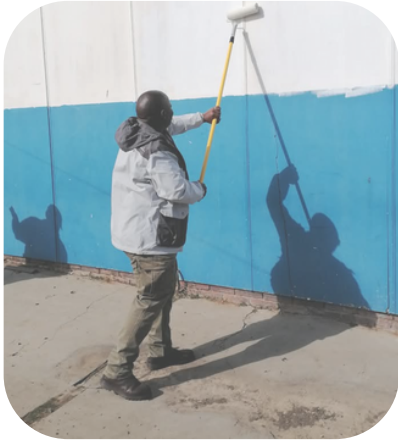




Metsimaholo Speaker Leads 67 Minutes of Service in Honour of Nelson Mandela at Tjhaba Tsohle Primary School

By Dr Gino Alberts



In the quiet morning air of Refengkgotso, the sound of laughter, brushes against walls, and the rhythmic scraping of rakes filled the grounds of Tjhaba Tsohle Primary School. It was Friday, 18 July 2025, a day when South Africans across the nation paused to honour Nelson Mandela's enduring legacy through service.

At the heart of this vibrant scene stood the Speaker of **Metsimaholo Local Municipality**, Cllr Lucas Fisher, sleeves rolled up and paintbrush in hand, embodying the spirit of Ubuntu that Madiba so deeply cherished. Alongside him were teachers, parents, learners, and community volunteers, all united under a single purpose, to give back 67 minutes of their time in honour of Mandela, who gave 67 years of his life to freedom and justice.

Welcoming the Speaker and volunteers was **Mr. Archie Tumahole**, the proud principal of Tjhaba Tsohle Primary School, an institution that nurtures 1,081 learners with the dedication of 37 committed teachers. Standing before the crowd, Tumahole expressed gratitude for the collective effort, describing the day as “a gift of hope painted in colour, and a reminder that education thrives best in a clean, safe, and inspiring environment”.

What followed was more than a symbolic gesture. Armed with paintbrushes, rakes, and refuse bags, volunteers transformed the school, repainting classroom walls, clearing litter, and breathing new life into the grounds. Each stroke of paint and each sweep of a broom carried meaning, a visible manifestation of what Mandela Day represents: action inspired by compassion.

“Mandela’s legacy lived again, in brushes dipped in hope, in hands that worked for the common good”

Addressing the crowd, **Cllr Fisher** reflected on the deeper essence of the day. “Every act of kindness, no matter how small, contributes to the legacy of Madiba,” he said, his voice carrying both conviction and warmth. “Today, we do not just paint walls or clean a yard; we paint hope, we clean despair, and we build a future that honors the values Mandela stood for: service, compassion, and dignity.”

He commended the volunteers for their unwavering community spirit, adding, “When you pick up a brush, a broom, or a bag, you are saying that this community matters, that our children’s future matters, and that Madiba’s dream lives on in each of us”. As the Speaker mingled with smiling volunteers, some with paint on their hands, others with dust on their shoes, one could sense that the true spirit of Mandela had descended on the school that morning. It was not in speeches or ceremonies, but in simple acts of service done with love. At **Tjhaba Tsohle Primary School**, Mandela’s legacy lived again, in brushes dipped in hope, in hands that worked for the common good, and in hearts that chose service over self.



Cleaning Up for Madiba's Legacy: Mayor Leads Community in Nelson Mandela Day Campaign

By Thabo Mbele

The morning of 18 July 2025 dawned with a renewed sense of purpose and unity in Metsimaholo, as the Executive Mayor, Cllr Jack Malindi, led a spirited cleaning campaign in honour of Nelson Mandela Day. With sleeves rolled up and gloves on, the mayor, joined by MMC for Special Programmes, Cllr Angelina Mofokeng, and staff from the Office of the Mayor, descended upon the Careswell Children's Project to give the facility a vibrant new beginning.



Taking a brief pause from the activity, Mayor Malindi addressed the gathered volunteers and guardians, his tone both warm and reflective. "Today is not just about cleaning up a space," he said, "it's about restoring hope. Our hands may be doing the work, but our hearts are carrying forward Mandela's dream, a dream of unity, dignity, and care for one another".

He commended the foster guardians for their tireless commitment to nurturing the children under their care, describing them as "unsung heroes who embody the spirit of Ubuntu in action." The mayor further pledged to strengthen partnerships with the project in the months ahead, ensuring that the guardians and children continue to receive the support they need.

For Cllr Mofokeng, the day was deeply symbolic. "Every act of kindness, no matter how small, builds the foundation for a better tomorrow," she said. "What we're doing today may seem simple, but to these children, it means the world." As the Mayor waved goodbye to the children, many of whom clung to him with gratitude, the message was clear: Madiba's legacy lives on not in grand speeches, but in simple acts of love, in hands that serve, in hearts that give, and in communities that refuse to stop caring.

Golden Years in Motion: Elderly Games Spark Joy, Unity, and Hope in Metsimaholo

By Dr Gino Alberts, Thabo Mbele, Mami Ramokotjo



SASOLBURG – The DP de Villiers Stadium came alive with laughter, music, and vibrant energy on July 29, 2025, as senior citizens from across the Fezile Dabi District gathered for the much-anticipated Elderly Games, a day devoted to joy, movement, and community spirit.

The event, initiated by the Office of the Council Whip for Metsimaholo Local Municipality, Cllr. Fikile Mosokweni, in collaboration with the Departments of Health, Sport, Arts and Culture, and Social Development, transformed the stadium into a colourful hub of celebration. It was more than just a sports day; it was a heartfelt tribute to the elderly, honouring their strength, resilience, and invaluable contribution to society.

Executive Mayor, Cllr. Jack Malindi graced the occasion, warmly greeting participants and applauding their energy. His presence, alongside members of the Mayoral Committee and officials from various government departments, underscored the municipality's commitment to the holistic well-being of senior citizens.





G20 Business Dialogue in Zamdela: Fezile Dabi Leads the Call for Inclusive Growth and Local Empowerment

By Thabo Mbele, Mami Ramokotjo

ZAMDELA – The Harry Gwala Multipurpose Centre was abuzz with energy and optimism on the morning of 22 August 2025, as the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, in partnership with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), hosted a landmark G20 Business Engagement Session. This gathering marked a pivotal moment in South Africa’s leadership of the G20, the first time the world’s most influential economic forum will be hosted on African soil, and placed Fezile Dabi firmly on the map as a hub of innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive development. The event drew together an impressive assembly of leaders and business visionaries, including Fezile Dabi District Executive Mayor, Cllr Dennis Khasudi; Metsimaholo Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Jack Malindi; Ngwathe Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Victoria Debeer-Mthombeni; and MEC for Health, MPL Viceroy Mahlatsi. Also in attendance were municipal officials, private sector partners, and representatives of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the heartbeat of local economic transformation.



Taking to the podium, Cllr Jack Malindi captivated the audience with a forward-looking address that highlighted two of Metsimaholo’s most ambitious development projects – the Wonderfontein Mixed Development and the expansion of the Vaal River Special Economic Zone (SEZ). “These projects,” he said, “are more than just infrastructure. They are symbols of hope, inclusion, and progress.

Human Settlements Committee Commends Metsimaholo’s Commitment to Housing Delivery During Oversight Visit

By Mami Ramokotjo

SASOLBURG – The spirit of accountability and service excellence was on full display on 19 August 2025, as the Free State Department of Human Settlements Portfolio Committee conducted an important oversight visit to the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, within the jurisdiction of Metsimaholo Local Municipality. The visit formed part of the committee’s ongoing efforts to monitor housing delivery. In a comprehensive briefing session, municipal representatives outlined progress and challenges relating to major housing projects, including Gamont Housing 400 & 500, Sasolburg 800, and Sasolburg Properties 4925.



The Committee’s oversight mission highlighted the critical importance of collaboration between spheres of government in accelerating housing development and addressing existing backlogs. The day’s proceedings reflected a strong partnership between the municipality and the provincial department, united by a shared goal: to build sustainable, dignified human settlements that uplift communities and restore hope. As the oversight visit concluded, it was clear that the future of housing in Metsimaholo is guided by a renewed sense of responsibility, collaboration,

Metsimaholo Council Welcomes New Councillors, Strengthening Democracy and Representation



SASOLBURG – The Council Chambers at the Civic Centre buzzed with anticipation and optimism on 03 September 2025, as the Metsimaholo Local Municipality officially welcomed three new councillors to its ranks.

In a ceremony marked by dignity and unity, Democratic Alliance (DA) Councillor Johannes Hendrick Petrus Human and Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) PR Councillors Hlapogadi Nocky Masemola and Larry Lesego Moalusi were formally sworn in to serve the people of Metsimaholo.

Presiding over the proceedings, the Speaker of the Council, Cllr Lucas Fisher, welcomed the new members, emphasising that their entry into the council represents the voice of the people and the vibrancy of South Africa’s multi-party democracy. “Every councillor seated here carries the hopes and concerns of the residents they represent. It is our collective duty to ensure that Metsimaholo continues to move forward through cooperation, integrity, and service,” he said.

The inclusion of Councillors Human, Masemola, and Moalusi brings renewed energy and diversity of thought to the Metsimaholo Council. Their roles will include participating in council committees, contributing to policy discussions, and ensuring that every decision made reflects the priorities of the municipality’s residents. As the new councillors take their seats, Metsimaholo moves forward with a strengthened council, one that reflects the will of its people and the promise of a municipality committed to progress and service.

MEC Hands Over Critical Environmental Tools to Metsimaholo Municipality

By Thabo Mbele



SASOLBURG – In a spirited move to strengthen local service delivery and champion environmental care, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), led by MEC Saki Mokoena, handed over a substantial consignment of environmental cleaning tools to Metsimaholo Local Municipality on Thursday, 04 September 2025.



The handover ceremony, held at the municipal offices in Sasolburg, drew together an impressive assembly of leaders and officials, including Fezile Dabi District Executive Mayor Cllr. Dennis Khasudi, Metsimaholo Executive Mayor Cllr. Jack Malindi, Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs), senior management teams, and representatives from both the Department and the Municipality. The event reflected a deepening partnership between the provincial and local spheres of government, united in their mission to create cleaner, safer, and more sustainable communities.

The tools – ranging from gloves, safety goggles, garden equipment, and wheelbarrows to road marking cones, paper pickers, refuse bags, and dust masks – are part of CoGTA’s initiative to bolster the Community Works Programme (CWP). This support is intended to empower local teams to tackle persistent challenges such as illegal dumping, littering, and poorly maintained public spaces across the municipality.



Metsimaholo Celebrates the Gift of Education: Two New ECD Centres Officially Handed Over

By Dr Gino Alberts, Thabo Mbele



ZAMDELA – The spirit of joy and unity filled the air in the Metsimaholo municipal area as the community gathered to celebrate a milestone in early childhood education, the official handover of two brand new Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres, Mamohato Educare in Zamdela and Themba Kubeka Day Care Centre in Refengkgotso.

Thanks to the unwavering support of the Seriti Community Trust, these state-of-the-art facilities will collectively accommodate nearly 200 young learners, providing them with a nurturing environment where their dreams can take root.

The programme of the day flowed effortlessly under the capable direction of Ms Malefu Mofokeng, Manager in the Office of the Speaker, who kept the proceedings engaging and celebratory. Delivering the welcome address on behalf of Ward Councillor Cllr. Lucas Fisher, Cllr. Angy Mofokeng expressed heartfelt gratitude for the project, describing it as “a blessing that will transform the educational landscape of our community”.

The colourful ceremony drew an impressive audience of business leaders, civil society organisations, government officials, educators, and proud community members – all united by a shared belief that every child deserves a strong educational foundation. The true stars of the day, however, were the children themselves, who captured the hearts of attendees with joyful songs that echoed the hope and promise of a brighter future.

Early Childhood Development has long been recognised as the cornerstone of lifelong learning and social development. Both facilities boast modern classrooms, fully equipped kitchens, administrative blocks, paved walkways, and safe, stimulating play areas designed to give every child the best possible start in life.

SACAP Municipal Outreach Strengthens Safe and Compliant Development in Metsimaholo

By Dr Gino Alberts



SASOLBURG – The Council Foyer of Metsimaholo Local Municipality buzzed with energy and purpose the morning of 22 September 2025, as the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP) brought its Municipal Outreach Programme to Sasolburg. The session brought together municipal officials, architects, building plan runners, and community members, all united by a shared commitment to build a safer, compliant, and sustainable Metsimaholo.

SACAP, the statutory body mandated to regulate the architectural profession in the public interest, is on a nationwide mission to ensure that only registered practitioners engage in architectural work and that professional standards and ethics are upheld across all levels of the built environment. The outreach aimed to foster dialogue, address compliance challenges, and educate both professionals and the public on the legal and safety implications of non-compliance in the construction sector.

Mr Abongile Jacisa took the stage with an insightful presentation on Continuous Professional Development (CPD), highlighting how ongoing learning and skills enhancement are vital for keeping pace with evolving industry standards and regulations. His message was clear: architectural excellence requires not just talent, but also a commitment to continuous growth.



Embracing the Past, Shaping the Future: Metsimaholo's Vibrant Heritage Celebration

By Dr Gino Alberts, Thabo Mbele



SASOLBURG – The heart of Metsimaholo pulsed with colour, rhythm, and pride as the municipality came alive in celebration of Heritage Month. What is usually a space of formal governance, the municipal offices, is transformed into a vibrant festival ground filled with laughter, music, and the joyous expression of South Africa's rich cultural mosaic. Men and women arrived draped in stunning traditional attire, from the bright patterns of Sotho blankets to the intricate beadwork of Zulu regalia and the elegant grace of Xhosa garments.

Each outfit told a story, carrying the echoes of ancestry and the beauty of diversity that defines the Metsimaholo community. Together, they painted a living portrait of unity in diversity – a hallmark of South Africa's heritage.

This year's celebration, held under the theme "Reimagine Our Heritage Institutions for a New Era," went beyond festivity. It was a call to action, urging communities to see heritage not only as a reflection of where we come from, but as a foundation for where we are going. The theme challenged participants to envision how tradition and innovation can coexist – how cultural pride can fuel progress, creativity, and social cohesion in a modern South Africa.

For municipal employees, the day offered more than a cultural showcase; it was a moment of connection and renewal. It reminded everyone that heritage is not confined to museums or ceremonies, but lives in the way people work, relate, and build together. Heritage is not just about looking back, it is about moving forward with purpose. Metsimaholo's celebration stood as a reminder that the past is not a place to dwell, but a compass to guide the journey toward a united, inclusive, and proudly diverse future.

Reimagining Our Heritage: Metsimaholo's Colourful Celebration of Culture and Unity

By Dr Gino Alberts



ORANJEVILLE – The spirit of unity and pride was on full display this morning, 26 September 2025, as the Metsimaholo Local Municipality celebrated Heritage Month in a spectacular showcase of colour, song, and tradition at the Oranjeville Community Hall.

The event, led by the Speaker of the Council, Cllr. Lucas Fisher transformed the usually quiet venue into a vibrant hub of cultural expression. Residents, councillors, municipal officials, and local cultural groups filled the hall, proudly adorned in traditional attire that told the story of South Africa's beautiful diversity. The rhythmic beat of drums, heartfelt songs, and jubilant ululations echoed through the hall, creating an atmosphere alive with energy, pride, and togetherness.

Bringing his unmistakable charisma to the stage, Cllr. Jabulani 'Bondo' Radebe guided the programme with humour and enthusiasm. His light-hearted engagement with the audience drew laughter and applause as he encouraged everyone to honour their traditions and pass them on to the next generation. "Heritage connects us", he reminded the crowd. "It reminds us that though we come from different backgrounds, we share one nation and one destiny".

When Speaker Cllr. Lucas Fisher stepped up to address the gathering, a reverent hush filled the hall. With sincerity and insight, he described heritage as the "glue that holds communities together", reminding everyone that culture is both a reflection of identity and a catalyst for progress.



Mooidraai Residents Converge for Landmark Public Meeting: MEC's and Mayor Address Service Delivery and Human Settlement Challenges

By Dr. Gino Alberts, Julia Phepheng

MOOIDRAAI, SASOLBURG – In the cool morning air of Sunday, 28 September 2025, the usually tranquil settlement of Mooidraai stirred with an unmistakable sense of anticipation. Long before the first speeches began, residents had already filled the community grounds – young and old, mothers with children in tow, elders seated under makeshift shades – all united by a common purpose: to hear directly from government leaders about the way forward for their community.

This was no ordinary gathering. It was a landmark public meeting between the residents of Mooidraai, the Metsimaholo Local Municipality, and the Free State Department of Human Settlements.

Leading the delegation was MEC for COGTA and Human Settlements, Mr. Saki Mokoena, alongside the Executive Mayor of Metsimaholo Local Municipality, Cllr. Jack Malindi. Also in attendance were MEC for Education, Dr. Mamiki Maboya, HOD for Human Settlements, Adv. TJ Phahlo, Council Whip Cllr. Fikile Mosokweni, Municipal Manager Ms. Basi Motloun, councillors, senior officials, and a large contingent of community members – all converging under one roof to chart a path toward better living conditions.



The meeting opened with a warm welcome from Ward Councillor MB Mozolo, who thanked residents for their patience and active participation. He urged them to engage constructively, reminding everyone that progress depends on partnership between the community and government.

Executive Mayor Cllr. Jack Malindi then took to the podium, his tone both compassionate and firm. “We understand your frustrations,” he said, addressing the crowd. “Mooidraai has waited far too long for the promises of development to become reality. Today marks the beginning of a new chapter one where your voices are heard, and your needs are prioritized.” His remarks drew applause from residents, many of whom have endured years of inadequate water, sanitation, and housing infrastructure.

The program was expertly directed by Adv. TJ Phahlo, the HOD for Human Settlements, who brought a balance of structure and empathy to the proceedings. Setting a serious but solution-oriented tone, he introduced a detailed video presentation capturing the history and challenges of Mooidraai. The footage, compiled from previous engagements, vividly illustrated the infrastructural delays and hardships residents continue to face, especially regarding water and sewerage projects.

A defining moment of the meeting came when MEC for Education, Dr. Mamiki Maboya, addressed one of the community’s most pressing issues: the lack of school infrastructure. Her voice carried both urgency and compassion as she appealed to residents about illegally occupied school sites. “We have plans to build two primary schools and one secondary school right here in Mooidraai”, she said passionately. “But if these sites remain occupied, it will be impossible to move forward. I am appealing to those staying there, please vacate for the sake of our children’s education and the future of this community”.

When the final words were spoken and officials began to disperse, the air was filled with a sense of cautious optimism. For many residents, this day felt like a turning point, a moment when their small settlement’s concerns were finally given the attention they deserved. In the words of one community elder who lingered after the crowd had thinned: “We’ve heard many promises before but today felt different. Maybe, just maybe, change has come to Mooidraai.”



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