



Christmas with purpose: Metsimaholo leaders and education MEC restore hope, dignity and dreams for learners



The true meaning of Christmas was brought to life on 24 December 2025 at the Harry Gwala Multipurpose Centre in Zamdela, where leadership, compassion, and education converged in a powerful celebration of hope and dignity. In a moment that placed learners firmly at the centre of the festive season, the Executive Mayor of Metsimaholo Local Municipality, Cllr Jack Malindi, the Speaker of Council, Cllr Lucas Fisher, and the Council Whip, Cllr Fikile Mosokweni, joined the MEC for Education, Dr MJ Maboya, for a Christmas initiative that went far beyond celebration; it touched lives. Hosted by MEC Dr Maboya, the event welcomed over 200 learners from across the Metsimaholo community.

From their arrival, the venue was alive with laughter, music, singing, dancing, and unmistakable joy. For many of the children, this was more than a Christmas lunch; it was a moment of affirmation, care, and restored dignity, a reminder that they are seen, valued, and supported.

A highlight of the day was the distribution of dignity packs and stationery packs, thoughtfully prepared to ensure that every learner begins the 2026 academic year with confidence and pride. Addressing the learners, Dr Maboya delivered a message that resonated deeply:



“Education comes first. That is why we came with stationery, so that come the 14th of January 2026, you are fresh and ready for school”

Her words were met with enthusiastic applause, reflecting the hope and excitement sparked by this meaningful intervention.

The presence of Executive Mayor Cllr Jack Malindi and Speaker Cllr Lucas Fisher powerfully reaffirmed Metsimaholo Local Municipality’s unwavering commitment to education, child development, and social upliftment. Together with councillors, municipal officials, and representatives from the Department of Education, the leadership demonstrated that collaborative governance—when driven by compassion and purpose—has the power to change lives.

What unfolded at the Harry Gwala Multipurpose Centre was not merely a festive gathering, but a profound reminder that investing in children is investing in the future of the community. The smiles, gratitude, and renewed hope on the faces of the learners captured the very essence of Christmas: giving, caring, and restoring dignity.

Metsimaholo Local Municipality extended its warmest Christmas wishes to all learners, educators, parents, and the broader education community. May this season of generosity inspire continued commitment to learning, unity, and service, and may the year 2026 be of growth, achievement, and limitless possibilities for every child.



Powering Service Delivery: New Equipment ignites a greener, safer Metsimaholo

As the sun rose over the Civic Centre in Sasolburg on 17 December 2025, it cast light on more than municipal buildings; it marked a moment of renewed purpose, visible commitment, and decisive action for the people of Metsimaholo. In a proud and symbolic event, Metsimaholo Local Municipality officially unveiled newly procured grass-cutting equipment for its Parks and Recreation Division, signalling a concrete investment in service delivery excellence and community dignity.

The unveiling was led by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Jack Malindi, together with the MMC for Parks and Recreation Services, Cllr Mapule Mofokeng, in the presence of the municipal employees who will take this vision forward into neighbourhoods, parks, and public open spaces. Their presence reinforced a simple but powerful truth: effective service delivery begins by equipping those who serve on the ground.

Addressing attendees, the Acting Director: Social Services, Mr Medi Moshodi, outlined the strategic significance of the procurement: ***“As the Parks and Recreation Division, we are mandated to ensure that parks, sports fields, cemeteries, road reserves, and other public spaces are well-maintained. Adequate and reliable equipment is therefore essential to fulfilling this responsibility effectively and sustainably”***, he said. Beyond the machinery itself, the handover carried a deeper message. It reflected the municipality’s ongoing commitment to service delivery, employee productivity, and dignified working conditions. By investing in tools that work, the municipality is investing in people—and in results that communities can see and feel.

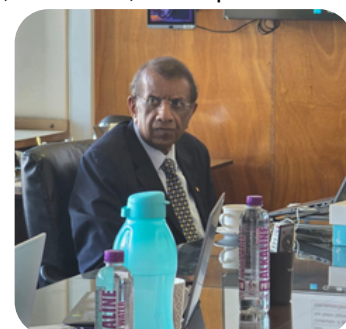
As the ceremony concluded, one message resonated clearly: this was more than an equipment handover; it was a declaration of intent. A statement that Metsimaholo is serious about clean, safe, and welcoming public spaces.



Governance with Purpose: Metsimaholo strengthens Risk Oversight & Accountability

Metsimaholo Local Municipality demonstrated strong leadership and governance in action when it convened its Risk Management Committee Meeting on Monday, 08 December 2025, at 10h00 in the Civic Centre, Sasolburg. The meeting provided a critical platform for in-depth engagement on governance, compliance, and risk oversight, with the agenda having been electronically circulated in advance to enable informed, focused, and productive deliberations.

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 Motlout, senior management, and departmental managers, reflecting a collective commitment to ethical leadership, compliance, and risk-aware decision-making.



A key highlight of the meeting was the consideration of the Draft Risk Champions Charter 2025/2026, a strategic initiative aimed at empowering designated officials across departments to champion risk management, promote accountability, and embed a proactive risk culture throughout the organisation.

The meeting concluded with a review of the Risk Management Committee Self-Evaluation Report, reaffirming the committee’s commitment to continuous improvement and adherence to best governance practices. This engagement reaffirmed Metsimaholo Local Municipality’s unwavering dedication to transparency, accountability, and sound institutional governance, critical foundations for effective service delivery, organisational resilience, and long-term municipal sustainability.





From neglect to NEW BEGINNINGS: Kgodisho Trading Stalls reopen, igniting hope and opportunity in Zamdela



A powerful and inspiring milestone unfolded in the heart of Zamdela, Sasolburg, on the morning of 05 December 2025, as the newly refurbished Kgodisho Informal Trading Stalls were officially reopened. What was once an aging and deteriorating trading space has been reborn as a vibrant, modern, and dignified economic hub—breathing new life into the informal economy and restoring pride to the traders who depend on it for survival. This transformation was made possible through a R5-million investment by Seriti New Vaal Colliery, implemented through its Social and Labour Plan (SLP) for the 2020–2025 financial year. The reopening was more than a ceremonial ribbon-cutting; it marked the renewal of a space that sustains livelihoods, feeds families, and anchors economic activity within the community.

The reopening of the Kgodisho Informal Trading Stalls stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when shared vision meets collective action. It is a story of renewal, resilience, and empowerment, a testament to how targeted investment can unlock economic potential and transform lives. As the traders of Zamdela step into this revitalised space, they do so with renewed hope, symbolising the dawn of a brighter and more prosperous future for the entire community.



“Silence is NOT an option” – Mayor Malindi ignites community action against GBV & Femicide in Metsimaholo



In the morning, 3 December 2025, Sasolburg rose with a united, unshakable voice. Executive Mayor Cllr Jack Malindi joined a powerful coalition of Metsimaholo stakeholders, including SAPS, the National Prosecuting Authority, Department of Health representatives, local church leaders, SASOL, and municipal officials, to launch a high-impact awareness campaign for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. From bustling sidewalks to every public space in the Central Business District, the message was unwavering: survivors are not alone, perpetrators will be held accountable, and our community will never normalize violence.

Banners demanding dignity and justice waved at intersections. Volunteers, civic leaders, church officials, municipal staff, and SASOL personnel in bright vests and purple T-shirts handed out vital information.

The campaign provided practical guidance: how to safely report abuse, where survivors can access medical and psychological support, and how bystanders can intervene without harm. This was more than a symbolic march; it was a coordinated, actionable initiative. SAPS and NPA officials explained prosecution procedures; Department of Health teams outlined emergency medical and trauma support; church networks pledged survivor-centred pastoral care; municipal teams highlighted safe public spaces and ramped up visible policing. SASOL’s involvement reinforced the shared commitment of industry, government, and civil society to protect communities.

Share this post. Bring someone to tomorrow’s outreach. Volunteer at your local safe space. Silence is no longer an option; together, we will end the violence.



Speaker Lucas Fisher speaks candidly on Leadership, Governance, and Accountability in Metsimaholo

On the morning of 20 November 2025, the Metsimaholo Municipal Offices in Sasolburg buzzed with anticipation as the GCIS Free State Buang Podcast Team arrived to capture a conversation promising honesty, insight, and a rare glimpse into the political heartbeat of the municipality. Led by interviewer Lehlohonolo Manoto and technically supported by Lerato Setilo, the team set the stage for a compelling dialogue with Cllr Lucas Fisher, Speaker of Metsimaholo Local Municipality.



From the moment the microphones went live, it was clear this was no ordinary interview. The conversation probed deep into the complexities, challenges, and triumphs of municipal governance. Cllr Fisher opened by unpacking the often-misunderstood role of the Speaker – central to maintaining order, fairness, and accountability in Council operations. He spoke candidly about leading a Council shaped by a multiparty executive, where discipline, mutual respect, political tolerance, and a shared commitment to service delivery are essential to navigating a diverse political landscape.

The discussion delved into the political composition of the Council, where the mayor holds one seat, the ANC commands sixteen, the EFF eleven to twelve, and the remainder belong to smaller parties. Cllr Fisher reflected on how this fragmented landscape tests leadership yet strengthens accountability, dialogue, and political maturity. When asked how he maintains impartiality as Speaker, he emphasised the need to rise above political loyalties and safeguard the integrity of the institution, even amid heightened tensions.

By the end of the interview, it was evident: this was more than a conversation; it was a window into leadership under pressure, governance in motion, and a municipality striving to serve its people despite the storms of politics.

Leading the clean-up revolution: Metsimaholo stands united for a greener tomorrow

Metsimaholo Local Municipality once again demonstrated the power of hands-on leadership and active citizenship as Council Whip, Cllr Fikile Mosokweni, led a spirited World Cleanup Day commemoration in Ward 13, Zamdela, on 17 October 2025.

In an inspiring display of unity and shared responsibility, the initiative brought together community residents, municipal officials, and strategic partners, including the Fezile Dabi District Municipality and the Department of Health, all rallying behind a common goal: building a cleaner, greener, and healthier community.

From the early hours of the morning, the ward came alive with purpose. Armed with gloves, brooms, and refuse bags, volunteers spread across parks, streets, and open spaces, tackling litter and debris head-on. The atmosphere was electric—filled with teamwork, determination, and a collective pride in restoring the area's natural beauty.

World Cleanup Day in Zamdela was more than an event—it was a powerful reminder that when people unite around a shared purpose, positive transformation is not only possible, it is inevitable.



“Keeping our environment clean is not just the municipality’s responsibility; it is a shared duty,” said Cllr Mosokweni. “A clean community reflects the pride, discipline, and unity of its people. Let us make this not a once-off event, but a daily commitment to a sustainable future”.



Wellness in motion: Metsimaholo employees celebrate health, unity & excellence at dynamic wellness day



A highlight of the day was the keynote address by Municipal Manager Mr. Basi Motloun, who reminded everyone that employee wellness is not a luxury, it is a strategic necessity that fuels productivity, enhances service delivery, and strengthens institutional excellence. His words resonated across the stadium, reinforcing that people are Metsimaholo's greatest asset.

On the morning of 14 November 2025, DP de Villiers Stadium in Sasolburg came alive with energy, excitement, and purpose as Metsimaholo Local Municipality hosted a remarkable Employee Wellness Day, an event that went beyond expectations, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended. The day kicked off with a revitalising fun walk and run, setting the tone for a celebration of holistic wellbeing, teamwork, and a healthier, more motivated workforce. Employees moved, laughed, and cheered each other on, embodying the spirit of unity and camaraderie across departments.

The stadium buzzed throughout the day as employees engaged in a range of activities, including 100m sprints, aerobics sessions, and interactive team-building exercises, creating moments of laughter, encouragement, and renewed motivation. The event was further enriched by key stakeholder partners, including Bonitas, Old Mutual, Virgin Active, ABSA, and the Department of Health, who provided essential health screenings, wellness advice, and financial guidance, blending recreation with education and empowerment.

As the event ended, one truth was clear: Metsimaholo Local Municipality is more than an employer; it is a community committed to health, unity, and excellence. Today's Wellness Day strengthened bonds, inspired renewed energy, and showcased that a healthy workforce is the heartbeat of a thriving municipality.

Turning the tide on pollution: Water and sanitation department takes decisive action to save the Vaal river in Metsimaholo

In a strong demonstration of environmental accountability and intergovernmental cooperation, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) from the Free State and Gauteng provinces conducted an urgent oversight visit to Metsimaholo Local Municipality on 29 October 2025, following growing public concern over the continued sewage pollution of the Vaal River. For many years, this critical water source has suffered severe degradation, posing serious risks to surrounding communities, local industries, the hospitality sector, and delicate ecosystems that rely on its waters.



The day began with a critical briefing session at the Solomon Mahlangu Boardroom in the Civic Centre, Sasolburg, where municipal leadership and departmental representatives engaged on urgent corrective measures. The meeting was attended by Executive Mayor Cllr Jack Malindi, Municipal Manager Mr Basi Motloun, senior officials of Metsimaholo Local Municipality, and representatives from the Department of Water and Sanitation in both provinces. The engagement was marked by a shared sense of urgency and determination, as officials emphasized that the pollution of the Vaal River could no longer be tolerated..

The Department's intervention reignited public confidence and reaffirmed the nation's commitment to environmental justice, accountability, and sustainable water management.



A moment of pride on the national stage: Metsimaholo crowned Free State's best performing municipality

Metsimaholo Local Municipality reached a historic milestone when it was crowned Best Performing Municipality in the Free State Province at the prestigious National Municipal Excellence Awards, held at Sun City on Thursday, 2 October 2025. The national accolade stands as a powerful endorsement of the municipality's unwavering commitment to service delivery, accountable governance, and a people-centred approach that places residents at the heart of development.



The glittering awards ceremony brought together municipalities from across South Africa to celebrate excellence in governance, innovation, and community-focused service delivery. When Metsimaholo was announced as the Free State's top-performing municipality, the moment was met with resounding applause, reflecting not only recognition for the leadership but also appreciation for the collective effort of officials, councillors, and residents who continue to work together for progress.

The award was received by Executive Mayor, Cllr Jack Malindi, on behalf of the municipality and its people. In his address, Mayor Malindi expressed deep gratitude and reaffirmed Metsimaholo's unwavering commitment to excellence, integrity, and responsive governance.

This award belongs to the people of Metsimaholo, said Mayor Malindi. "It reflects our shared commitment to progress, teamwork, and accountable leadership. Our residents are the true heartbeat of this municipality, and we remain dedicated to placing them at the centre of everything we do. We will continue to deliver quality services that meaningfully improve the lives of our communities".

The Executive Mayor further extended his appreciation to Municipal Manager Mr Basi Motloutung, the Council, municipal officials, and the broader Metsimaholo community for their unity, hard work, and dedication in achieving this remarkable milestone. He emphasized that the recognition is not an endpoint, but a powerful motivation to raise the bar even higher in governance, innovation, and service delivery.

This national recognition marks a defining chapter in Metsimaholo's journey of transformation, accountability, and institutional excellence. It affirms the municipality's vision of being "a people-centred municipality that delivers sustainable services with excellence," while reinforcing public confidence in its leadership and administrative systems.

As the delegation returned from Sun City, a renewed sense of pride and determination resonated across the municipality. The message was unmistakable: Metsimaholo is on a winning path, resolute in its promise to serve with integrity, deliver with excellence, and keep its residents firmly at the heart of everything it does.



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