

28TH SASOL MARATHON

The 28th Sasol Marathon took place at the DP De Villiers stadium on the 25 March 2023. Hundreds of athletes in their best form arrived early to be part of this annual event. MMC for Corporate Services and Organisational Development, Cllr Stoa Makhema welcomed participants and opened the race. Over the years the race has become popular and has attracted athletes from other parts of Africa. When addressing the participants Cllr Makhema has emphasised the importance of these kind of events as they play a critical role in boosting the local economy. He thanked Sasol for the continuous sponsorship of this annual event.



Runners getting ready to hit the tar

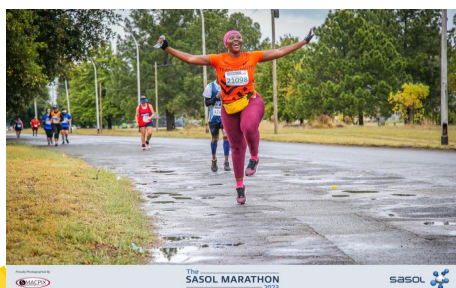
The race's success is also attributed to the participation of various athletic clubs as well as the community. Cllr Makhema also indicated that he is delighted to see the passion that people have for running and indeed for this Sasol Marathon. I applaud your commitment and I'm sure many people will be inspired by you to live a more sporting and active lifestyle. Sports provide a uniquely effective medium for inculcating national pride and patriotism.



It unites communities, enhance cohesion and nation building, bringing together people from all walks of life. It contributes to better health and builds some comradeship. Metsimaholo Local Municipality is, without a doubt, one of the best-known places in South Africa and events such as this marathon confirms and re-affirms its reputation. Cllr Makhema made a clarion call to all the participants to reach out to schools, and urge young ones to join school sport, athletics included. That is where we will spot top runners of tomorrow, and perhaps save many lives when they choose to be active.

Winners of the day being hounoured by delegates from SASOL

When concluding, Cllr Makhema, thanked Sasol for hosting event of this magnitude because it will be one of the big economic contributors to Metsimaholo Local Municipality and will positively impact on the tourism and hospitality sector.



METSIMAHOLO MUNICIPALITY EMBARKS ON HEADCOUNT



Metsimaholo municipality embarks on a head count for councilors and employees at the Civic Centre in Sasolburg from the 13 February 2023 till 15 March 2023. Councilors and employees were queuing at the Council Foyer to receive their salary slips for the month of February 2023. The municipality has conducted a physical verification for all councilors and employees recorded on the payroll to verify the physical presence of councilors and employees and to detect any “ghost employees” or fraudulent payments.

The objective of the headcount or verification is to ensure that salaries are made to legitimate councilors and employees who remunerated for work performed. To conduct a physical verification of councilors and employees and ensure that salaries are being paid to rightful employees, all councilors and employees were required to produce their original identity document (ID) and sign the applicable report prior to receiving the February 2023 salary slip. To facilitate the process, February 2023 salary slips were withheld.

Councillors and employees had till the 15 March 2023 to come forth for the verification, failure to comply, will result in salaries being withheld for the month of March 2023 and beyond due to the inability to verify the actual existence of a councillor or employee of the Metsimaholo municipality.

METSIMAHOLO EXECUTIVE MAYOR CONDUCT OVERSIGHT AT ORANJEVILLE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Executive Mayor of Metsimaholo Municipality, Cllr Jeff Zwane conducted oversight at the Oranjeville Wastewater Treatment Plants in Oranjeville on the 01 March 2023.

The major aim of wastewater treatment is to remove as much of the suspended solids as possible before the remaining effluent (water), is discharged back to the environment.



The Executive Mayor, asking pertinent questions.

Metsimaholo Municipality is doing its best to improve service delivery by delivering basic services such as electricity and water for all communities in the municipal area which includes Sasolburg, Zamdela, Vaalpark, Deneysville, Refenggotso, Oranjeville and Metsimaholo.

METSIMAHOLO MUNICIPALITY HOLDS LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM



cess by which public, business and non-governmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth, employment generation and advocating for poverty in the municipal area. For any information on issues related to LED, the LED office at the municipality's door is open and can be contacted during office hours.

Metsimaholo municipality held a Local Economic Development Forum for local businesses in the municipal area at the Harry Gwala Multipurpose Community Centre in Zamdela on the 14 February 2023. The forum was attended by the executive mayor, Cllr Jeff Zwane, MMC for Local Economic Development and Housing, Cllr Thulani Mbana, Municipal Manager, Adv. Leaoa Mofokeng, Director of Local Economic Development and Housing, Mayagabo Hlapane, the Chief Financial Officer, Hopolang Lebusa, stakeholders such as Seriti New Vaal, SASOL, Fezile Dabi District municipality, DESTEA and local business forums in the municipal area.

When welcoming the attendees of the forum, the municipal manager, Adv. Mofokeng, indicated that the municipi-

pality is willing to work with the local businesses within the parameters of the law when it comes to tendering at the municipality. He also states that preferences be given to local businesses when tenders are issued by the municipality, but within the confines of the law. Attendees debated robustly on issues relating to local business opportunities and what they expect from the municipality with regard to business opportunities in the municipal area. They also indicated that the municipality must level the playing field and ensure that local businesses are priorities when coming to the issuing of tenders at the municipality.

The purpose of the LED in the municipality is to build up the economic capacity of a local area to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all. It is a pro-



BUILDING RESILIENCE ECONOMY!!!!



THE SECOND METSIMAHOLO TOURISM STAKEHOLDERS MEETING



The town of Deneysville has been officially unveiled as the first town for the inaugural Service Excellent Small-Town Programme in the Free State Province. The unveiling of the town took place at meeting which was held at on. The meeting was attended by officials from the Department of Environment, Small Business, Tourism and Economic Affairs (DESTEa), municipal officials, councilors and local business people in the municipal area.

The Department of Environment, Small Business, Tourism and Economic Affairs (DESTEa) unveiling the inaugural "Service Excellent Small-Town Programme" which amongst other things, aims to improve level of

The programme seeks to achieve these by creating public awareness through the Unit of the Consumer Protection Service in the Department (DESTEa) and capacity building for tourism and non-tourism structures or associations. The Department (DESTEa) will together with other role players will embark on the following: Cleaning campaigns, Round table discussions,, Capacity building programmes and Recognition award ceremony. An inclusive and diverse task team will be the main driver for the initiative.

The Fezile Dabi District Municipality through the Environment and Health and LED and Tourism Units disseminated important information to the meeting regarding the services offered to the sector and processes to be followed to access such services.

The Environmental and Health Unit outlined the importance of compliance and how it can assist the sector to get valid health certificates and food licenses. The LED and Tourism Unit outlined Entrepreneurial Support System grant funding of a maximum amount of R30 000 available for qualifying small businesses.

The Department (DESTEa) detailed the process undertaken to assist businesses and the municipality in procuring brown tourism signage and in concluding the meeting the Director: Technical and Infrastructural Services gave feedback to the sector about services delivery plans and responses to challenges identified.



SERVICE DELIVERY OVERSIGHT VISITS ON PROJECTS

Councillors and officials of Metsimaholo municipality visited several infrastructural projects in the municipal area on the 2 February 2023. They visited all the projects in Oranjeville, Metsimaholo, Deneysville, Refengkgotso, Sasolburg and Zamdela.

The purpose of the oversight is to assess the progress made regarding these projects and to ensure that municipal resources are efficiently and effectively utilized for the purposes they are meant to.

The projects that were visited are:

- Oranjeville wastewater treatment works
- Roads Metsimaholo in Ward 5
- Refengkgotso wastewater treatment works
- Themba Khubeka Electrical
- Development of new Cemetery in Amelia
- Zamdela Roads in Ward 10

A Municipality at Work!!



Councillors of Metsimaholo municipality has urged constructors and consultants on site to ensure that they create relationships with the communities in which they operate and asked them to always liaise with the municipality on matters concerning their projects.

NINE METSIMAHOLO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY'S EMPLOYEES GRADUATES – CERTIFICATE IN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT



Employees of Metsimaholo municipality attended a Performance Management Certificate Award Ceremony in Bloemfontein on the 17 March 2023. SALGA Free State rolled-out Performance Management capacity building for practitioners and managers between March and September 2022. After the assessment, moderation and SETA verification processes, SALGA Free State will then recognize learners who have successfully completed the programme at a certificate award ceremony.

Six employees of the municipality namely, from left to right, Thandeka Masuku, Lucy Mdola, Griffiths Lekhuleni, Moipone Mtimkhulu, Masilo Molawa and Ranny Magatsela attended this prestigious occasion and received their certificates, which was held at the Protea Hotel in Bloemfontein. The other three employees who were part of the group graduated in absentia: Phala Machaea, Piet Kgotege and Thabiso Ntlatseng.

METSIMAHOLO MUNICIPALITY LAUNCHED LOCAL AIDS COUNCIL

Metsimaholo municipality launched the Local Aids Council at the Harry Gwala Multipurpose Centre on the 15 March 2023. At least 80 people attended this important event. Delegates from the Office of the Premier and the Department of Health gave presentations on the role and objectives of the Local Aids Council.



The EM during the launch of the local AIDS Council

When addressing the attendees, the Executive mayor, Cllr Jeff Zwane states that, a fundamental challenge to every individual and institution in South Africa today is posed by the onslaught of the HIV and AIDS pandemic and the devastating impact it has had on the fabric of a society.

All of us must answer the question of how we will respond to this challenge. To do so we must build a clear understanding of the social, cultural, political, and economic aspects of the pandemic. Since the impact of the pandemic is multi-faceted, our response must be multi sectoral. We must seek to transcend the divisions across sectors between spheres of government and between government, communities and civil society to build a common response that addresses the social impact of the disease.

Cllr Zwane said, Government, together with welfare and other organisations, has developed a response to the AIDS crisis, but without a coherent and collective approach at local level their efforts will not achieve as much as it could. Municipalities should ensure that all planning and projects take account of AIDS and its consequences. Our Integrated Development Plans must deal with the issues around poverty and development that assist in the rapid spread of HIV and AIDS. As employers we should also make sure that our own employees are adequately protected and that we have workplace policies and programmes that spread awareness, provide care, and educate around prevention and non-discrimination.

He also indicated that their role goes far beyond adapting our own programmes and looking after our own personnel. Municipalities are ideally placed to play the coordinating and facilitating role that is needed to make sure that partnerships are built to bring prevention and care programmes to every community affected by AIDS. A local municipality is the sphere of government closest to the people and local councillors are the politicians directly elected to serve local communities. The impact of AIDS is increasing and will continue to do so over the next coming years. Municipalities need a coherent strategy that brings together leaders of all sectors of the community, service providers and welfare organisations to halt the spread of HIV and to provide care for people living with HIV and AIDS and their families.

AIDS can affect anyone, but it is spreading faster to people who live in poverty and lack access to education, basic health services, nutrition, and clean water, says Cllr Zwane. Young people and women are the most vulnerable. Women are often powerless to insist on safe sex and easily become infected by HIV positive partners. When people have other diseases like sexually transmitted diseases, TB, or malaria they are also more likely to contract and die from AIDS.

Furthermore, Cllr Zwane stated that, although AIDS has become very common it is still surrounded by silence. People are ashamed to speak about being infected and many see it as a scandal when it happens in their families. People living with HIV or AIDS are exposed to daily prejudice born out of ignorance and fear. We cannot tackle this epidemic unless we can break the silence and remove the stigma that surrounds it. As elected representatives in communities, councillors must provide leadership on how to deal with AIDS.

Cllr Zwane also stated that the fight against AIDS must happen on two main fronts - prevention and care. To prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS we must educate people on how to prevent infection. We also must change the social attitudes that make women vulnerable because they cannot refuse unsafe sex from a partner and the attitudes among men that lead to woman abuse and rape. Poverty alleviation and development are also important programmes that will limit the spread of HIV and AIDS.

To deal with the results of the disease and the social problems it creates, we must make sure that people living with HIV and AIDS get care, antiretrovirals, nutrition and emotional support to help them live longer and healthier lives. We also must make sure that those who are dying are properly looked after. For the children who are left orphaned, we must find ways of looking after them so that they do not become hopeless and turn to crime or are homeless because of poverty, says Cllr Zwane.

National and provincial government cannot fight this battle alone. They can provide health and welfare services, development programmes and information. But municipalities, together with organisations on the ground, have to provide the type of leadership and direction that will lead to real change in people's attitudes and behaviour. Municipalities are also ideally placed to identify the needs of people in their area and to co-ordinate a coherent response to those needs.

Local municipalities can engage with civil society, other government departments, as well as schools, churches and so on to make sure that everyone works together to combat the spread of HIV and AIDS and to care for those affected by the disease.

Mayors and councillors should act as role models for communities and be an example to people. We should take the lead in promoting openness and ending the silence that surrounds AIDS. We should also work closely with people living with HIV and AIDS and through our actions, we should show that we accept and care for those affected. As political leaders we should use our influence and popularity to mobilise the community and involve volunteers in projects that provide care for people who are ill and orphans, concludes Cllr Zwane.



The attendees paying attention during the launch.





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