

METSIMAHOLO APPOINTS NEW MUNICIPAL MANAGER AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



**Municipal Manager, Mr. Basi Motloung and Chief Financial Officer (CFO),
Mrs. Fikile Mareka**

The Metsimaholo Municipality Council has confirmed the appointment of its Acting Municipal Manager, Basi Motloung, as the new Municipal Manager, and Fikile Mareka as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), effective from 1st April 2024. This development followed a municipal council meeting held on the 27th of March 2024.

According to the Municipal Spokesperson, Dr Gino Alberts, the appointees' depth of experience in a statement: "The appointees are not new to the municipal environment since they have worked in different municipalities before and collectively bring a vast knowledge and experience apposite to municipal environment".

He elaborated on the selection process, stating, "Following extensive engagements, the municipal council resolved to appoint Mr Basi Motloung and Mrs FV Mareka as Municipal Manager and Chief Financial Officer, respectively". Both Mr Motloung and Mrs Mareka, like any other candidates, went through intensive screening and evaluation guided by regulations applicable to local government.

Motloung, who has previously impressed in his role as Director Organizational Development and Corporate Services since March 1, 2023, has also acted as Municipal Manager throughout 2023, stepping into the role full-time on July 5, 2023. His two decades of experience in the municipal sector make him a highly qualified candidate for his new role.

Ms Mareka brings to the table a commendable 16 years of experience in local government finance, alongside a significant stint in the private sector. Having contributed to the achievement of unqualified audit opinions and clean audits in previous roles, her financial acumen is expected to greatly benefit the Metsimaholo Municipality.

WORKSHOP ON BUDGET RELATED POLICIES



Metsimaholo Local municipality held a workshop on Budget Related Policies for the 2024/2025 Financial Year at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Sasolburg on the 10 June 2024. The workshop was attended by councillors and management led by the Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr Mosioua Poho and the Municipal Manager, Mr Basi Motlounq. Policies that were discussed include, Indigent Policy, Tariff Policy and Supply Chain Management Policy.

The Tariff Policy of Metsimaholo municipality is essential for managing the pricing of municipal services such as water, electricity, waste management, and sanitation. It plays a crucial role in the financial stability and service delivery efficiency of our municipality. A Tariff Policy is vital for the sustainable management of municipal services, ensuring that the municipality can provide high-quality services to its residents while maintaining financial stability and promoting social equity.

The Supply Chain Management (SCM) Policy of Metsimaholo municipality is crucial for ensuring the efficient, transparent, and effective procurement and management of goods, services, and works. The Policy helps in obtaining goods and services in a timely manner, which is essential for the uninterrupted delivery of municipal services. A Supply Chain Management Policy in a municipality is vital for the effective functioning of a municipality. It ensures that procurement activities are conducted efficiently, transparently, and in compliance with legal standards, ultimately leading to better service delivery, cost savings, and enhanced public trust.

The purpose of the Indigent Policy is to provide a framework for identifying and assisting low-income households that are unable to afford basic municipal services. This policy is crucial for promoting social equity and ensuring that all residents, regardless of their financial status, have access to essential services. The Policy also ensure that indigent households have access to essential services such as water, electricity, sanitation, and refuse removal. These services are necessary for maintaining a basic standard of living. Provide financial relief or subsidies to qualifying households to reduce their burden of paying for municipal services. This helps prevent these households from falling further into poverty due to their inability to pay for necessities. Furthermore, the policy establishes a clear and fair process for identifying and registering indigent households. This typically involves criteria based on income levels, household size, and other socio-economic indicators.

The purpose of budget-related policies in a municipality is to ensure effective management of public funds, promote transparency, and align spending with the municipality's goals and priorities. These policies guide the allocation of resources, helping to: Manage finances sustainably, Prioritize spending on essential services and projects, Ensure accountability and transparency, Promote economic development and growth, Address social and infrastructure needs, Encourage fiscal discipline & responsibility, Facilitate informed decision-making and Enhance citizen trust and engagement.

METSIMAHOLO TOURISM STAKEHOLDERS NETWORKING

The Tourism Stakeholders Networking Lunch which was hosted by Metsimaholo Local Municipality today at the Oranjeville Library in Oranjeville was a resounding success. The Networking Session was held on the 12 June 2024 and different key industry players/ Stakeholders including South African Township and Village Tourism Association (SATOVITO); Women in Tourism; Free State Gambling, Liquor and Tourism Authority (FSGLTA), Sasol Community Affairs were in attendance. The coming together of these different stakeholders was to forge new partnerships, exchange ideas, and collaborate on exciting projects.

Highlights of today's event included:

- Networking opportunities to connect with fellow stakeholders and exchange ideas
- Presentations on the latest trends and initiatives in the tourism industry
- Interactive sessions to brainstorm collaboration opportunities and future projects
- Delicious lunch showcasing local cuisine and hospitality



Mrs. Tshidi Mkhefa—Manager:
Marketing, Tourism and Heritage

The event facilitated meaningful connections and discussions that will drive tourism growth in the municipality, creating a strong, united community dedicated to showcasing Metsimaholo's unique attractions. The positive feedback and enthusiasm from participants reflect a shared commitment to working together towards a vibrant and sustainable tourism future for our municipality.



Let's unite, inspire, and shape the future of tourism in Metsimaholo together!

METSIMAHOLO EXECUTIVE MAYOR APPOINTS TWO NEW MEMBERS FOR THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE



MMC for Finance and IDP:
Cllr Lebohang Makhefu



MMC for Human Settlement:
Cllr Mahadi Nkheloane



New Councillor:
Cllr Fikile Matshidiso Nkheloane

The Executive Mayor of Metsimaholo Municipality, Cllr Jack Malindi has appointed Cllr Mahadi Nkheloane as the new MMC for Human Settlement and the former MMC for Human Settlement, Cllr Lebohang Makhefu is now the new MMC for Finance and IDP replacing the late former Executive Mayor and MMC for Finance and IDP, Cllr Lindiwe Tshongwe who pass on last month following a long illness. These new appointments happened at a Special Council Meeting held at the Civic Centre, Sasolburg, on the 14 June 2024. These two councillors, Cllr Mahadi Nkheloane and Cllr Lebohang Makhefu are also ward councillors for Wards 6 and 12 in Zamdela.

According to the Municipal Spokesperson, Dr Gino Alberts, the role of a Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) responsible for Finance and Integrated Development in a municipal government is multifaceted and crucial for the effective management and development of the municipality. Alberts also stated that by fulfilling these roles, the MMC for Finance and Integrated Development plays a critical part in ensuring the financial stability and sustainable growth of the municipality, ultimately contributing to the well-being of its residents.

On the role of MMC for Human Settlement, Dr. Alberts pointed out that, The Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) responsible for Human Settlement in a municipality plays a pivotal role in ensuring the provision of adequate, sustainable, and affordable housing for the community.

Members of the Mayoral Committee members bring specialized knowledge and expertise in various domains such as finance, human settlement, infrastructure, health, and education. This expertise is crucial for informed decision-making and effective governance. By delegating specific portfolios to MMC members, the mayor ensures that different aspects of municipal governance are managed efficiently and effectively. This division of labour helps in addressing the diverse needs of the municipality comprehensively. On the same day, during the special council meeting, Fikile Matshidiso Nkheloane has been sworn in as the new Councillor of Metsimaholo Local Municipality. Cllr Nkheloane replace the late former Executive Mayor and MMC for Finance and IDP, Cllr LindiweTshongwe who passed on last month following a long illness.

ENGAGEMENT WITH OLDER PERSONS AND FUNDED NPOs OF FEZILE DABI

The Acting MEC for Social Development, MPL Thabo Meeko celebrated 30 Years of Democracy with Elderly Persons from funded NPOs in the Fezile Dabi district at the Zamdela Hall in Sasolburg on the 22 May 2024. In attendance was the Executive Mayor of Metsimaholo municipality Cllr Jack Malindi, councillors, provincial department officials and municipal officials, different Stakeholders in the Fezile Dabi district. 30 Years of freedom in South Africa marks a significant milestone in the country's history. This anniversary commemorates the end of apartheid and the establishment of a democratic society on April 27, 1994, when South Africa held its first multiracial elections. The 30th anniversary of South Africa's freedom is not only a time to celebrate past achievements but also to renew commitments to democracy, equality, and social justice. It is a moment to reflect on the nation's journey, honour those who paved the way, and look forward to a future where all South Africans can thrive. As South Africa celebrates 30 years of freedom, there is a collective focus on building a more inclusive and prosperous future. This involves addressing ongoing challenges and ensuring that the benefits of democracy and freedom are felt by all citizens of South Africa.

According to the Municipal Spokesperson, Dr Gino Alberts, building a more inclusive and prosperous future for South Africa requires a multifaceted approach that addresses economic, social, and environmental dimensions. By focusing on these key areas and implementing strategic initiatives, South Africa can continue to build on the gains of the past 30 years and create a brighter future for all its citizens. Dr Alberts indicated that celebrating 30 years of democracy in South Africa holds significant importance for several reasons, as it provides an opportunity to reflect on the nation's journey, acknowledge progress, and renew commitments towards a more inclusive and prosperous future.



Celebrating 30 years of democracy in South Africa is a vital occasion to honour the past, evaluate the present, and envision the future. It is an opportunity to reflect on the remarkable progress made, acknowledge the ongoing challenges, and renew collective efforts towards a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous society. This celebration not only reinforces national unity and democratic values but also inspires future generations to continue the work of building a better South Africa for all, concludes Dr Alberts.

METSIMAHOLO MUNICIPALITY APPROVES 2024/2025



Executive Mayor:
Cllr Jack Malindi



Speaker:
Cllr Lucas Fisher

The Metsimaholo municipality has approved the 2024/2025 Budget during an Ordinary Council Meeting which was held at the Refengkgotso Community Hall, Refengkgotso on the 31 May 2024, Friday. The Budget presented by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Jack Malindi includes buying of yellow fleet for the delivery of services to the residents of Metsimaholo.

"The 2024/2025 budget we are presenting today is indeed a true reflection of our commitment, to ensure that we improve the lives of our people in Metsimaholo and push back the frontiers of poverty within a sound and sustainable fiscal framework". These were the words of Executive Mayor of Metsimaholo Local Municipality Cllr Jack Malindi as he delivered the State of the Municipal Address.

When making the future plans, Malindi said it was also important to reflect on the past. He did so as he reflected on municipality's performance in the 2023/2024 financial year.

"It is important to reflect on this period, as understanding our past experiences will allow us to gain a better understanding of our current situation and inspire strategic action, so that we can build a prosperous future for the community of Metsimaholo.

"We are better equipped to cope with the pressing needs of our municipality by looking back at last year's successes, challenges, and lessons.

"This reflection provides valuable information on the effectiveness of our policies and initiatives, highlights areas where we have made significant progress; and identifies opportunities to improve our progress. We seek to use these insights for the purpose of informing our decision and drawing up a roadmap that leads to sustainable development, improvements in services and better quality of life for all Metsimaholo residents," said the Executive Mayor.

"We have also paid registration fees for more than 100 young people through the Mayoral Tertiary Funding at different tertiary institutions such as the University of the Free State and Northwest University, for the 2024 academic year, amounting to more than 500 thousand Rand.

"Our free basic services Programme currently supports more than 7429 indigents households with six kilolitres free water, 50-kilowatt free electricity, free sanitation, and free waste removal, as well as a 50-rand subsidy on property rates and intends to increase the number to 13 000 indigents registered.

"We want to make an earnest and sincere appeal to our residents whose total income is R5 680 rand and less, we encourage our residents to come and register as an indigent to benefit from this free basic services Programme. This is a Programme that has been designed specifically to help our people, especially in the situation we are currently finding ourselves in." added Malindi

He presented an operating revenue budget of R2,156 billion rand for the new financial year and the operating expenditure appropriation is 1.8 billion Rand, which translates into a budgeted surplus of 317.5 million Rand.

The capital budget decreased to 144.8 million Rand from 155.4 million Rand in 2024/2025 financial year.

Municipal Infrastructure Grant over three financial years amounts to 156.5 million Rand and will be spent on the following projects:

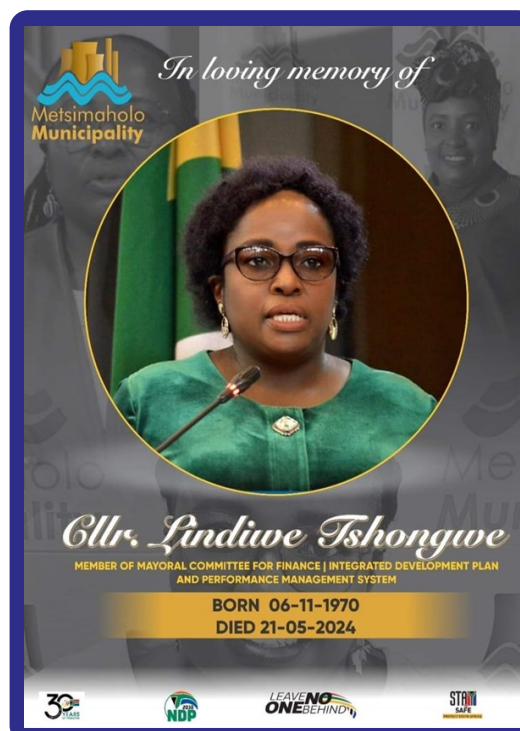
- Zamdela: Upgrading of rusted galvanized water pipe
- Zamdela: Construction of 2.1km paved roads and storm water Drainages Phase 2
- Refurbishment of Oranjeville Water treatment work
- Gortin: Construction of 2000 toilet structures Phase 1

The total budget for Water Service Infrastructure Grants amounts to 77.3 million Rand from 2024/25 to 2026/2027 financial years. The grant will be allocated as follows:

- The Water service Infrastructure grant budget allocation for Deneysville Outfall Sewer project
- There's a budget allocation of 500 thousand Rand for conventional water meters funded internally to be implemented in 2024/2025 financial year.
- There's a budget provision amounting to 23.3 million Rand for Oranjeville water Treatment Plant Phase 2

Cllr. Malindi remains hopeful that the budget will play a significant role in changing lives of the people of Metsimaholo.

A Moment of Silence was observed for the late MMC for Finance and IDP Cllr Lindiwe Tshongwe.



METSIMAHOLO EMPLOYEES REMEMBER 16 JUNE 1976



Metsimaholo Municipality employees came to work dressed in school uniform in honour of 16 June 1976 on the 14 June 2024. The employees were dressed in the different school uniforms from their previous schools they attended. The uprising began as a protest by black schoolchildren in the Soweto township against the mandatory use of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in schools. The students viewed this policy as an attempt to further entrench their oppression. The uprising began as a student protest the apartheid government's policy that imposed Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in schools. This policy was seen as a means of further subjugating the black population by forcing them to learn in the language of their oppressors.

The protest, organized by the South African Students Movement's Action Committee, involved thousands of students. The police response was brutal; they opened fire on the unarmed students, leading to widespread violence and chaos. The first to be shot was 13-year-old Hector Pieterse, whose photograph being carried by a fellow student became an iconic image of the uprising.

On June 16, 1976, is a significant date in South African history, known as the Soweto Uprising. This day marks a pivotal moment in the struggle against apartheid, the institutionalized system of racial segregation and discrimination enforced by the South African government.

On June 16, 1976, thousands of black schoolchildren from Soweto, a township near Johannesburg, marched peacefully to demonstrate their opposition to this decree. The protest was organized by the South African Students Movement (SASM). The peaceful protest turned tragic when the police responded with extreme violence, using live ammunition. The most iconic image of the uprising is that of Hector Pieterse, a 13-year-old boy who was shot and killed by the police. This image, captured by photojournalist Sam Nzima, brought global attention to the brutalities of apartheid.

The exact number of deaths is uncertain, but estimates suggest that hundreds of people, including children, were killed, and thousands were injured during the protests and the ensuing crackdown by the authorities.

The Soweto Uprising attracted international condemnation of the apartheid regime and significantly raised global awareness about the struggles faced by black South Africans. It also led to increased sanctions and pressure on the South African government to reform its policies.

The Soweto Uprising was a turning point in the South African liberation struggle, highlighting the determination of the oppressed majority to achieve equality and justice. It galvanized further resistance against apartheid and contributed to the eventual dismantling of the system in the early 1990s.

HANDOVER OF WATER SECURITY PROJECT IN DENEYSVILLE AND REFENGKGOTSO

Sasol drilled boreholes at the Refengkgotso Community centre, Sport Centre and the Denysville Clinic to improve access to safe drinking water in the communities of Refengkgotso and Deneysville. As our population grows and water demands escalate, ensuring a reliable and sustainable water supply becomes increasingly crucial. Sasol's mitigation strategy for sustainable water provision was through the drilling of these three boreholes. These boreholes were handed over to the Executive Mayor of Metsimaholo Municipality, Cllr Jack Malindi, accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Fezile Dabi District Municipality, Cllr Dennis Khasudi and the MMC for Technical and Infrastructural Services, Cllr Mosioua Poho. Boreholes play a crucial role in providing a reliable and sustainable source of drinking water in municipal areas, particularly as population growth and water demand increase.



As our municipal areas grow, especially Refengkgotso and water demand escalates, boreholes offer a sustainable, reliable, and cost-effective solution for meeting the drinking water needs of communities. Their ability to provide high-quality water, coupled with their scalability and environmental benefits, makes them an essential component of modern water management strategies. Proper planning, regular maintenance, and sustainable extraction practices are critical to maximizing the benefits of boreholes and ensuring their longevity as a vital water resource. Furthermore, boreholes play a crucial role in addressing rising water needs and adapting to the obstacles presented by climate change and population expansion. Maximizing the benefits of boreholes and ensuring the long-term sustainability of groundwater resources require proper management and strategic planning.

KEEPING OUR TOWNS CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL

This is the message for the Parks and Recreational Division to the community of Metsimaholo

"As we all know, maintaining the cleanliness and beauty of our town is a top priority for all of us. It is essential we all work together to keep our streets, parks, and public spaces clean and free of litter. By taking simple actions like properly disposing of trash, recycling, and participating in community clean up events, we can ensure that our town remains a welcoming and attractive place to live."

"Let's all do ours to keep our town clean and beautiful for ourselves and future generations to enjoy."

According to Municipal Spokesperson, Dr Gino Alberts, maintaining cleanliness and beauty in municipal areas is crucial for various reasons, ranging from public health to economic benefits. Dr Alberts states that beautiful, clean towns attract tourists, such as Deneysville and Oranjeville, boost local economies through increased spending in shops, restaurants, and guest houses. He also states that clean and attractive towns are more likely to attract businesses and investors, creating jobs and fostering economic development. Furthermore, clean environments help prevent the spread of diseases and infections by eliminating breeding grounds for pests and reducing exposure to harmful bacteria and viruses. A well-maintained town reduces the risk of accidents and injuries. Clean streets, parks, and public areas are less likely to have hazards such as broken glass, litter, or unmaintained pathways as stated by Dr Alberts.



MASSIVE BULK INFRASTRUCTURE LAUNCH AT MOOIDRAAI, IN ZAMDELA

MEC for COGTA and Human Settlement, MPL Ketso Makume launch a bulk infrastructure project at Moodraai and conduct a houses inspection in Zamdela, Sasolburg, on 09 May 2024. In attendance was the Executive Mayor of Metsimaholo municipality Cllr Jack Malindi, MMC's, councillors, officials of the provincial department of COGTA and Human Settlement and Metsimaholo municipality. Residents in and around Moodraai, Zamdela also attended the project launch.



The bulk infrastructure project will yield over 1000 service stands to benefit both locals and includes amenities like schools and recreational facilities. According to municipal spokesperson, Dr Gino Alberts, bulk infrastructure for purposes such as water and electricity are a cornerstone of functional and sustainable residential areas. Reliable water infrastructure ensures that residents have continuous access to clean and safe drinking water, which is essential for health, hygiene, and daily activities. Stable and adequate electricity supply supports lighting, heating, cooling, and the operation of appliances, enhancing the overall quality of life. Bulk infrastructure supports the fundamental needs of residents, drives economic and social development, promotes environmental sustainability, and ensures resilience against future challenges. Investing in and maintaining robust bulk infrastructure is essential for the overall well-being and progress of municipal residential areas, concludes Dr Alberts.



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Electricity : 016 973 8309
Outside working hours
(After hours, weekends and holidays):
All faults : 016 976 0945

ACCOUNTS ENQUIRIES

Please call : 016 973 8364; 8876 or 8877
Or alternatively send an email with your account number
as a subject to :
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