



**MEC for Education,
Dr MJ Maboya**

Empowering Futures: The Inspiring Success of the Matriculant Support Program at Nkgopoleng Secondary School

Matriculants from different high schools in the Metsimaholo Local Municipality, witnessed a remarkable event at Nkgopoleng Secondary School in Sasolburg on 11 October 2024. The Office of The Speaker Metsimaholo Local Municipality, Cllr Lucas Fisher, in collaboration with the Office of the Council Whip of Metsimaholo Local Municipality and Free State Education Department, successfully hosted the Annual Matriculant Support Program. This initiative aimed to motivate and support matriculants preparing for their final exams. In attendance were the MEC for Education, Dr. MJ Maboya; the Speaker of MLM, Cllr Lucas Fisher; the Council Whip, Cllr Fikile Mosokweni; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Councillors of MLM; the Department of Education District Director, Dr. VH Chuta; along with teachers, SGB members, and students.

The day was marked by the generous distribution of essential items, including groceries and sanitary towels, ensuring that learners meet their basic needs during their study camps. This thoughtful contribution not only alleviates the pressures many students face but also embodies the community's commitment to fostering an environment conducive to academic success.

Highlighting the event was a keynote address by the MEC of the Free State Department of Education, Dr. Mamiki Maboya. In her inspiring speech, she acknowledged the steadfast dedication of the Metsimaholo Local Municipality to education. She emphasized that "the generous support not only provides much-needed nourishment but also serves as a symbol of care and commitment from the municipality towards the success of our learners." Dr Maboya applauded the leadership of the municipality and reiterated the importance of education in shaping a brighter future for the youth.



To the matriculants, she conveyed a powerful message of hope and determination: "Your hard work will not go unnoticed. The results you achieve in these exams will open doors to new possibilities." She urged students to approach their futures with courage and determination, reinforcing that education goes beyond merely passing exams; it is about preparing to make meaningful contributions to society.

Fezile Dabi District Strengthens Municipal Collaboration through District Technical IGR Meeting



The Fezile Dabi District Municipality took a significant step toward improving intergovernmental relations and service delivery through a District Technical Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Meeting held at the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, on 08 October 2024 at the Metsimaholo Local Municipality in Sasolburg. Chaired by the Municipal Manager of Fezile Dabi District, Mr. Siphon Thomas, the meeting brought together key players from ALL local municipalities, municipal managers, sector departments, and provincial bodies to address crucial development challenges and strengthen coordination across the district.

Key Agenda Items Discussed

District Development Model (DDM) Regulations Rollout: The meeting focused on the rollout of the DDM, a framework aimed at integrating and streamlining service delivery across all spheres of government. The DDM aims to create a single plan for each district, aligning efforts in development, service delivery, and infrastructure maintenance.

MIG Expenditure Report June 2023

Attendees reviewed the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) expenditure report, which monitors how funds allocated for infrastructure projects are spent. Timely expenditure is essential for completing projects aimed at improving roads, water, sanitation, and electricity in local communities.

Free State Reconstruction and Recovery Plan

As the province continues to rebuild from past economic and social challenges, the Reconstruction and Recovery Plan was a focal point. The plan aims to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and address poverty through coordinated efforts in infrastructure, agriculture, and community development.

Disaster Management and Fire Services

With disaster risks such as floods, fires, and other emergencies increasing, the meeting discussed enhanced disaster management strategies. Collaboration between municipalities and district fire services is critical to improving response times, minimizing damage, and saving lives.

Provincial Integrated Development Plan Capacity Building Session Kickstarts in Sasolburg: Focus on Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence

The Provincial Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Capacity Building Session, hosted by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), began this morning, 26 September 2024, at the Council Chambers of Metsimaholo Local Municipality in Sasolburg. Aimed at enhancing municipal capacity and ensuring legally compliant and credible IDPs across the province, the two-day event brings together key stakeholders from various sectors.

In attendance are IDP Managers from all municipalities, officials from CoGTA's IDP and LED units, the National Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), the Department of Environmental Affairs, and the Department of Women, Youth, and Disabilities. Mr. S. Kobeli, Manager in the Office of the Municipal Manager of Metsimaholo Local Municipality, delivered the welcoming address, setting the tone for a session that promises to drive impactful change.

By focusing on the alignment of development plans, climate resilience, and social issues like gender-based violence, municipalities can ensure that their strategies are not only economically and environmentally sustainable but also socially just. This integrated approach promises to create communities that are better equipped to face future challenges while fostering equity and inclusivity.

Furthermore, the inclusion of gender-based violence (GBV) analysis into the municipal planning framework marks a significant step toward a more socially responsive approach. GBV is a pervasive issue that affects the safety, health, and economic participation of women and vulnerable groups. By infusing GBV analysis into the planning process, municipalities can ensure that social protection measures are embedded within their strategies. This approach will enable local governments to address the root causes of GBV through targeted interventions such as community education programs, better access to support services, and enhanced law enforcement responses. Such an inclusive planning framework helps build safer communities where everyone, regardless of gender, can thrive. Overall, these presentations will lay the groundwork for a more holistic and responsive approach to municipal planning.



Empowering Lives: Metsimaholo Municipality Champions Cancer Awareness



On September 20, 2024, the Metsimaholo Local Municipality took a significant step in the ongoing battle against cancer, hosting a Mayoral Cancer Awareness event at the Clinic, Zamdela Hall. This initiative, spearheaded by the Office of the Executive Mayor, aimed to educate and empower the community, particularly women, about the dangers of cancer and the importance of early detection.

In a community where health challenges can often go unaddressed, such initiatives are crucial. The Executive Mayor's involvement not only lends authority to the event but also sends a powerful message: the local government is committed to prioritizing the health and well-being of its residents. By leading the charge against cancer, the municipality fosters a culture of awareness and prevention, ensuring that health education becomes an integral part of community life.

The choice to focus on women is particularly poignant, as statistics show that many types of cancers disproportionately affect women. Sister Letsholo, a healthcare professional from the Department of Health, delivered an impactful presentation on various types of cancers, their symptoms, and the importance of regular screenings. The atmosphere was charged with a mix of concern and hope, as women exchanged information and support, fostering a sense of unity in the face of a common threat.

Cancer Awareness events also highlight the importance of preventative measures and access to healthcare. Through these campaigns, the municipality encourages regular check-ups and mammograms, which are critical in detecting cancer at an early stage when treatment is most effective. By promoting early detection, Metsimaholo Municipality can help reduce the devastating impacts of late-stage cancer diagnoses,

The HIV/AIDS Coordinator in the Office of the Executive Mayor, Mr Tladinyana Kgodumo also addressed the attendees during this Awareness.



Service Excellence Program Launched at Vaaldam, Deneysville, with Key Dignitaries in Attendance

The Vaal Dam, a key reservoir located near Deneysville in the Free State Province, played host to the launch of the Service Excellence Program of the Legacy Team of Service Providers on 19 September 2024. The event was attended by prominent dignitaries, including the MEC for the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEa), Mr. Ketso Makume, and the Head of Department (HOD) for DESTEa, Dr Mbulelo Nokwequ. Also present were the Executive Mayor of Metsimaholo Local Municipality, Councillor Jack Malindi, Speaker Councillor Lucas Fisher, and mayoral committee members (MMC). Officials from both DESTEa and Metsimaholo Municipality, Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), and members of the local community, gathered to witness the program's inauguration.



The launch of the Service Excellence Program highlighted the government's commitment to boosting economic development, improving service delivery, and empowering local businesses. MEC Ketso Makume expressed optimism about the program's potential, noting its alignment with DESTEa's mission to enhance local entrepreneurship and ensure the sustainable use of environmental resources. The HOD for DESTEa echoed these sentiments, underscoring the importance of fostering collaboration between government entities, local municipalities, and private sector stakeholders to ensure that service delivery is optimized in the region.



The Service Excellence Program addresses some of these concerns by promoting service improvement and environmental sustainability within the Metsimaholo area. SMMEs attending the event expressed hope that the program would create new opportunities for growth and community upliftment.

As the event concluded, there was a shared sense of purpose among attendees, all of whom recognized the importance of collaborative efforts in tackling the challenges faced by the region while securing a brighter future for local communities and businesses alike.

Metsimaholo Community Engaged in Vital Ward Delimitation Process Ahead of 2026 Local Government Elections

The Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) held an important Awareness and Education Program on the Ward Delimitation Process at Zamdela Hall on 18 September 2024. The session, aimed at preparing for the 2026 Local Government Elections, was attended by key leaders including the Executive Mayor, Cllr Jack Malindi, the Speaker, Cllr Lucas Fisher, Ward Councillors, and community members of Metsimaholo.



Ward Councillor of Ward 11, Cllr Rani, warmly welcomed the attendees before handing over to the Speaker, Cllr Fisher, who chaired the event.

The session was high-lighted by a detailed presentation from Mr. Fazel Hoosen of the MDB. He covered critical aspects such as the ward delimitation process, the criteria for ward boundary adjustments, and the challenges that arise during this important phase of electoral preparation.



Speaker Cllr Fisher emphasized the significance of community participation in this process. "The people of Metsimaholo must be involved in the ward delimitation process," he stated. "The future representation of your ward in the local government is at stake, and your voice matters in ensuring fair and effective governance."

By actively participating in the delimitation discussions, the Metsimaholo community can ensure that their wards are demarcated fairly, contributing to a more inclusive and representative 2026 election. This program serves as a critical step in promoting democratic engagement and ensuring that the needs and interests of all community members are properly addressed in the upcoming elections.

Cllr April Motaung Sworn in as EFF Representative in Metsimaholo Council

In a significant development for the Metsimaholo Local Municipality, the councillors proudly welcomed Councillor April Motaung back as a councillor. The swearing-in ceremony occurred during a Special Council Meeting at the Council Chambers, Civic Centre in Sasolburg on the afternoon of October 3, 2024. The moment, conducted by the municipality's legal advisor, Dibuseng Lehoko, marks the beginning of a new chapter for Motaung and signals a potential shift in the political landscape of the municipality.



Empowering Metsimaholo: MISA Workshop Highlights Infrastructure Planning for Sustainable Development

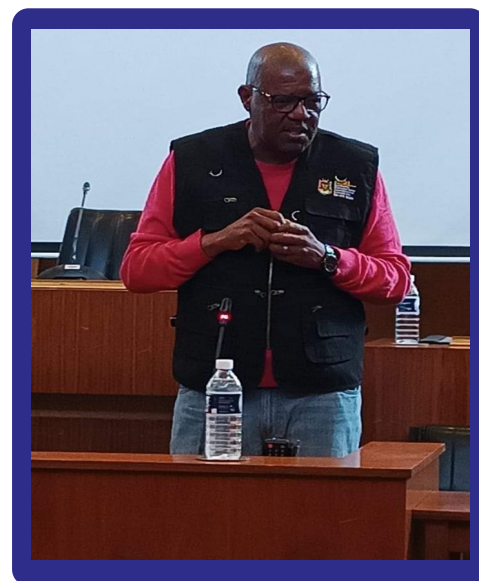
In a critical step towards enhancing infrastructure development and compliance within Metsimaholo Local Municipality, a workshop titled "MISA Support to Improve Compliance with Applicable Prescripts" was held on 17 September 2024, at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Sasolburg. Led by Mr. Freddy Mamuremi from the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA), the session underscored the importance of strategic infrastructure planning and the introduction of the Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS).



The workshop focused on key agenda items including Infrastructure Planning, Introduction to IDMS, and the Local Government Framework for Infrastructure Delivery & Procurement Management (LG FIDPM) Circular 106. The session drew attendance from prominent municipal officials, including CFO Ms Fikile Mareka, as well as officials of the Metsimaholo municipality.

MEC Makume meets with Key Municipal Officials for Local Economic and Tourism Development Plans for Metsimaholo

In a pivotal meeting held on 14 October 2024, at the Metsimaholo Local Municipality Chambers, Sasolburg, MEC for Finance, Tourism & Economic Development, Mr. Makume, sat down with Executive Mayor Cllr. Jack Malindi, MMC for LED and Tourism, Cllr Tsotetsi, and other key municipal officials. By focusing on scenic tourist hotspots in Deneysville, Oranjeville, and Sasolburg, local authorities are seeking to transform Metsimaholo into a thriving destination within the Free State. Deneysville, located along the banks of the Vaal Dam, offers picturesque views and water-based activities, making it an ideal spot for leisure tourism. Similarly, Oranjeville's natural beauty and tranquil environment are perfect for eco-tourism and outdoor adventures. In Sasolburg, the vibrant guesthouse sector is already catering to a growing number of visitors, and further investment in this area will likely expand the region's capacity to attract both domestic and international tourists.



Ultimately, these discussions on driving local economic development and tourism are crucial in positioning Metsimaholo as a key player in the Free State's economy. By leveraging its natural attractions, improving infrastructure, and fostering collaboration between government and local businesses, the municipality can create a robust tourism industry that benefits both residents and visitors. The elevation of Metsimaholo's profile within the broader provincial tourism strategy will not only boost local economic growth but also enhance the region's visibility as a destination of choice for travellers.

The guesthouse sector in Sasolburg, which has already seen significant growth, presents another opportunity for economic development. Encouraging local entrepreneurs to invest in hospitality services, while providing training and support to improve the quality of accommodation, can boost job creation and stimulate local economies. With proper planning, Sasolburg's guesthouses can become an integral part of the tourism infrastructure, catering not only to tourists but also to business travellers visiting the area due to its proximity to key industries. By building up this sector, Metsimaholo can ensure that tourism becomes a sustainable source of income for the local population.



Metsimaholo conducts Ward Committee Trainings and what an incredible journey it has been!

Since September 10th, we've come together to learn, grow, and empower the ward committees of Metsimaholo municipality. Huge thanks to the Office of The Speaker Metsimaholo Local Municipality: Lucas Fisher, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Free State (COGTA), The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), and the Office of the Premier FS for facilitating this transformative training!

Ward committees, with their enhanced capabilities, are now better positioned to play a key role in shaping the future of our neighbourhood's, ensuring that the needs of the people are at the forefront of local governance.

Together, we are building a stronger, more engaged Metsimaholo!



Metsimaholo Local Municipality Engages Communities Through IDP Consultative Meetings: A Path to Change and Accountability

Metsimaholo Local Municipality has embarked on a significant community engagement process by holding Integrated Development Plan (IDP) consultative meetings across all 23 wards in its jurisdiction. These meetings serve as a crucial platform for both the residents and municipal officials to collaborate on key developmental issues affecting the community. From Sasolburg to Deneysville and Oranjeville, the meetings have provided an opportunity for residents to voice their concerns, raise pressing issues, and propose solutions that could shape the municipality's future.



On the evening of 14 October 2024, Ward 9 residents gathered at Thembaletu Hall for one of these pivotal IDP consultative meetings, led by the Executive Mayor of Metsimaholo Local Municipality, Cllr Jack Malindi, accompanied by Ward Councillor ME Mqwathi and Municipal Manager Mr. FJ Basi Motloun. The presence of high-ranking municipal officials underscored the significance of the meeting, and Mr. Moses Mongale, the IDP and PMS Manager, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the municipality's development strategy, sparking engaging discussions.



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