

## METSIMAHOLO TO INSTALL THOUSANDS OF SOLAR GEYSERS

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The Metsimaholo Local Municipality will install 20 000 solar geysers in Sasolburg, Orangeville and Deneysville this year. This is part of the municipality's project to promote green technologies to fight global warming and also to assist communities to attain cheaper forms of energy.

The announcement was made by Metsimaholo Local Municipality's mayor, Brutus Mahlaku, during the last sitting of the Metsimaholo Municipal Council on December 3, 2012. Mahlaku told the council that the municipality has trained many people to install the geysers and earn an income.

"We took the next step by helping and empowering our young people by training them to install the geysers. They will lead the team during the installation. They will also make an extra income when they have to fix them in the future," said Mahlaku.

The solar panel geyser project has been spearheaded by municipalities across the Free State province. Fifteen geysers were installed in Zamdela during December last year.

Mapule Lethibela, who was part of the first recipients of the geysers, is ecstatic. "This has helped us to save hundreds of rands which we were spending buying electricity for warming up water. I now spend the money on other important things such as groceries and paying for the kids' school things." Lethibela thanked the municipality for installing the solar geysers in the community. "We need to appreciate what our government is doing for us because we are poor and unemployed. These geysers will help people like me to use the money we used to buy electricity with, to do something else."

A single electrical geyser costs between R15 000, 00 and R25 000, 00 and people who have been using them are turning to the solar models.

Another resident, Tsietsi Duiker, praised the ANC-led government for providing poor communities with the solar geysers. "I applauded the government led by our movement; the ANC, for doing an extraordinary job to install the high quality solar geysers in our homes. People need to realise that the poor cannot afford this solar geysers. I am glad the ANC government has made them available to us," said Duiker.

Lee Xun, who represents the company that is manufacturing the solar panel geyser, said more than 25 million geysers have been supplied to the South African government. "People are interested in these new products and they are upgrading from old ones, which use more electricity, to these ones. I can assure them that these are the best because they are easy to use. They save money and they are cost effective," said Xun.

Serame Thapong, who also resides in Zamdela, said since using the solar geyser he has saved a lot of money, which he now uses to pay for the municipal rates. "I now pay rates with the money that I used to spend on buying electricity with and it makes life easier."

The second phase of installation will resume in April 2013. The Moqhaka Local Municipality; Masilonyana Local Municipality and the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality are the other municipalities that have already implemented the project.

All the Free State's municipalities have installed solar panels to more than 50 000 households.

[Source: [www.theweekly.co.za](http://www.theweekly.co.za)]