

NEW METSIMAHOLO HEAD PROMISES IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

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The community of the Metsimaholo Local Municipality in the north of the Free State will soon be receiving access to quality basic services such as water, electricity and sanitation.

This is the view of the newly appointed municipal manager, Steve Molala.

Molala said he was determined to make Metsimaholo “a destination of choice”.

“People must choose to come to Sasolburg, whether touring, investing or for any reason. However, my first priority is to fill the vacant posts of all the directors of departments in the municipality.” Molala replaced Robinson Thekiso, who acted in as municipal manager for some time. He acknowledged there were a few loose ends to be tied to maximise the municipality’s efficiency in provide services to the community. These include increase collection of rates and taxes.

“We are hoping to work together with the communities of all the areas forming the Metsimaholo authority, and we will be ensuring that people pay their rates,” said Molala. Molala has a long history of involvement in local government and administration. He has headed a few municipalities such the Tubatse Local Municipality. He is a former Maluti-a-Phofung chief operations officer (COO).

He was municipal manager of the Fezile Dabi District Municipality five years ago, and now joins the Metsimaholo Local Municipality from the department of police, roads and transport, where he served as the head of department (HOD).

Molala noted a few challenges which occurred before his arrival. These include the ongoing case involving supply chain head, Bassie Motlou, and the recent lawsuit against the municipality by a service provider. He said he wants to see a speedy resolution of both cases.

“There are policies in place, and people to implement them. But as for the issue of the sheriff, I am aware that there is someone who did not do their job, which unfortunately had a bad impact on us.” “We need to strengthen our system of control. We are using taxpayers’ money so we have to be accountable for the public funds. We do not exist in a vacuum, we are within the people,” stressed Molala.

Mayor Brutus Mahlaku said he will work closely with Molala to put in place the systems that are aimed at improving service delivery within the municipality.

Mahlaku identified water and sanitation as major challenges in the area. “We want to make sure that we have good infrastructure that will attract investors to our town. We have started by building a water reservoir for the community of Deneysville where we spent millions of rands to have the big bowl built. It will ensure that we have enough water for the sanitation to be up to standard.”

He thanked Thekisho for serving the municipality well during his tenure as acting municipal manager “We would not be where we are if it was not for Mr. Thekiso. His leadership skills have borne us good fruits and we can therefore boldly say Mr. Molala replaces someone who excelled and who strived to make our municipality one of the best in the province,” added Mahlaku.

[Source: www.theweekly.co.za]