

**CHAPTER 1:
EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S FOREWORD & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1. Executive Mayor's Foreword

As we celebrate 30 Years of Freedom, it is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I present the 2023/2024 Annual Report. This milestone is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by countless individuals who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. It is a time for reflection, celebration, and renewed commitment to the values that have shaped our journey as a nation to a prosperity for all.

Over the past three decades, we have made remarkable strides in building a democratic society that upholds the principles of equality, justice, and human dignity. Our progress has been underpinned by the tireless efforts of those who came before us, as well as the collective will of our people to forge a better future for all. This annual report highlights the achievements and challenges of the past year and underscores our unwavering commitment to advancing the cause of freedom and development for every citizen.

The Annual Report not only serves as a comprehensive record of our achievements and challenges over the past year but also as a testament to our ongoing commitment to serving the needs of our communities selflessly with transparency, accountability, and dedication. Furthermore, the Report highlights many positives that exist in Metsimaholo and, if viewed collectively, should give our people a sense of hope and optimism that we are serious about achieving our vision, sooner rather than later. The Municipality has been persistent in its efforts to garner support from other levels of Government; we have continued to invest in the infrastructure needed to ensure Metsimaholo continues to provide appropriate services, facilities, business, and employment opportunities to meet the growing needs of our communities.

Our administration has focused on addressing the most pressing needs of our residents, including the enhancement of essential services, the improvement of infrastructure, and the promotion of economic opportunities for all. We have also prioritized environmental sustainability, recognizing that the well-being of our community is deeply intertwined with the health of our natural surroundings observing the environmental impact within the imbued of the law.

Despite the progress we have made, we are mindful of the challenges that lie ahead. Issues such as unemployment, social inequality, and the need for greater community cohesion remain at the

forefront of our agenda. We are committed to addressing these challenges with innovative solutions, guided by the principles of good governance and inclusivity.

This annual report provides a detailed overview of the work we have undertaken, highlighting both our successes and the areas where further efforts are needed. It reflects our commitment to accountability and transparency, ensuring that our residents are well-informed about the municipality's operations and plans.

As we look to the future, I am confident that with the continued support and collaboration of our residents, stakeholders, and partners, we can build a municipality that not only meets the needs of today but also prepares us for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members of the municipal council, our dedicated staff, and all those who have contributed to our shared success over the past year. Your hard work and commitment are the driving forces behind our achievements, and I look forward to continuing this important work together in the years ahead.

Thank you



**HON. CLLR JACK MALINDI
EXECUTIVE MAYOR**