

Eskom Green starts R1.2 billion solar power plant construction at Lethabo Power Station to provide new generation capacity



The start of the construction of a 75MW solar power plant at Lethabo Power Station in the Free State Province marks the first step in integrating utility-scale renewable generation within Eskom’s existing coal-fired power station fleet infrastructure. Once completed, the plant is expected to generate approximately 147GWh of electricity annually, supplying power to an estimated 60,000

households. In addition to its energy contribution, the project will create vital local economic opportunities and contribute significantly to skills development during both the construction and operational phases. The start of construction was marked by a delegation including Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr Kgosiensho Ramokgopa; Premier of Free State Province, Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae; Premier of Gauteng Province, Panyaza Lesufi; Executive Mayor of Metsimaholo, Cllr Jack Malindi; Executive Mayor of the Midvaal Local Municipality, Cllr Peter Teixeira; Eskom’s Board Chairman, Mteto Nyati; Eskom’s Group Chief Executive, Dan Marokane; Eskom Group Executive for Generation, Bheki Nxumalo, Eskom Group Executive for Renewables, Rivoningo Mnisi; Eskom’s Lethabo Power Station General Manager, Karabo Rakgolela and members of the Eskom Board. “Bringing this solar plant into the Lethabo Power Station site affirms our deliberate strategy to optimise existing assets while accelerating new lower-carbon generation capacity,” said Eskom’s Group Executive for Generation, Bheki Nxumalo. The Lethabo 75MW Solar power project forms part of Eskom’s broader pipeline of renewable energy and storage initiatives currently under development. It is one of 17 high-priority projects that will be implemented across Eskom’s existing coal-fired power station footprint, with construction expected to commence between now and 2028. Collectively, these projects are expected to deliver approximately 6GW of new capacity by 2030. These developments will be strategically located at power stations including Arnot, Duvha, Majuba, Tutuka, Lethabo, Komati, Kendal, Kusile, Hendrina, Camden and Grootvlei, leveraging existing infrastructure to accelerate deployment, reduce costs and strengthen grid resilience.



The ‘New Animal’ takes initiative to fix Metsimaholo



The Service Movement for Metsimaholo also known as the ‘New Animal’, has taken upon itself not only to raise critical service delivery issues, affecting residents of Metsimaholo Local Municipality, but also an initiative to address and fix such challenges. The movement graded and improved streets in Mooibraai Section, Zamdela, insisting that communities cannot continue to live with unsafe, damaged and neglected roads while residents struggle daily with access to homes, schools, work and basic services. “We will continue working with communities, listening to their concerns and responding with action” the movement said. Recently after identifying what it described as a sad and unacceptable reality of the Vaalpark Taxi Rank toilets the movement moved in to restore its conditions. ‘Our family members, commuters, taxi operators, informal traders, workers, learners, and community members who use this area daily have been subjected to appalling and non-functional public toilets. Security gates were installed to ensure that vandalism does not continue and that the work to restore these public toilets can be protected. This is about dignity. This is about public health. This is about taking practical steps to improve the spaces our people use every day. We believe that communities must not wait forever for change. Where we can act, we must act’. Indicate the movement. With the area of Phiritona, Heilbron set to be integrated within the Metsimaholo Local Municipality, building up to the 2026 Local Government Elections, the New Animal took its Visibility Mural Campaign there. With this campaign the movement said it continues in building a stronger presence in communities taking its message directly to the people, and took part in engaging residents of Phiritona, canvassing and consolidating its ground work.

Zamdela Killer Boyfriend Lebohang Mofokeng Sentenced to 24 years Imprisonment for Murder and Rape of his Girlfriend

The Free State High Court sitting in Sasolburg has sentenced 35-year-old Lebohang Johannes Mofokeng to 24 years’ direct imprisonment for the murder and rape of his girlfriend, Nomalanga Dlamini. The sentence stems from a tragic incident that occurred on 7 May 2022, when members of the South African Police Service in Zamdela responded to reports of a woman lying motionless next to a road. Upon arrival, police found the body of a woman covered with a duvet. The victim was barefoot, dressed in a black T-shirt and naked from the waist

down. She had sustained severe head injuries and was declared dead at the scene by emergency medical personnel. The investigation was led by Detective Sergeant Oupa Jhekemba, who immediately began gathering evidence. Preliminary investigations at the crime scene resulted in the swift arrest of the suspect at his residence. Investigators later established that the accused and the deceased had spent time together at a local tavern before the incident. It was revealed that an argument broke out while the couple was walking home, escalating into a violent attack.

The accused assaulted and raped the victim before leaving her on the roadside. Following a comprehensive investigation and successful prosecution, the court found Mofokeng guilty of both murder and rape. On 2 June 2026, the court sentenced him to 24 years’ direct imprisonment. The conviction and sentencing mark the conclusion of a case that has highlighted the devastating impact of gender-based violence and the importance of holding perpetrators accountable through the justice system.