

PROFILE OF COUNCILLOR MATHEKGA MATOME JOSIAH

Mathekga Matome Josiah was born in the late 1950s, right at the height of oppressive laws and just a fraction before South Africa was unilaterally declared a Republic in 1961 – a move that was globally rejected as the declaration was neither based on the will of the people nor universal suffrage. In a nutshell Councillor Mathekga was born at a time when Dr Hendrick Verwoerd was at the helm and conjuring up more draconian laws to the detriment of the indigenous people of South Africa. He (Mathekga) in essence, experienced the brutality of Apartheid first hand.

Though he was born in Alldays, councillor Mathekga's family later relocated to Slaaphoek Village. He started his primary schooling at Pokanong and then moved to Tlhonasedimong Primary and completed his Standard 6. He then proceeded to Kgalushi High School where he ultimately completed his Junior Certificate (Form III), then known as JC. Like most of his contemporaries, Mathekga then moved to Gauteng where he sought employment and ultimately became supervisor at Africa Gate and Fence Works for a period spanning 12 years. During the course of his work life, he was bitten by the labour politics bug and ultimately joined the Metal and Alliance Workers' Union (MAWU).

Mathekga who also became a shop steward, experienced what many South Africans got a taste of, closure of their company which implied sudden unemployment. Despite the major setback and age factor, Mathekga was never deterred but instead went on to complete his matric at the Dawana Commercial School in 1994. His never say die spirit prompted him to register for a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree with the then University of the North (currently University of Limpopo). Due to major financial constraints, he could not complete his degree and had to go and seek employment elsewhere.

Councillor Mathekga had meanwhile joined the African National Congress (ANC) and grew through the ranks to become chairperson of the Sam Molele (Ward 20) branch. He later became Secretary of the same branch, a position he currently occupies. Following the unfortunate demise in September 2020 of ward 20 councillor, Mashalane Mmapitsi Simon, a vacancy was declared and by-elections thereof were called for December 2020. The ANC emerged victorious hands down and Mathekga was declared ward 20 councillor. Following the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)'s declaration, he was sworn in at the Bochum Magistrate's Court with the proceedings being led by Senior Magistrate Ms Brancon J. Mathekga was officially introduced to the Blouberg Local Municipality council during a Special sitting held on the 23rd December 2020. It is anticipated that Councillor Mathekga will ably fill in the void left in ward 20 in the run up to the upcoming Local Government Elections penciled for 2021.