

Inauguration of Executive Mayor Simon Mahole Mofokeng

3 December 2008



Inaugural Speech



**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY
COUNCILLOR SIMON MAHOLE MOFOKENG**

3 December 2008

I wish from the outset, to thank my immediate predecessor, Councillor Aaron Makhubo, for having availed himself for what I am told is a hot seat, following on the resignation of Mr. Mlungisi Hlongwane.

I also wish to thank our Madam Speaker, Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi; Members of the Mayoral Committee, Cllr. Johny Tsotetsi, Cllr. Jackie Duncan, Cllr. Khulu Mbongo, Cllr. Maipato Tsokodibane, Cllr. Neville Felix, Cllr. Dorcas Ralitsela, Cllr. Simon Maphalla and fellow councillors for having kept the home fires burning and continued with their work as if nothing happened.

To the Municipal Manager, Ms. Lisa Seftel and all our dedicated and loyal staff members, including my comrades-in-arms and colleagues in the Sedibeng Municipality's Management Committee, who work under very difficult and stressing conditions and I wish to thank and encourage them to continue working as I have always known them.

I am confident that you will continue to discharge your functions in your positions with distinction and with dedication to the development of our District. It would also constitute a severe error of judgment if we did not presently commend the masses of the people of Sedibeng, rich and poor, young and old, for their unequivocal support and hope in the programmes of our Municipality and government.

As agents of change, we remain at the mercy of the people, and the ANC which is their vanguard Movement, as we need that support and corporation. I can only trust and hope that I will continue to enjoy the support of my lovely wife, Matsie, my children Makgokolotso, Maseapehi, Nteboheng, Keketso and my parents, NtjHEME (Oom Jackie) and Madisebo, without whom my mission will be almost impossible.

Madam Speaker,

The struggle to bring about a better life for all our people is at the very heart of our work, which is to:

- **Reinvent our economy** by consolidating the existing sectors and exploring new sectors of growth;
- **Renew our communities** by provision of basic services, regeneration and property development to improve the quality of living for all;
- **Revive a sustainable environment** by increasing the focus on improving air, water and soil quality and moving from a producer and receiver of waste to a green city;
- **Reintegrate the region** with the rest of Gauteng, South and Southern Africa through improving connectivity and transport links; and
- **Release human potential** through accelerated investment in people and increased focus on the development of social capital.

- **Good and Financial Sustainable Governance** through sound administration, knowledge sharing, caring and growing employees and performance management.
- **A Vibrant Democracy** through good communication and stakeholder relations, marketing and branding, good inter-governmental relations and capacitation of councillors.

Madam Speaker and fellow councillors,

I feel honoured that the African National Congress (ANC) considers my active participation in civic politics as an asset to the people of Sedibeng. I sincerely hope that my participation will add value towards growth and the future of our District. I am looking forward to working with all my fellow councillors in and around Sedibeng, so that we can continue to implement our programmes to their logical conclusions.

To me, this day, reflects a commitment to wrestle against one of the greatest difficulty that our people faces today; that of municipal service delivery. This war as we know it is not a stay in a kindergarten. But then, every work is at first impossible, to borrow the words of the Scottish philosopher, Thomas Carlyle. I believe that our common action should proceed from the starting point that we all seek to bring about a better life for the people of Sedibeng.

Practically, this means that we must intensify the offensive against poor service delivery. Because we dare to win, we will succeed in Sonderwater, Sebokeng, Sicelo, Tshepong, Evaton, Freedom Square, Ratanda, Bophelong, Tshepiso, Sharpeville, and many of our areas.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to announce to all of you, the Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) of Sedibeng District Municipality.

MEMBERS OF THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE

1. Cllr. Johnny Tsoetsi, - *MMC for Local Economic Development and Tourism;*
2. Cllr. Manana Kubheka, - *MMC for Housing;*
3. Cllr. Neville Felix, - *MMC for Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture;*
4. Cllr. Dorcas Ralitsela, - *MMC for Environmental Planning;*
5. Cllr. Maipato Tsokodibane,
- *MMC for Health, HIV/AIDS, EMS, Crime Prevention & Social Development;*
6. Cllr. Jackie Duncan, - *MMC for Corporate and Legal;*
7. Cllr. Busi Ncgube, - *MMC for Finance; who takes over from Mr. Khulu Mbongo, and,*
8. Cllr. Simon Maphalla, - *MMC for Roads and Storm Water.*

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, as I invite all of you to join us in the road to excellence, I would also like to take advantage of this meeting by urging all our people in Sedibeng to join hands with the rest of our countrymen in observing the World AIDS Day Month. As 2008 draws to a close, our thoughts are many. We must unite, however, in wishing the people of Sedibeng, and stake-holders a peaceful and safe holiday season and a year of progress and fulfillment in 2009.

I thank you all.



**SPEECH BY THE
SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY MAYOR-ELECT,
COUNCILLOR MAHOLE SIMON MOFOKENG**

3 December 2008

I want to make a request that we start this address by using some borrowed words of wisdom from a Sesotho proverb, *Ntja pedi ha e hlolwe ke sebata*, which aptly encourages collectivism. For me, this proverb makes even more sense when it is read with a quote from Martin Luther King Junior, *“The ultimate measure of men is where one stands at times of challenges and controversy”*.

Our vision to make a difference to the lives of the poor can only be realized if we are loyal and continue to work as a collective. Our values must be underpinned by the quest for unity instead of division, reconciliation rather than bitterness, and continuous pursuit of social and economic justice rather than accepting poverty and inequality as inevitable.

Those who are harbouring ulterior motives for selfish ends have not considered the consequences of their actions – so early in our development before we could even make real certain ends of our historic objectives as adopted in Kliptown, during the Congress of the People. A call for the Congress of the People saw the adoption of the Freedom Charter in 1955.

THE ROAD TO EXCELLENCE

We have adopted programmes capable of meeting challenges and withstanding tough times. Our Growth and Development Strategy, Integrated Development Strategy and many other plans bear testimony to our resolve. These programmes which followed on an extensive consultation and decision-making processes, belong to the people of Sedibeng, as they are based on the 2006 Local Government Manifesto of the Governing Party, which saw 45.87%, 51.07% and 56.53% of our people voting in Emfuleni, Lesedi and Midvaal respectively.

There is no turning back. Our Council meeting takes place under a more appropriate theme, “**The Road to Excellence**”, a road only to be achieved if we consolidate and strengthen the connectivity with our communities. That is a road with only one traffic sign, “forward-movement only”. Our theme must be used appropriately to reinforce our current programmes, with a thrust to improve, fine-tune and measure implementation.

This work will need to be intensified as we prepare for the remaining years of our Office in the driving seat of the Sedibeng District Municipality. We cannot deviate from our chosen road.

- Councillor Kedibone Mogotsi, Madam Speaker of the Sedibeng District Municipality;
- The Lesedi, Midvaal and Emfuleni Local Municipality Executive Mayors, Cllr. Busi Modisakeng, Alderman Marti Wenger, and Cllr. Assistance Mshudulu, respectively;
- Comrade Mnyamezeli Booi and Comrade Buleleni Mangwanishe, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party;
- Representatives of the Office of the Gauteng MEC for Local government;
- Councillor Aaron Makhubo, Chief Whip of the Sedibeng District Municipality;
- Emfuleni, Midvaal and Lesedi Members of the Mayoral Committees;
- The Gauteng Provincial and Sedibeng Regional Leadership of the African National Congress;
- Leaders of political parties present;
- Comrade Kebby Maphatsoe, President of the South African Military Veteran's Association and MKMVA;
- Fellow Councillors in the Sedibeng District, Emfuleni, Midvaal and Lesedi Local Municipalities;
- Ms. Lisa Seftel, Sedibeng District Municipality Manager, and her counterparts in Lesedi, Midvaal and Emfuleni, Mr. Peter Van Den Heever, Mr. Albert De Klerk and (acting) Mr. Warden Moeti, respectively;
- Mrs. Matawana Moleleki, Chairperson of the Audit Committee and members of her Office;
- Leaders of Organs of Civil Society, amongst which we have Labour, Community Based Organizations, Faith based organizations and Business;
- Policy makers from different stakeholders and role-players in Sedibeng and its neighbouring municipalities and provinces;
- Members of the Press;
- Distinguished guests, comrades, ladies and gentlemen.

Fellow councillors, I stand to greet you all, and also to add my voice to welcome each and every one present to this 39th Meeting of Council of the Sedibeng District Municipality. In our midst we also have my lovely wife Matsie, my parents Mr. NtjHEME (Oom Jackie) Mofokeng and Mrs. Madisebo, members of my family, my colleagues in the ANC Regional Executive Committee, and my mentors, who have played a major role in my political upbringing, Dr. Thandi (*combat-name Mavis*) Ndlovu and Cde. Ismail Vadi, all of whom I have invited as my special guests.

I will also like to dedicate this event to our people living with disabilities, as this day, the 3rd December is observed, the world-over, in their remembrance. As we are in the World Aids Day Month; let me also take this opportunity to further encourage safer sex practices and early HIV testing so that we all know our HIV-status.

The District Multi-sectoral HIV&AIDS Strategy was developed in 2007 and will be reviewed in 2011. This Strategy is Ward-Based with every stake-holder participating. Wards have targeted interventions that are implementable and are aimed at empowering youth, women, men, orphaned and vulnerable children, elderly persons, people with disability, people living with HIV, gay and lesbian community and commercial sex workers. Hence the HIV-prevalence rates in the region have declined from 35% in 2006 to 33.8% in 2007.

I also call on all of you to join the rest of our people in mourning the passing on of Ntate Nthato Motlana, two days ago. We pass our condolence to his family, especially to his wife. In the wake of the '76 student uprising, Ntate Motlana was a founder member of the Committee of Ten, which was set up to formulate recommendations on the running of civic affairs after the demise of the Soweto Urban Bantu Council.

MY PERSONAL JOURNEY?

In the field of politics, especially where I come from, personal ambitions are superseded by the decision made by the collective. The following is an example about my own personal journey in the struggle to bring about a better life for all our people.

During the dark struggle days, I always thought I will withdraw from active politics once we accomplish the historic mission to liberate our people. It was for that reason that in 1990, following the release of the political prisoners and the unbanning of the ANC, I went back to school to pursue a career in chemical engineering.

I was still doing my 3rd year in 1993, when I was re-called by the ANC structures and elders in Sebokeng and Gauteng Province, to assist to re-build a branch and prepare for the 1994 elections – a task which I was later informed that it was well performed.

I was subsequently persuaded to avail myself as a candidate, which I did with reservations as I was already doing very well in my professional career. Following the resignation of the previous Executive Mayor, I tried to invent some brilliant excuses as to why I cannot fill the position. I tried to lobby a wide range of people without success.

Though we may at times suffer moments of doubt and uncertainty, we have both the will and the means to rise above the challenges of the present, and to forge ahead with our historic mission to liberate all our people from non-delivery of basic municipal services.

Madam Speaker,

I am confident about the future, and I am determined to build on a solid foundation that has already been laid by my predecessors. For me to succeed, we must work together. No one can achieve anything on his or her own, as I have indicated at the beginning of my address. This is our District and the only District we have. We can only achieve greater success only if we show a collective will and when we participate fully in her affairs and therefore whatever we do, we must do in the best interest of our District, province and Country.

Today, I stand proud to announce the following achievements and plans:

THE ROAD TRAVELED THIS YEAR?

We have followed a road to improved service delivery, striving for service excellence. Our work included the following:

- Good progress has been made on the regional sewer scheme, where we are partnering with the Emfuleni and Midvaal Local Municipalities, DWAf and National Treasury. We are well on the way to finalize the feasibility study next year.
- We have launched the Clean Fires Campaign in July.
- We have been active participants in developing the Vaal Air Quality Management Plan, which has now been published for comments.
- We have completed five roads in Sebokeng and Sharpeville, as part of the 20 Priority Township Programme.

We have followed a road to excellence in economic development, which included:

- Launching of the Vaal 21 initiative to attract investment to both sides of the Vaal River

- Attracting investment to our area such as the decision by Heineken to build a plant in Midvaal
- A fruitful Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) Summit which was held in July 2008

Our road to excellence in governance and in deepening democracy included the following:

- Unqualified audit in 2007/8. We are also looking forward at getting a report for the third year in a row.
- We have held ward based IDP workshops in Emfuleni and Lesedi.
- We have also successfully commemorated March 21st, 3rd September Vaal Uprising and Charlotte Maxeke.
- We have also developed an ex-combatants programme.
- We have adopted a Youth Policy Framework and celebrated youth month, including arranging a Youth Council and Youth Summit. There is also an on-going programme to consolidate Youth Advice Centres.
- We are successfully restructuring our organization to better meet the IDP strategy.
- Our GDS Izimbizo programme is continuing unabated.

We are going to continue in the forth-coming year to follow a road to accelerated economic growth, service delivery and governance. Some of the key milestones for next year are:

- Decision on whether the Regional Sewer Works should be a Public Private Partnership Fund (PPP).
- Implementation of quick wins in Sharpeville and Dickenson Park.
- Launch of craft-hub and victim empowerment centre in Sharpeville.
- Start of long-term precinct projects.
- Human Rights Festival during March and Vaal River Carnival in October.
- New affordable housing developments in Sharpeville and Doornkuil
- Establishment of Air Quality Unit to implement programmes re air quality and improve monitoring and enforcement.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I want to introduce to all of you, the Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) of Sedibeng District Municipality, and call upon them to please stand up as I will be mentioning their names:

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MMC for Local Economic Development and Tourism;
2. Cllr. Manana Kubheka,
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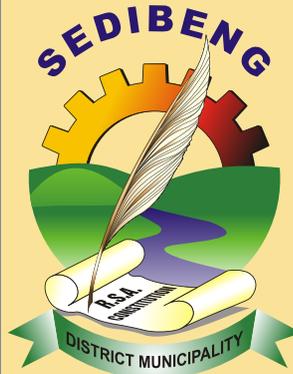
Ladies and gentlemen, let me also use this opportunity to wish all of you a restful festive season, as we prepare for our holidays. Let all drivers and pedestrians obey the rules of the roads. Let us all condemn and daily fight women and child abuse. Let us all follow the Abstinence, Be Faithful and Condomising message of our country's HIV & Aids campaign.

To the youth, particularly teenagers, I urge you to abstain and delay the start of your participation in sexual activities. Adults should mentor and walk with our youth to achieve this.

Our Municipality has matured. It is stable and has depths. And, throughout our own development processes, we are proud to say that we have stayed true to our vision of enabling and empowering our communities.

I thank you.

The Road to Excellence



Sharpeville Precincts

The project aims to develop three precincts around the George Thabe Stadium, the Memorial Site and the Domo (Sharpeville) Dam. The developments will create work opportunities, elevate the area as a premier sports and heritage hub, and develop an attractive place for leisure and recreational activities. The proposed developments will be supported by government funding, but also aims to attract private investment.

The Evaton Renewal Project

The Evaton Urban Renewal Project is an ongoing programme spearheaded by the Gauteng Department of Housing. The Renewal Master plan consist of 5 main development precincts - West, East, Government & Sport, Heritage & Central as well as the Overarching precinct. The precincts will become active economic nodes offering services and facilities such as taxi ranks, a shopping centre, mixed housing, town square, sports facilities, art school, municipal offices and a chapel. This integrated plan will be implemented over 3 years through a public private partnership. The Provincial Government will invest R58m in the next financial year and similar amounts in each of the next two financial years.



Eye of Africa



A mixed development that includes Eye Of Africa Golfing and Residential Estate, Woodacres Estate, Mountainview Country Estate, Montebelo Golfing Estate, Graceview Industrial Park, Southlake People Park and the R59 Industrial Park. The industrial parks will ensure that jobs are created close to the Residential areas. Most of the Developments are located within the existing natural environment

Human Rights Festival

This cultural, educational, historical and heritage festival has become a flagship event for the Sedibeng Region. The occasion has grown in stature over the years and the variety of events in the programme during the month of March each year has attracted participation from old and young alike. The history of Sharpeville, Boipatong, Sebokeng and Evaton has dubbed the area the 'Cradle of Human Rights'. The Human Rights Festival is a sensitive blend of commemoration and celebration.

Boipatong Heritage Development

A partnership between the Sedibeng District Municipality, the Emfuleni Local Municipality and the Provincial Department of Public Transport, Roads & Works. This project aims to leverage on the heritage of the community for the development of a heritage site that will also support local economic development and take advantage of environmental assets in the area.

Vaal Air Quality Management

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism declared Sedibeng the first priority area in terms of the Air Quality Management Act. The draft Air Quality Plan will be in place by mid-year and will set new standards for industry. The Clean Fire Initiative will also be introduced to show residents who still use coal how to do so in ways that reduce poor air quality.

Vereeniging & Vanderbijlpark CBDs

Both the CBD's of Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark are to be improved through the establishment of City Improvement Districts (CID's) This initiative is led by Emfuleni Local Municipality with support of the Sedibeng District Municipality. The tax incentive for Vereeniging CBD is

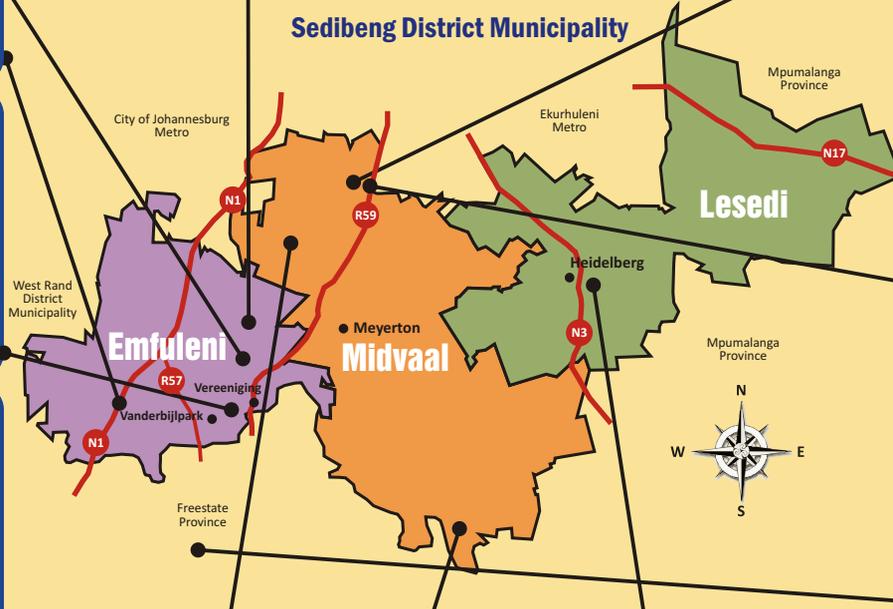
Heineken

The new brewery will be 75% owned by Heineken and 25% by Diageo, who already have a joint venture business in South Africa to market and sell various alcoholic drinks under the name of Brandhouse. The site covers an area of 80 hectares at the intersection of the R59 and the Klipriver off-ramp. The brewery itself will have an initial capacity of three million hectolitres. Jobs will be created as well as new service related outsourcing opportunities.



Regional Sewer Works

The Scheme is one of the flagship projects of both Gauteng and the Sedibeng region's growth and development strategy. The R860m scheme aims to replace three aging existing water treatment works and to eliminate over 50 aging pump stations. This is a partnership with National Treasury, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Sedibeng District Municipality, Emfuleni and Midvaal Local municipalities, the Gauteng Department of Local Government and the Department of Economic Development have embarked on the Sedibeng Regional Sanitation Scheme Project. This is good news for all stakeholders along the Vaal River because sewage spills into the river is usually as a result of faulty pump stations. The Scheme will reduce sewer spillage into the Vaal River, promote good sanitation and enable development.



Doornkuil Housing Developments

To be developed over the next 7 years, this development could provide as much as 18000 affordable houses. Plans include schools, sports fields, parks, libraries and other facilities. The close proximity to the Streford Station is a huge bonus.

Vaal Dam / Vaal Marina / Mamello

Several developments are planned for the area around the Vaal. Residential projects will be supported by commercial activity. The housing challenges for the Mamello community will also be addressed in an integrated manner.

Zone of Opportunity

Situated in Heidelberg along the N3, this strategically located portion of land is envisaged for a mixed development that will include a hotel, a shopping mall, several specialized retail services, a light industrial hub and many other commercial enterprises.

Vaal 21 Project



A cross boundary initiative between the Sedibeng District Municipality and the Fezile Dabi District Municipality. It aims to consolidate the economic strengths of the two Districts and create synergies and cooperation. This initiative opens up the possibility of developments on both banks of the Vaal River. Flagship projects will carry the 'Vaal 21' branding

Inauguration of the Executive Mayor
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