



**KEY-NOTE ADDRESS BY THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MAYOR,
COUNCILLOR MAHOLE SIMON MOFOKENG ON THE OCCASION OF THE
18th ANNIVERSARY OF THE EVATON MASSACRE**

1 February 2009,

- Programme Director;
- Survivors and families of the victims of the Langalende massacre;
and,
- Comrades, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen;

We are meeting today to observe the 18th anniversary of the Evaton massacre. Eighteen years ago, on the fateful day of the 12 February 1991, 36 innocent people were robbed off their precious lives by blood-thirsty apartheid regime sponsored stooges. In a later to be known as the Langalende massacre; the 36 victims, amongst them our parents, sisters, brothers and relatives, were brutally massacred at a night vigil to pay last respect to Comrade Christopher Langalende, himself also a victim of the same gangster, which was led by a thug known as Khethis,

and whose political affiliation was known to all of us. Comrade Chris was abducted, assassinated and lifeless body dumped in the veld.

Anniversaries such as this one, comrades and colleagues, usually provide us with an opportunity to do a retrospective assessment of the successes and achievements of our struggle for freedom and democracy. Such anniversaries, not only remind us about our painful past as a people, but it also educates those of us who were not yet born to understand and appreciate the history our area.

History has shown that in the struggle for liberation the people of Evaton have fought shoulder to shoulder along with their fellow compatriots, with great unity of purpose and action, in total rejection against racist domination and oppression.

Consequently, we are bound to realize the importance of our freedom and of defending it. The 2009 theme for the year: *“The Year to Defend the Unity of our Organization and Protect the Gains of our National Democratic Revolution”*, is therefore not a coincidence but a direct response to that realization.

2009 is an elections year, and the best way to defend our revolutionary gains will be to ensure that the country does not go back to its repressive apartheid past.

And, comrades and colleagues, there is no other way of doing that than to register to vote and flock voting stations in a big numbers on the soon to be announced voting day.

The following weekend of the 7th and 8th of February, is being declared by the IEC Voter registration weekend. I am inviting you, especially the first time voters, to go and register and my peers to join me in checking if our names still appears on the voters roll. We have to do this for Comrade Langalende and many other victims of the massacres of the Vaal and elsewhere in our Country. This is what they would have done should they still be alive. That is part of our struggle to defend the gains of our National Democratic Revolution.

Ours today, however, is not a cause for celebration. It is an opportunity for sober reflection on how our institutions of governance are responding to matters which were raised by the victims of the massacres when they were brutally killed – demanding houses, sustained employment, free and compulsory education, safer, secured and healthy communities, and integrated urban and rural development.

The occasion today is also for reassessment of our approach and recharging our determination to bring about a better life for our people in Evaton, and Sedibeng.

On its part Sedibeng, has lined up projects and activities to show her appreciation to the contributions by our people in bringing about democracy and freedom in our Country.

Amongst some of the projects that we have made sure that they receive the support of government by prioritizing those in our Integrated and Development Plan are:

- Building of struggle museums to help to preserve our history. This programme is to help us to memorialize our history and will also be instrumental in playing the important role of educating future generations and tourists;
- Arranging yearly trips and journeys for survivors and relatives of victims of the Vaal massacres to go and visit communities elsewhere in the world with similar history. This offers our communities with a rare opportunity to share experiences and to net-work;
- On the 1st January of every year, the Sedibeng Office of the Executive Mayor, throws a luncheon party for all survivors and victims and our Senior citizens.

These are but just some of the activities initiated by our Municipality to ensure that we do not forget where we come from, and where we want to go.

Amandla!