



**ADDRESS BY THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE
MAYOR, COUNCILLOR MAHOLE SIMON MOFOKENG, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE GAUTENG MARCH TOWARDS A CLEANER
ENVIRONMENT MINI LAUNCH**

14 February 2009.

With the Gauteng Cleaner Environment Baton-handover Race being the first of its kind in South Africa, it is important for us in the Sedibeng District, as a starting-point host city, for three main reasons;

Firstly, it gives us a head-start opportunity ahead of our counterparts. Remember that the one who draws first wins the fight.

Secondly, it will encourage our communities to be environmentally conscious by taking action in keeping our District clean and healthy. Remember that cleanliness is next to godliness.

- Programme Director;
- Comrade Khabisi Mosunkutu, ANC Member of the Provincial Legislature and Member of the Gauteng Provincial Government Executive Committee responsible for Agriculture, Conservation and Environment;
- Sedibeng District, Emfuleni, Midvaal and Lesedi Local Municipal Members of Mayoral Committees and fellow councillors present;
- Officials from the Gauteng Provincial Government Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment and our Municipalities;
- The community of Sedibeng;
- Representatives of various media houses;
- Comrades, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

But, thirdly, for us in Sedibeng District, this is not just a publicity seeking exercise, but, we see this noble initiative as yet another bold step of our long walk to take us closer towards our vision of a Global City Region – one which will be able to stand tall and proud amongst its peers throughout the world.

But Sedibeng is not an island and we are conscious that the vision of a Global Competitive City Region will only be far-fetched if we act independently from other municipalities in the province and country. It is for that reason, comrades and colleagues that we accept and welcome the baton without any reservation.

Comrade MEC Mosunkutu and colleagues, I rise to greet and welcome each and every one of you to this historic launch of our patriotic campaign.

Ladies and gentlemen, coming back to the campaign that has brought us here today, it fits like a specially designed glove to our Integrated Development Plan, of renewing our communities and reintegrating our Region. Our IDP strategies, which I have no doubt that the MEC will find impressive, includes amongst others;

- Ensuring the minimisation of waste and maximize recycling of waste,
- Creating healthy environment through effective environmental health management,

- Building partnerships to ensure integrated environmental awareness, planning and management, and,
- Promoting conservation of environmental resources and biodiversity.

I have no doubt that we will overcome challenges, especially now in the face of the revitalized cooperative development that is emerging between various spheres of government, government with the private sector and communities. This kind of cooperation will help us to arrest and put to an end:

- Sedibeng from being the source of major smoke-stack driven heavy industrial air pollution, coal and wood smoke from our residential places,
- Sedibeng from facing serious water pollution challenges in river systems and water bodies of the Klipriver and Blesbokspruit which are polluted from runoffs from industrial areas, townships and waste water treatment works.

The Vaal River is sometimes contaminated by raw sewerage spillages due to the aging infrastructure in Emfuleni.

Ladies and gentlemen, without any waste of time, let us fold our sleeves and join our MEC in leading the way to inculcate the culture of a litter free environment in our communities. This, will also help to open doors to 2010 Fifa World Cup Tournament and other anticipated events thereafter.

I am also calling the people of Sedibeng, to extend the campaign beyond the prescribed time-frame of the 14th February (Valentine's Day) to 20th February. The campaign must take place throughout the year; in our zones, streets, yards, etc.

This campaign must also be used to remind our family members, relatives, neighbours, fellow congregants, school and workmates to remember to register to vote in the provincial and national general elections of the 22 April 2009. Enquiries on voter registration processes can be made at any of our local municipalities.

Comrade MEC, the battle-lines are drawn, the road-map is clearer, there is no further time to waste, this struggle is important to us to win, let us meet again in the next leg of the race in Mogale City, where we will be handing over the baton to our colleagues there, and at the final touch-line on the 27 March, to be hosted by our colleagues in the City of Johannesburg which all of us will attend.

Colleagues, I thank you.

Mahole Simon Mofokeng, **COUNCILLOR**

EXECUTIVE MAYOR