



**MESSAGE OF SUPPORT OF THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR MAHOLE SIMON MOFOKENG DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEDIBENG CRICKET ASSOCIATION GALA DINNER**

25 February 2009.

- Mr. Joe Viljoen, Programme Director and Chairperson of the Sedibeng Cricket Association, and his fellow-Executive Committee Members: Ms. Sonja Venter, Mr. Danie Supra, Mr. Ockert Engelbrecht, Mr. Pierre Van Heerden, Mr. Deon Smith and Mr. Shafat Khan,
- Councillor Nevil Felix, Sedibeng District Municipality Member of the Mayoral Committee for Sports, Recreation, Arts, Culture and Heritage and fellow Councillors who are present;

- The South African Rural Cricket Association Executive Committee Members who are present;
- Other various member-Organizations of the Cricket South Africa, who have also blessed the event with their presence;
- Participating clubs, including those from Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Roshnee and Rust-ter-Vaal, including the supporters;
- Members of the press, and,
- Ladies and gentlemen.

I wish to extend my greetings and welcome to all of you our historic 2009 Sedibeng Rural Cricket Gala Dinner, including to all the sports-loving people in Sedibeng and those we have left back home.

It is also important that I steal some of your precious time to congratulate the Sedibeng Cricket Association for turning 57 years old and also to express our appreciation for your choice of Sedibeng as host-city to your Festival.

We have witnessed over the years the Association developing and metamorphosing from the Vereeniging and District Cricket Association and the Vaal Cricket Association before adopting its current name. This is an indication of a relevant and up-to-date Association that follows on other important matters outside their mandate. We thank you for that.

In the last 57 years, you have yielded many provincial players, even across colour lines, , with our current pride being the Morkel brothers, who were playing against the legendary Australians at the Wanderers this morning. Unfortunately, I could not follow the play as I have been caught up on Council business.

Let me also applaud upfront, Boland West for having triumphed as last year's winner. Do not say that I have not warned you that the trophy belongs to Sedibeng, and it will one day find its way to its rightful place. Do not be surprised when next year you see me donning a skipper of our club from Sebokeng. That is a commitment.

The goal of this Rural Cricket Festival which has started on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009, as it is understood, goes far beyond just sport. It aims to contribute to the national goal of bringing development to rural communities by introducing and promoting this great game to our communities.

That goal has become our common denominator. At the heart of the Sedibeng District Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP), are programmes that are aimed at nurturing the development of our people's potential through sport, recreation, arts and culture.

To arrive at that goal, colleagues, our Municipality is following a road-map which is as follows;

- Facilitate the establishment of Regional and District Councils in identified sporting codes;
- Work with the Gauteng Provincial Government and our Local Municipalities of Emfuleni, Midvaal and Lesedi on a sport mass participation programme to include the establishment of multi – coded hubs in Ratanda, Devon, Sicelo, Sharpeville, Bophelong, Boipatong and at the Saul Tsoetsi Sport Centre in Sebokeng.
- Work on the establishment of;
  - A regional colours programme, and
  - A comprehensive water-based sports program
- Implementation of our summit resolutions as approved by Council, including a plan to nurture development and interest in soccer in the run-up to 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup Plan, including a possible Soccer academy hosting 2010 Soccer Teams and a dedicated school programme in partnership with the Gauteng Provincial Government.

I am hereby extending an invitation the Sedibeng Cricket Association, the South African Rural Cricket Association, and various member-Organizations of the Cricket South Africa to partner and find a place within the Sedibeng Municipality' strategies and campaigns to highlight the importance of sports and of integrating sports when engaging in health, education, and social development efforts. That is the right thing to do.

I also wish to thank the Sedibeng Cricket Association for the trouble-free performances as we have seen. All the Clubs have been very much brilliant on the field of play with the beautiful Vaal weather on our side.

I sincerely hope that you will also have time to visit some of the memorable places of interest in Sedibeng, like the Sharpeville monument, Block House in Meyerton, including the Vaal River and that you are enjoying your stay with us. I trust that each individual who enjoyed our hospitality will come back to renew friendships made during this Festival.

Sedibeng is a place of peace, better known as the host city of the historic signing of the Anglo-Boer War Peace Treaty, and also the host city of the signing of our World envied South African Constitution. That choice was never a mistake.

We are looking forward to Friday, where the winning team and the best man of the match will be announced.

I thank you for your patience.