



WELCOME SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR. MAHOLE SIMON MOFOKENG AT THE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT REFERENCE GROUP (KMRG) MEETING HOSTED BY THE SDM.

26 MARCH 2009

- Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi, Speaker of the Sedibeng District Municipality;
- Cllr. Aaron Mahubo, Chief Whip of the Sedibeng District Municipality;
- Members of the Sedibeng District Municipality Mayoral Committee;
- Portfolio Chairpersons of our Section 80 Committees;
- Mr. Yunus Chamda, Acting Municipal Manager of the Sedibeng District Municipality;

- The Executive Directors of the Sedibeng District Municipality's Clusters;
- Ms. Mapula Phiri-Khaole, Director of our Knowledge Management and Research Unit;
- The Chief Executive Officer of South African Cities Network, Mr. Sithole Mbanga and his office staff;
- Delegates from the nine Member cities of the SACN; Buffalo City, City of Johannesburg, Msunduzi, Ethekewini, Ekurhuleni, Mangaung, Nelson Mandela bay, Tshwane, City of Cape Town;
- All representatives from participating Municipalities;
- Delegates from the Sector Departments;
- Members of the Communities of Practice;
- Our Honorable guests, Ladies and gentlemen.

It is my greatest pleasure, privilege and honour to welcome all of you to the first Sedibeng District Municipality-hosted Knowledge Management Reference Group Meeting today in the River City, Sedibeng, a place marked with all economies and opportunities for growth.

This meeting is taking place at a critical phase of our democracy, towards the 2009 general elections, when our people will be requested to give fresh political mandates to political parties to meet their service delivery needs and expectations to enable them to halve poverty, unemployment and under-development by 2014.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sharing best practices and ideas on the knowledge of how these can be achieved by the delegates at this meeting, will contribute to the body of knowledge sharing, which is a driver of the 21st century economy.

The knowledge-based economy which derives from focusing on the production and management of knowledge refers to the use of knowledge to produce economic benefits.

It is also during this period; when due to the economic crunch that the global village is faced with various observers describe today's global economy as one in transition to a "knowledge-economy" as an extension of information society.

Comrades and colleagues,

The transition accordingly requires that the rules and practices that determine success in the industrial economy, be re-written in an inter-connected globalised economy, where knowledge resources such as expertise, intellectual property and know-how, are more critical than any other economic resources such as land, natural resources and the human capital.

I have no doubt that this is a "mission possible", because the collective many brains in this room have the emotional intelligence and tacit knowledge to contribute towards this knowledge economy.

All of you gathered here today are best positioned and suited to collectively re-write these practices and rules. As knowledge workers and knowledge architects, literature reveals that you work with your “heads and not hands” to produce ideas, knowledge and information. It is also clear that “when all is lost and uncertain, the only certainty that remains will be Knowledge”, which is embedded in people’s intellectual capacity.

Much of the high value knowledge is tacit (embedded in individuals heads) and has never been written down, but then leaves the organization when the person leaves. Most often the person who knows it, does not know that he/she knows it and does not realize how valuable it is to the organization (this is termed the curious feature of the human knowledge), that we only know what we know when we need to know it. Knowledge Management is thus a very important discipline within any organization to partly capture this tacit knowledge.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Knowledge sharing with the masses of our people during our Izimbizo, public participation and workshops proves to foster a more open, candid and a knowledge-sharing culture that usually assist in deepening our democracy through open and honest knowledge and information sharing and dialogue.

I hope you are all going to nurture and continue engaging in robust discussions to further enhance and grow this knowledge sharing culture.

Although our Knowledge Management Directorate is a neophyte as compared to other municipalities units, the passion that our Director: Knowledge Management and Research has shown, convinced management that there is a need for a wide variety of activities for the aggregation of knowledge gathering, sharing, storage, use and re-usage for management decision making.

All attempts to raise this awareness through campaigns within the organization, through the formation of Communities of Practice and later the Development of the Knowledge Management Strategy for the District and attendance of the Knowledge Management Reference Group meetings, has earned the recognition of this directorate as a goal worthy of pursuing.

I wish all the delegates the best of worth-while time spent in Sedibeng District Municipality for the next two days. I hope you will engage in robust discussions in an innovative manner, as you will be sharing knowledge on Precincts Development, visiting some of the precincts areas and a site visit to one of our historical places, Sharpeville, known for the massacre of our people there in 1960, which later in 1996 the then Honorable first Black President Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela identified as a place to sign the Constitution of S.A, thus declaring this period on the 21st March, the Human Rights Day.

Enjoy the boat ride in a real water tonight after a long day and relax responsibly, remembering that “don't drink and drive” is the motto of our Safety and Security Directorate.

Vaal is the place to be now and in 2010! Come visit soon and enjoy the hospitality of our hotels, bed and breakfast lodges and our people.

Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you all for your patience.

