



**STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS OF THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
EXECUTIVE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR MAHOLE "SY" MOFOKENG ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOIPATONG MASSACRE AT
THE BOIPATONG SPORTS STADIUM ON THE 17 JUNE 2009**

Programme Director, Cllr. Neville Felix for Sports, Arts, Recreation, Culture and Heritage

Madam Speaker of Sedibeng District Municipality, Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi;

Executive Mayors of Emfuleni Local Municipality, Lesedi Local Municipality and Midvaal Local Municipality; Councillor Assistance Mshudulu; Councillor Busisiwe Modisakeng and Cllr. Timothy Nast;

Members of National Assembly, NCOP and Provincial Legislature herein present;

Former Member of Parliament Mme Morobi;

Councillor Aaron Makhubo, Chief Whip of the Sedibeng District Municipality;

The Members of the Sedibeng District Municipality Mayoral Committee;

The Members of Mayoral Committees of Emfuleni, Lesedi and Midvaal;

Comrade Bennett Mosebi, African National Congress Sedibeng Regional Secretary and Members of the REC of the ANC in Sedibeng Region;

Leadership of our Alliance partners in COSATU Local, District Leadership of the SACP and regional leadership of SANCO herein present;

Leaders of political parties;

Fellow Councillors in the Sedibeng District, Emfuleni, Midvaal Local Municipalities;

Mr. Yunus Chamda, Sedibeng District Municipality Acting Municipal Manager, Mr. Warden Moeti, Acting Municipal Manager of Emfuleni Local Municipality Mr. Peter Van Den Heever and Mr. Albert De Klerk, Municipal Managers of Lesedi and Midvaal respectively and your senior managers;

Leaders of Organs of Civic Society, amongst which we have labour, community-based, business, and faith based organizations

The Auditor-General;

Policy-makers from different stake-holder and role-player Organizations in Sedibeng and its neighbouring municipalities and provinces;

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, and;

The people of Sedibeng

The theme of our 2009 State of the District Address, “***Vaal 21: Achieving a Prosperous Vaal by 2021 and beyond***” is correctly informed by our vision of prosperous and sustainable communities in Sedibeng where;

No single individual brought about this new democracy we are enjoying today in our country, it was a collection of multiple efforts and focused energies of relentless struggles of the whole of the peace loving people of South Africa, as they demonstrated their inexhaustible efforts to prove in action that Apartheid was a brutal, inhumane and evil system against mankind and had to be defeated, destroyed and replaced by the will of a people through the people government.

Programme Director, it therefore means that all our people and their leaders must act together in unity to fight the common enemy of our present time which is homelessness, inadequate health care, poor education, poverty and unemployment. We too, together, we must organize ourselves into brigades to fight the enemy, in defense of our democracy and improve our lives.

Madam Speaker, Fellow Councilors and the people of Sedibeng.

It is our belief that everything we do, every direction we follow and every choice we make, must be successful. We can only win, when we act as a force to bring about the desired change. We must all uncompromisingly contribute to drive the vision of our President, Mr. Jacob Zuma, which he presented in his inauguration address, when he called for a **moment of renewal**.

The Political Leadership and administrative collective of the Sedibeng District Municipality and all the three (3) local municipalities of Lesedi, Emfuleni and Midvaal and all fellow councilors, have a concrete plan to work tirelessly to achieve the programme of renewal in partnership with our all communities.

I stand here before you, your servant, a day after, the 33rd anniversary of the Soweto Uprising to greet and welcome each and every one of you to the 15th State of the District Address 2009 in our Region, since the advent of freedom and democracy.

We are here today, to report to the people of Sedibeng, the makers of their history and determiners of their own destiny on how far as government, we have done to achieve the commitments we made last year's state of the district address to make Sedibeng a better place to live in. We will also indicate to you our plans for the new financial year, 2009/2010. But, most importantly, to allow you, the people, to measure our performance so that where we have faulted, you can advise us on the appropriate course of action we must undertake to work better towards achieving our commitment of service and national duty in serving you. We are confident that you will continue to play the important role to give us guidance, provide advice to improve our work and positively criticize us in order that we can improve our performance so that the lives of our people can change meaningfully. We will continue to minimize problems that hinder progress and also we will also mitigate against avoidable weaknesses. We are confident that our plans for

2009/2010 seek to improve our ability to deliver speedily and sustainable services to our communities.

This State of the District Address comes on the 17th Anniversary of the Boipatong Massacre, a day which symbolizes a determined effort and relentless struggles of the people of Boipatong in particular but also demonstrate bravery of frontline line battle position that the people of the Vaal have historically assumed over the years since the days of the Evaton Bus boycott in the 1940s, the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960 and the Boipatong massacre of 1992 as their contribution towards realization of long held dream for a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and united South Africa.

Programme Director, earlier this year we commemorated the 17th Anniversary of the Sebokeng Massacre and later this year, we will be commemorating the 25th September 3 Anniversary.

This SODA also comes 3 days after the opening of the FIFA Confederations Cup and 358 days to the 2010 FIFA World Cup Tournaments respectively, just two of events of immeasurable significance to our Continent, our Country and in particular our region Sedibeng,

The dust has hardly settled after the 4th National and Provincial Democratic Elections, which witnessed well over 19 million South Africans participating and casting their votes to defend our democracy and our country

In Sedibeng, well over 65% of our people, young and old, black and white voted in favor of the ruling party, the ANC. This is the same ANC of O.R. Tambo, the ANC of Joe Slovo, the ANC of Chris Hani and the ANC of Nelson Mandela and Moses Kotane of course it is same ANC of Saul Tsotetsi, Lebohang Mahata and Vincent "Mkhari" Ntsoedi, the ANC of Docky Matlala, Fihli Mbongo, Jacob Tsoari, Lebohang Mahata, Jeff Mokoro, Fihli Mbongo, Sebei Motsoeneng and the ANC of the victims and survivors of the Boipatong massacre, such as Popi Mbatha and Mimi Nomjoli , Nelly Kubu and Moedihehi Moloji to mention but a few, of those fallen heroes and heroines who were amongst the 46 residents of Boipatong brutally murdered by the agents of the racist and fascists government on the 17th June 1992.

We heartily thank all of you, our voters for confidence you have shown towards us and for the renewal of the mandate you have given us to continue to work with you to implement programmes and initiatives to create a better life for all. Your vote was a true demonstration that you will not forget our fallen heroes.

We assure you that we are ready and willing to improve on our service delivery to all of you, and that working together; we can build a better Sedibeng. We have done a great deal to improve the quality of life of our people. We are acutely aware of the challenges of poverty and inequality which remain, and are confident that working together with the people, we can and will do more.

- ♣ More people will have access to housing, land and education, and improved services in clinics and hospital;
- ♣ More people than ever will have access to clean water and will be having electricity in their homes;
- ♣ In the midst of global melt down, the economy will be growing and creating more jobs, thus enabling us to reducing poverty;
- ♣ Government will be promoting the interests of children, persons with disability, youth, women and older people, and;
- ♣ More people will have opportunities to improve their lives, to become educated and acquire skills, and to help build a better South Africa.

These commitments, as contained in the 2006 ANC Local Government Elections Manifesto, since adopted by our Council in its meeting of the 31 May 2006, as its roadmap 2006 ~ 2011 as the Sedibeng District Municipality Program of Action.

It is that **road-map** leading us to a competitive world-class city, which was initiated and **travelled** before by my predecessors, The Sedibeng District Municipality does not harbor any fallacy to abandon that which was initiated by the majority of its people and the victims of the Sharpeville, Boipatong massacres. Never, in our life time will the legacy and foundations they left behind ever be forgotten! We have committed ourselves to implement that Program of Action that they commenced speedily, fastidiously but consciously of the new developments in our midst,

Sedibeng also prides itself for having produced some of the finest leaders in the country, who are today occupying high ranking positions in the national and provincial government, amongst which are, Ms. Nelisiwe Mbatha-Mtimkulu, the now Member of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature and Executive Committee for Sports, Arts, Recreation and Culture; Ms Dikeledi Tsotetsi, Member of National Parliament, and Mr. Jacob Khawe, also Member of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature and Chairperson for petitions in public participation office and Ms Nompoti Nhlapo, Member of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature and Chairperson of the Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture Portfolio Committee at the legislature.

We are indeed indebted to the people of Sedibeng to make sure that their wishes and aspirations are indeed realized.

My 176 Days in Office

The 3rd day of December 2008, when I took oath to be your loyal servant as Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, is a day I recommitted myself to lead this Municipality to even higher heights, to unleash the potential of all local government staff to re-commit themselves together with me, in ensuring that the mandate you have given to us in government, to work tirelessly together with all of you, irrespective of your political affiliation and standing, to better the lives of our people, is realized.

The journey towards building a prosperous Vaal by 2021 and beyond has begun, ladies and gentlemen, and the onus lies upon all of us to contribute

positively in succeeding to reach our goal as a collective and in unity to realize this prosperity we all are yearning for.

One Hundred and seventy six days since I took oath of office in government, we have travelled a journey marred with all challenges and trials, as we moved out to mobilize our communities to go out in their masses to vote. I must say this journey was very challenging and paved with all problems. However, we have managed to keep our focus towards the bigger picture, never distracted by anything along the way, and did come out unscathed and victors by winning the elections. Once again, we thank all who voted for the landslide victory of eight provinces by the ANC led government.

Working as a collective to address your service delivery needs and concerns through the Integrated Development Plans guided by the public participation processes, we have reached our targeted audiences to share the knowledge and the plans in drafting our Draft IDP 2009/2010.

Collective intelligence supersedes my ability to do it all alone. Sesotho se re “Ntjapedi ha e hlolwe ke sebata”. All your inputs have been considered as far as possible, within the approved budgetary requirements and availability included in the final IDP document.

Exceptional and excellent work has been done by all Clusters to contribute to the Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plans 2009/2010 and ensuring that the Key Performance Areas and Indicators are aligned with the IDP strategies.

The budget income and expenditure for the 2008/2009 financial year balances and this should ensure that we receive once again an unqualified audit report by the Auditor-General.

Building Prosperous and Sustainable Communities

Western democracy is regarded as the longest established system of democracy in the world. However, Africa's has always been the oldest, efficiently run, even long before segregation; inequality and colonisation were imposed on us. Politics have always been everyone responsibility, with people participating in the Izimbizo programmes such as Makgotla, to discuss amongst others, natural matters such as drought, culling of cattle, policies or laws decreed. Through this knowledge and experience sharing, collective intelligence and unity was nurtured.

Let us embrace the age old cultural ways of working together to strengthen our democracy.

The Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy which was launched on the 26th November 2006 spelled out the roadmap for our development and economic growth of our region in terms of the five R's namely, renewing our communities, reinventing our economy, releasing our human capital potential, reviving our environment and reintegrating our region.

In realizing our five R's as a blueprint, I hereby below want to highlight our milestones towards achieving these objectives.

Renewing Our Communities

The Evaton Renewal Programme which was beset with challenges both internal and external is now back on track with the overall planning and strategic approach having been completed. This urban renewal programme is spearheaded by the Gauteng department of Housing. Sedibeng has appointed an Urban renewal Coordinator. The Sedibeng District Municipality has also ensured funding through the Neighborhood Development Partnership grants for the continuation of the project.

This delivery of this project will be speeded up with the formation of provincial multi-department to enhance coordination and resource allocation and utilizations. Plans are advanced to bring the private sector investment to sustain it.

The broadening and paving of Adams Road is completed. The Roads Paving Project within the Evaton Urban Renewal Programmed selected six (6) roads which will be paved in this financial year in Evaton, namely, Eastern, Sterling, Union, 1st Avenue and Hamilton.

- Eighty percent of informal settlements have been formalized in Midvaal.
The shack down campaign is bearing fruit
- Fifty percent of houses have been completed in Mpumelelo and Devon irrespective of the contractors who were none performing, thus leading to public protests and later to be replaced.

- A service provider/contractor has been appointed regarding beneficiary administration with regard to child headed household in Sonderwater.
- In Obed Nkosi the planning stage for infrastructure development is being completed. Gauteng Department of housing appointed the contractor after the land acquisition expropriation
- In Boiketlong and the New Village the planning stage for infrastructure is completed as well as the beneficiary administration for child headed families.
- Extension of precincts Development has been extended to include Ratanda, where the Ratanda Stadium and environs will be upgraded as well as building of the Ratanda exhibition and monument into an iconic and professionally run exhibition centre
- Impumelelo, Jameson Park and Kwanenzele dilapidated social infrastructure is being developed into hubs for recreation, government services and a multipurpose centre with a focus for youth development activities
- Bophelong will benefit through a partnership with the private sector including ArcelorMittal to have soccer fields/ parks / urban agriculture along the land between R57 Corridor and Bophelong, have a taxi rank and trading places along the corridor, public art, greening and beautification to make the gateway to Bophelong/ Vanderbijlpark on the north West of the

corridor to make an attractive entrance to the Vaal as well as to the hospitality areas along the Vaal River.

- Boipatong will have regeneration and rehabilitation of the wetland to include a park, soccer fields and possible urban agriculture, upgrading of cemetery and other community facilities, upgrading of roads including the Boipatong massacre route that will be paved, building of memorial stones, street lighting and heritage information kiosks.
- Sebokeng identified potential precincts development include Zone 17, which is part of the 20 PTP as concept designs are completed by the Department of Housing, is also identified as a retail/ hospital/ transport hub; zone 14 as a cultural/ sports hub due to the theatre to be upgraded and sports complex existing and Zone 11 as a social/community hub due to plans to build an Early Childhood Development and elderly centers by the Gauteng Department of Social Development
- The NDPG will also fund the social infrastructure and development of Mamello into a proper community
- Lastly, Doornkuil/Lakeside will enjoy the development of 18,000 affordable housing units

Reinventing Our Economy

Our efforts to ensure that we renew our economy and initiatives to support the consolidation and expansion of the metal, energy and construction sectors, promote and develop agriculture sector are continuing. Also, we will

continue to promote opportunities for increased inclusivity in the economy of all SMME's

We are steadfast to ensure that the integrated economic development and investments through the Vaal 21 Initiative with our neighbouring cross border municipalities and Fezile Dabi in the Northern Free State is achieved.

Releasing Our Human Potential

Our initiative to promote HIV and AIDs understanding in the workplace and our communities through support and strengthening programmes, treatment, care and support through the District Aids Council which is chaired by the Mayor and supported by the Local Aids Fora are being successful

- Four youth centers have been built and launched are and fully operational, equipped with broadband internet services and computers in the following townships in the District: Sebokeng, Boipatong, Bophelong and Ratanda. Sedibeng district municipality and its local municipalities will ensure that the National Youth Agency regional and local levels are established, together with the South African Youth Council.
- Our libraries in Lesedi, Emfuleni and Midvaal are now fully equipped and linked to the Wide Area Network (WAN), linked to the WAN for future internet connections and are fully equipped with broadband internet access and computers respectively.

- In Emfuleni the WAN links established has improved communication links to staff in the swimming pool to SRAC, Facilities management, Occupational Health Services and Sebokeng Water Works and
- In Midvaal the linkages improved communication links to staff in environmental health, development planning building and the Meyerton clinic.
- Forty stakeholders have being trained in quality compliance in Tourism Industry.
- We have concluded partnerships agreements with DEAT and VUT regarding
 1. Training of tour guides
 2. Training of tour operators
 3. Training on foreign languages
 4. Training of workers and volunteers on Tourism awareness
 5. 140 SMME's have been trained on business skills.
 6. Together with THETA we are developing Sedibeng Skills Development Plans.

Reviving Our Environment

Our environment is clean and any pollution of our environment is drastically reduced through various initiatives, which includes:

- An Integrated Waste Management Plan to ensure the minimization of waste and the maximum waste recycling
- Creation of a healthy environment through effective environmental health management as we are already implementing the Vaal Priority Area Air Quality Management Plan and effective Air Quality Licensing Authority
- Promoting conservation of environmental resources and biodiversity through tree planting and greening initiatives, development of wetlands and grasslands conservation that lends itself into job creation and poverty alleviation in Sharpeville and Boipatong. We are also pleased to announce that Sedibeng has received an award, which prepares it to be an Air Quality Licensing Authority.

Reintegrating Our Region

We have already appointed a service provider to lead the Integrated Transport Plan as well as the current Public Transport Record which is geared to integrate the road networks for the entire region and province of Gauteng.

Sedibeng 2010 FIFA World Cup Offerings

Sedibeng while not a host city, it has positioned itself for opportunities to contribute in the Gauteng Province's hosting of 2010 World Cup in ways that can ensure that the mega event creates a legacy for its people and is also a catalyst to advance many of its growth and development programmes and strategies. Sedibeng launched its 2010 FIFA Strategic launch on the August 2007. These initiatives for 2010 include:

- The 2010 precincts projects have so far emerged as potentially the most critical driver for Sedibeng's 2010 programme. Both sites identified for 2010 viewing (Constitution Square and Dickenson Park) form part of the precincts development. Selection and further development of "quick wins" in the precinct development has added some much needed impetus in an effort to comply with development, funding and legal requirements and the following quick wins have been identified:
 - ♣ Dickenson Park Precinct;
 - ♣ Sharpeville Precinct:
 - Constitution Walk;
 - Cemetery upgrade; and
 - Formalization of Sports precinct.

♣ Vereeniging CBD Precinct

- Beatification of Market Street; and
- Upgrade of Constitution Square and Peace Monument.

Good Financial and Sustainable Governance

Through sound administration, knowledge sharing, caring and growing employees and performance management, SDM is striving for good and financial sustainable governance, which resulted in us having unqualified audit report for three consecutive years. Compliance with municipal finance legislation is taken seriously and I am proud to say we have complied 100% and intend to keep this up religiously going forward.

Our Medium Term Revenue & Expenditure Framework for 2009 to 2012 has taken into account our own challenges unique to the Sedibeng constituency. Although we face some hefty challenges ahead of us, we believe that our budget can be a beacon of hope and inspiration to our people that the tide will turn for the better. We have directed our limited financial resources into the following strategies:

- Reinventing our local economy;
- Renewing our communities;
- Reviving a sustainable environment;

- Reintegrating our region;
- Releasing human potential within the District;
- Maintaining good and financially sustainable governance;
- Deepening a vibrant democracy; and

Our operating revenue of R299million for 2009/2010 will be made up from:

- R6,3million from service charges;
- Just over R600 000 from rental of facilities and equipment;
- R10million from interest on external investments;
- R37,5million from licenses and permits;
- R4,7million from agency services performed;
- R237million government grants for operational activities; and
- R3, 5million from other revenue such as airfield charges, ambulance fees and IT charges and other sundry income.

R311 million is required to fund the operational activities

The 2009/2010 budget shows a significant growth of 22% to R21, 2million from the 2008/2009 budget of R17,3 million due to an allocation of R2,5million for the CCTV Project. 10% increase for Workshops from R5, 5million in 2008/2009 to R6, 1million for 2009/2010 which is attributed to IGR, Mayoral Izimbizo, IDP Public Consultation and Vaal 21 Initiative process. Some areas of expenditure include:

- 54% increase for License Fees from R2, 6million in 2008/2009 to R4 million for 2009/2010. R2,1 million is attributed to the Novell upgrade and R300,000 for the Microsoft upgrade;
- 25% increase for Rental from R4,7 million in 2008/2009 to R5,8 million for 2009/2010. This is due to SLA's entered into with the Local Municipalities in conjunction with the Land Audit being conducted;
- 5% increase for Subsistence and Travelling from R2,7million in 2008/2009 to R2,8million for 2009/2010;
- 22% increase for Training from R2,4million in 2008/2009 to R3million for 2009/2010;
- 44% decrease for Marketing from R4, 4million in 2008/2009 to R2, 4million for 2009/2010 in despite preparation for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.
- R1, 1million has also been provided for Campaigns, an item previously not budgeted for, also for the World Cup.

The Special projects will be funded from the reserves with amount of R11,3 million which consist of the 2010 projects (R10million) as well as OR Tambo games (R1,3million) hosted by Sedibeng District Municipality in the 2009/2010 financial year.

Accordingly, the total Capital investment for 2009/2010 is R104million funded partially from our internal reserves as well as an allocation from

National grant funding for Capital expenditure under the Neighborhood Development Programme Grant for the sum of R57 million. An amount of R92, 6million has been allocated to Capital projects.

These capital projects include the flagship Sharpeville and Vereeniging Precinct Framework project, where:

- The total R57million from the Neighborhood Development Programme Grant will be spent on the Precinct Framework, namely on the Constitutional Walk, Sharpeville Exhibition Centre and Surrounds and the Sharpeville Cemetery.
- R15, 9million will be spent on Transport, Infrastructure and Environment.
- R4, 1million will be used to upgrade the Treasury support function and to adhere to our Batho Pele principles of continued customer relations improvement.
- Corporate Services will be spending R4, 3million on various projects such as the Bophelong Taxi Rank, renovating taxi bays, upgrading the Vereeniging Airport and the Theatre and Town Hall Project.
- And, Community Services have been allocated R11, 2million for public safety projects.

The financial implications for Sedibeng total estimated operating revenue of R299million, the total estimated operating expenditure of R311million, and,

the total estimated Capital Budget of R104million. The negligible shortfall of R68 000 on the operating account can be financed from the accumulated surplus fund which currently amounts to R122million.

Sedibeng with this budget hopes to attain the vision of President Zuma to fight preventable disease, unemployment, inaccessibility to safe water and sanitation, improving standards of education, recognising diversity and promoting transformation. Sedibeng pride itself that with these interventions programmes a number of constraints in the financial 2009/2010 will be addressed.

We also note that in to Boipatong, whilst roads and storm water projects have been initiated as part infrastructure development, little has been done to implement the heritage initiatives. I plan to call a Boipatong Indaba in the next two weeks.

This Indaba will be attended by all key stakeholders of Boipatong ranging from business, youth, political organizations, NGOs etc to discuss and agree on a road map to spend by end of March 31st the R 38 million earmarked for Boipatong Heritage Project and I look forward to engaging you at this crucial consultative meeting.

I wish to repeat the words of our beloved Father Madiba, President Mandela, nineteen years ago, when he said:

“The need to unite the people of our country is as important a task now as it has always been. No individual leader is able to take on this enormous task on his own.”

His words are still as applicable today as they were then. We as the ruling party and as members of this community of Sedibeng shall not fail our leader. We shall use the means and tools available to us to forge ahead with the work that has been allocated to us.

Accelerating Service delivery Towards Completing the Mandate in 2011

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow councilors and our distinguished guests, over the period I have been in office, I have ensured that all inputs that we received from our communities are taken seriously and acted upon by relevant departments.

Our communities concerns and issues raised around service delivery are treated with all the due respect they deserve, as they are a reliable measure of effective service delivery. They are a reflection of the impact of our service delivery programmes and projects that we render to our communities.

As we move towards achieving the set National goals of accelerating service delivery towards completing the mandate given to us by these communities in 2011, I hereafter wish to share the service delivery comments we

received from ordinary members of our communities as we embarked on the preparations for the SODA 2009

Service delivery comments

On Saturday, 13 June 2009, Madam Speaker, we embarked on a media campaign inviting our Sedibeng residents to advise the Executive Mayor on matters that needed attention and have received comments from many of our residents who participated in compiling this year's State of the District Address.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that you will agree with me that this is one of indications and signs of democracy at work, involving our ordinary citizens in compilation of our State of the District Address.

Colleagues, I was particularly struck by **one Sedibeng resident who did not mention his / her name who had an urban environmental management concern and wrote:** "What is happening regarding the consultant who is not delivering regarding the Urban Environmental Management (UEM) Projects at Sedibeng District in the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment?"

I would like to first indicate that the Urban Environmental Management Program is a programme funded by the Danish National Development Agency (DANIDA). It consists of a number of projects which are: Air Quality

Management Study, Municipal Health Services Study, Integrated Waste Exchange Program, Basa Nje Ngo Magogo, etc.

I would further like to assure the resident and our communities that there is no single Service Provider who is not delivering on any of these projects. There is no room for non-delivery of projects. Service Level Agreements are entered into with all service providers, as per council policy. These agreements bind all service providers to deliver on the work/projects given to them by council. All the UEMP projects are going on well, and final reports will be made available for public scrutiny, if so required.

Comrade Madame Speaker, in advising our residents and stakeholders to raise their views and dissatisfaction with the Municipality in an open approach, allow me to respond to another **unknown Zone 7 Sebokeng resident who wrote to the Executive Mayor and said**, “Zone 7 Sebokeng, I don’t believe there is a Councilor around in our area. Roads are half done. What happened to all? Please Mr. Mayor, we need service delivery in our area”

Colleagues, in keeping with the principle of a responsive and a caring Municipality, I have requested staff in my office to be ready for you and would like to invite you to meet with him immediately after the Address. Ke kopa Mong hadi a eme baahi ba Zone 7 ba mmone.

Motsamaisi wa mosebetsi, haebe potso ya moahi wa Sedibeng e amana le ditsela tse hlano (05) tse ntseng di ahwa ke Mmasepala wa Sedibeng ka lenaneo la rona la 20 Priority Township Programme, then only Sekwati street upgrading project is not complete, with only 5% of the work outstanding due to unknown grave site, damage to drain by storm-water, and incomplete sidewalk due to insufficient budget.

Ke motlotlo ho tlaleha hore Mmasepala wa Sedibeng o fetesitse kabo ya tjhelete ekalo ka dimilione the tharo tsa diranta ho phethela mosebetsi ona.

Tsena tsohle di tla etsahala pakeng tsa dikgwedi tse pedi ho isa borarong ho tloha hona jwale.

For the benefit the people of Sedibeng, I find it critically important for all parties, both in and out of government to begin to work together. The immoral and cheap politicking of mudslinging, blackmail and backstabbing must cease to exist with immediate effect.

- Work ethics by all servants of the communities, both councilors and politicians need to continue to be refined so that as a collective and in unity and harmonious intergovernmental relationships with our locals and interdepartmental coherent and amicable working team effort, we

reach our agreed strategic objectives as set in our Five Year Strategic Plans.

- We recommit and rededicate ourselves on this day the 17th June 2009, that working together with all of you our communities, colleagues, comrades and compatriots; we will better the lives of our people!
- In order to respond to our mandate of a developmental local government, our planning can only be achieved by formulating the Integrated Development Plan in consultation with all the stakeholders. Accordingly, the budget of a municipality must be informed by the IDP
- In this contents, we plan to advance the role of the district beyond just providing support, facilitating and coordination, we will vigorously increase our delivery capacity to capital projects in order to stimulate growth and investment in the region, we believe that these are appropriate strategic interventions.
- More energy will directed towards Emfuleni local municipality, this approach is informed by our analysis that Emfuleni is one one of our biggest municipality in the region.
- **“It can’t be business as usual”**. Our interventions are aimed at ensuring that the private sector reinvests in the region to facilitate economic

growth and development and to create employment. In order to achieve this amongst others we will ensure that the policy regime is geared to achieve this objective. We will also embark upon roadshows to build working partnerships with business which is central to the growth of this region.

- The roots of the Sedibeng District Municipality can be traced back to the Regional Services Council and the Lekoa-Vaal Metro Council. With the abolition of the Regional Services Council levy, the income of the Sedibeng District Municipality has been reduced to a grant fund. This income increases by a small percentage each year and has limited the funding capacity of the Sedibeng District Municipality significantly.
- Instead of folding our arms about this situation, we have decided to be innovative and proactive in exploring alternatives means of funding so that we can continue to support our Local Municipalities and supplement what they execute to our communities. We will continue to explore funding sources from Provincial and National departments for projects that fit our development plans.

In Conclusion

In pursuit of President Jacob Zuma's state of the Nation address in which he alluded to the monitoring of service delivery imperatives, namely: Integration of Planning and Service Delivery. The impact of this holds great

importance to us in SDM. To that end, I enjoin all political leadership and officials in SDM and local municipalities to put our shoulders to the wheel and lead the charge. The days for laissez faire, lackadaisical approach to provision of services to our communities are over. Laziness can no longer be tolerated as we can no longer hide behind being a council on the fringes of beyond. We are expected to report our activities to the planning commission which monitors service delivery and integrated planning between all spheres of government. No more incestuous internal reporting to ourselves and self congratulatory ululating! We dare not be found wanting on this Grande Stage. I trust all of the SDM family will join the march towards making SDM the yardstick by which all the rest are measured.

NIL NISI OPTIMUM- ONLY THE BEST IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR SEDIBENG COMMUNITIES.

PELE YA PELE!

I thank you.