



**Keynote Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality
Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the
occasion of the Social Crime Prevention Awards Ceremony
held at the Banquet Hall on the 06 August 2009, at
Vereeniging in Sedibeng**

Sedibeng District Municipality Member of Mayoral Committee for
Public Safety: Cllr. Maipato Tsokolibane;

Emfuleni Local Municipality Member of Mayoral Committee for
Public Safety: Cllr. Rebecca Letsoenyo;

Lesedi Local Municipality Member of the Mayoral Committee for
Public Safety: Alderman J. Jonck;

Local Ward Councilor, Cllr. Fatty Mnguni;

Members of the Public Safety Corps;

Our distinguished guests;

People of Sedibeng

I feel greatly honoured for the opportunity afforded my Office to
speak at this important August occasion. With the great job and
effort put in by yourselves in ensuring the safety of our

communities, a heroic and exceptional task indeed, we can only sit and marvel at your commitment.

Safety and security of our communities cannot be overemphasized. We draw our commitment to this mandate from The Freedom Charter, as adopted in Kliptown in 1955, wherein it says “**There shall be Safety Security and Comfort for All**”. The safety of our mothers, sisters and children touches our hearts. The fact that our mothers, sister and children are made vulnerable to attacks in their homes, schools and the streets leaves a bad taste in our mouths. We can never allow ourselves to be held at ransom through wanton criminality.

Programme Director, it is with pride and great joy to acknowledge that indeed this occasion today attaches the same commitment to community safety. This commitment finds true expression from our Integrated Development Plan as captured in our objectives, namely:

- Sustainability of Community Safety Forums;
- Crime reduction through the use of urban building design principles;
- To engender a sense of community participation in crime prevention measures;

- Promote awareness on violence against women and children;
- Strengthen and maximize partnerships and sustain crime prevention initiatives within our communities.

These objectives are not a wish list. They have in the past year been the thrust of our engagement as Sedibeng District Municipality. We have been at the fore-front of the battle against crime in our area. This will become clearer as we proudly parade and award those amongst you who have excelled and went beyond their call of duty to ensure safety, security and comfort for our communities within the Sedibeng District Municipality. We are indeed a proud lot about you.

We are however, not going to rest on our laurels as we strive to reach the milestones set by our Gauteng Safety Strategy. The strategy calls on all of us to ensure that we reduce crime by between 7%-14% annually leading up to 2014. This we can and will collectively do. Hence I am tempted to remind all of us here today that together we can do more than we expect in this regard.

We will together eradicate the scourge of the following types of crimes which are becoming the scar on our good record:

- **Truck Highjackings; House Breakings; House Robberies; Business robberies; Theft of motor vehicles; Rape; theft**

We are also mindful and sensitized to areas that lend themselves to criminal activities in our region and the nature of the said crimes. **These areas are:**

- De Deur area that is leading the charge with house robberies and car Highjackings;
- Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark which are afflicted with house robberies and break-ins;
- Sebokeng which is affected by break-ins, assaults and domestic violence;
- Evaton which is faced with street robberies and assaults.

We can safely say, with no fear of contradictions, that we are winning the battle. There is a decrease of rape and domestic violence as a result of **Men as Gender and Child Safety Promoters** as well as **Women and Child Audits in Bophelong Extensions and Evaton.**

There is a visible and tangible decrease in the theft of motor vehicles in Vereeniging as a result of our CCTV surveillance

cameras and Community Patrollers, six arrests have been made between January and June, with one conviction in this regard.

Our Community Patrollers in Sebokeng have been awarded the best drilling unit by the MEC for Community Safety. We hold the award for the Best Individual Community Patroller in Gauteng Province, fittingly that it is held by a woman.

Our programmes are bearing fruit and we intend to escalate them in this financial year. **These programs are:**

- The International Children's Day in conjunction with the SAPS, Gauteng Department of Education and the Department of Correctional Services; and
- The Regional Victim Empowerment Centre is up and running in Sharpeville at Itsose Primary School.

Your commitment to the safety of our communities is lauded. We can and will always grant our full support to your efforts. We will not be found wanting. Our Growth and Development Strategy as well as the Integrated Development Plans gives clear indication of our commitment.

In conclusion, I do hereby wish you fruitful deliberations as you continue going about finding solutions to the areas herein highlighted. Voorspoed.

I thank you