



Keynote Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Sedibeng Aids Cultural Exhibitions held at the Vaal Show Grounds on the 28 September 2009, in Vereeniging in Sedibeng

Programme Director: Cllr. Maipato Tsokolibane;

Madame Speaker: Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi;

Sedibeng District Municipality Chief Whip: Cllr. Aaron Makhubu;

Sedibeng District Municipality Members of Mayoral Committee;

Members of the Sedibeng Aids Council;

Traditional Healers present;

Community Based Organisations;

Distinguished Guests

It is with great pride that I take part in this esteemed Inaugural Sedibeng Aids Council Exhibition. In all humility, we are able, all and sundry, the fruits of selfless efforts in the Aids Council of Sedibeng, a body I am proud to be its Chairperson.

Programme Director, allow me to unpack the source of my pride. My pride and the pride of Sedibeng District Municipality, stem from the fact

that, contrary to popular belief, we do not need to be in the face of the public to prove that we are working. We do not need the press to be camping at our doorstep to find out what it is we are doing. Alas, we in Sedibeng District Municipality continue to chart the way forward for others to follow.

This Sedibeng Aids Council Exhibition comes at the tail end of a very productive Sedibeng District Municipality Aids Workshop that was held over a period of three days at the Riviera Hotel three weeks ago.

The said workshop was as a result of consultations that were held at the Saul Tsotetsi Sports Centre in July this year. I am raising these events, Programme Director to show and catalogue the chain of events that have produced this event.

I am also made bold, Programme Director, by the array of products on display and on sale at this Exhibition. The amount of talents shown by these products is mind blowing. It is as we browse through the exhibition that we are reminded of the Sesotho adage “**Mphemphe e ya Lapisa-Motho o kgonwa ke sa Hae**” loosely translated into English it says “**We must never be at the mercy of the magnanimity of the giver**”

The Sedibeng District Municipality’s Aids strategy is truly well entrenched, alive and kicking. Looking at the capable men and women who lead its implementation, we are indeed as a District, **Gulliver the**

Giant in the land of the Liliputians-A true giant in the midst of little people.

You will recall that the primary objective of this Council is to mobilise all stakeholders in our Region towards the mitigation of the socioeconomic impact of the HIV&AIDS. We also monitor progress made with regard to the implementation of the HIV&AIDS programmes by stakeholders both in the communities and in workplaces. I think you will agree with me when I say we are firmly on track in terms of implementing our mandate and would like to briefly outline it as follows:

- To advise the District on HIV&AIDS policies and the implementation of the HIV&AIDS Programme;
- To forge partnership for accelerated response and ensure periodic review of the HIV&AIDS strategy and strategic plan in view of the prevailing District needs;
- To facilitate the strengthening of institutional capacity for effective, efficient and economic coordination;
- To advocate for Internal Departmental active participation in HIV&AIDS activities;
- To advocate for donations and sponsors for infected and affected children and families;

- To advocate and lobby for the reduction and ultimate non-existence of stigma and discrimination associated with HIV&AIDS in Sedibeng;
- To lobby Government, civil society and private sector structures for the necessary mobilisation of services, resources and support for the infected individuals and the affected families for effective, efficient and economic execution of the HIV&AIDS programme;
- To ensure that the public and the media are accurately informed about HIV and AIDS and to correct false, misleading or offensive statements about HIV and those living with or are affected by HIV;
- To promote evidence-based decision making by members of the AIDS Council; and
- To invite and monitor tenders for strategy formulation and project execution.

In conclusion, I am greatly encouraged by the turnout of Community Based Organisations and the family of Aids Based stakeholder that have seen it fit to participate in the Exhibition, which goes on to show that indeed **“Ngwana Lapeng o antshetswa ka Lehafing” esere ba metseng ba mo Jella.**

We will and indeed are **“Together Doing More”**

I thank you!