



Keynote Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the official announcement of receipt of the “Ambassador of Operation Clean Audit Award” and South African Archives and Records Management Awards (SAARMA) 2009 conferred on Sedibeng District Municipality, Riviera on Vaal Hotel, Vereeniging, in Sedibeng

- Sedibeng District Municipality Speaker, Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi
- Executive Mayors of our Local Municipalities;
- Sedibeng Council Chief Whip, Cllr. Aaron Makhubo;
- Speakers and Chief Whips from our Local Municipalities;
- Members of the Sedibeng Mayoral Committee;
- Members of Mayoral Committees from our Local Municipalities;
- Sedibeng District Municipality Acting Municipal Manager;
- Officials from the Provincial & National Departments & Ministries;
- Representatives from the business community;

- Executive & Acting Directors;
- All Officials present;
- Esteemed members of the press, our critical stakeholder

I take this opportunity to welcome you all at this event convened to acknowledge and celebrate the “**Ambassador of Operation Clean Audit Award**” and the **South African Archives and Records Management Awards (SAARMA) 2009** conferred on us by the national **Minister for Co-operative Governance & Traditional Affairs** and the Lwazi & Khunkhwani Consultancy in collaboration with the South Africa Human Rights Commission and Sabinet respectively.

These Awards come during the period when most communities in some parts of our **Country**, are up in arms raising service delivery concerns, and comes as an indication that more needs to be done, by us as Municipalities. These Awards gives an indication that we are indeed on the correct path to satisfy our constituency and stakeholder needs.

Colleagues, our meeting today coincides with the week that the South African Local Government Association (Salga) had declared

“The Local Government Week with the theme: “The Role of Local Government Towards Achieving the Millennium Development goals” and the International Food Day, as declared by the United Nations, an initiative that fall squarely in the Millennium Development Goals as well, which are:

- **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
- **Achieve universal primary education**
- **Promote gender equality and empower women**
- **Reduce child mortality rate**
- **Improve maternal health**
- **Combat HIV?AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
- **Ensure environmental awareness**
- **Develop a global partnership for development**

From the remarks conveyed by the South African Human Rights Commission, National and Gauteng Provincial archives in terms of the PAIA Legislation; where our communities and other relevant stakeholders and role-players could professionally engage our Municipality, as part of promotion of valuable service on records and archives management services. In fulfilling our strategic mandate, it is critical that our

administration should review the structure to appoint a dedicated records manager for the district as part of legal compliance.

The campaign towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in local government is geared towards cascading to the communities these noble objectives by engaging citizens and local authorities or administrations in customizing national development goals to fit local realities. Our communities cannot afford mismanagement of funds, more-so in our Municipality. Our IDPs in **Sedibeng District Municipality** sets out a clear course of Action in this regard.

It is with great pride and humility that I announce that while everybody is losing their heads around us, raising red flags, making noises about the imminent collapse of the municipalities because of inability to manage finances and their records management, **Sedibeng District Municipality**, your Municipality and our home, has after stringent scrutiny, been duly conferred with **two prestigious titles as I alluded to earlier**

It is a great leap in the right direction for our District Municipality. This in the road to ensure continued sound financial standing, reflecting our commitment to visible service delivery. Our commitment to archives and

records management is without equal in the entire country; we punched above our weight and beat the rest.

These Awards are indicative of the seriousness with which we apply and implement our IDPs and Growth & Development Strategy objectives. Sedibeng is steadily beginning to show its face, this is becoming a culture in our Region because 2 of our Local Municipalities: Midvaal and Lesedi are doing exceptionally well in regards to their audit report with Emfuleni improving in leaps and bounds.

Madam Speaker, more good news is that, as an Ambassador of the programme, Sedibeng District Municipality shall lend our knowledge and expertise on best audit practices to their less fortunate counterparts, through compiling and documenting their internal control and risk management processes.

During his speech when bestowing this historic award on **Sedibeng District Municipality, the Minister for Co-operative Governance & Traditional Affairs Mr. Sicelo Shiceka** emphasized that government institutions need to concentrate on risk management. Monitoring and evaluation of their performance and ensuring continual legislative compliance in order to achieve the targets set out.

As I share with you today these prestigious awards, I am informed that the our bestowing with the **South African Archives and Records Management Awards (SAARMA) 2009**, declaring us the best Municipality in Records & Archives management was a tough and hectic process.

All the municipalities namely Sedibeng District Municipality, Bojanala Local Municipality, Greater Tzaneen with its local municipalities, Ekurhuleni Metro, Tshwane Metro and Johannesburg Metro were contestants in this category. With only three municipalities in the final round, being Sedibeng District Municipality, Ekurhuleni Metro and Greater Tzaneen Municipality, we, Sedibeng District Municipality were without equal, pronounced the best of the rest.

Madam Speaker, as I earlier alluded to, this we have achieved for safeguarding and preservation of records of the Council, ensuring that the end users, clusters, departments and the public can access, use and learn from them. **Colleagues**, I believe that you will agree with me when I say, these **Awards** pose a challenge on us as a **District Municipality** to

ensure that we do more to maintain the exemplary principle that we have already set for ourselves over all our peers in local government.

Our communities can be rest assured that we are trying our level best to provide them with services they can rely on, for accuracy and efficacy of use. Indeed their future is in good hands.

Ladies and gentlemen of Sedibeng, you the founding pillars of **our District Municipality**, a municipality we call our own, I invite you to take a bow and credit for a job well done.

The Co-operative Government and Traditional Affairs Minister Sicelo Shiceka when launching the initiative "***Operation Clean Audit 2014***" at the Birchwood conference centre earlier this year said and I quote: ***."We want to ensure that we put a collective effort in creating a clean and accountable government that will produce good things for a better South Africa".***

With this honours on our mantle, we enjoin the business sector to throw their weight behind **Sedibeng District Municipality** in its path towards achieving Vaal 21 objectives, a vision that seeks to create a River City by

the year 2021. It is with a series of clean audits going forward that the vision of Vaal 21 is made possible.

These honours, ladies and gentlemen, as I indicated earlier, challenge us to work much harder going forward to ensure that our clean audits of the past, do not blind us to complacency. These honours should and must propel us to greater heights of service excellence. With the strong women and men of your caliber, there is no doubt to the saying that “**Working together we can do more**”.

It is therefore most fitting for me to once again take this opportunity to thank **Members of the Mayoral Committee, Senior Management Team** and all employees of the **Sedibeng District Municipality** for this achievement.

On that note, MMC Duncan, Ntate Petlane, I once more like to congratulate you and your teams, your astute leadership in Corporate Services and Administration for the Award. It also makes one feel great taking from my previous life as the head of the Cluster, a belief that you continue to consolidate on the good and strong foundation that has been laid.

To you MMC Mncube, Mr Scholtz and your team, thanks for a job well done. Keep up the good work I think you and those reporting to you and your leadership must take Award as a challenge, because you have to continue being an example not only internally but also externally to other municipalities.

Programme Director, in my address to our employees at their Employee Appreciation Day, few weeks ago, I said “Le rona re batho ka hara batho! We are a leading light to other Municipalities, Achievement that many Municipalities aspire to yet difficult to achieve”. It is as we gloat, that we are also reminded of the World Car Free Day on the 21 October, next week Wednesday, that I urge all councillors and officials to leave their cars at home, hop on to the public transport system with a view to cut down congestion and carbon footprint.

This is aimed at promoting the efficient use of the road infrastructure as well as cutting down on emission from cars we use daily. A very noble action indeed. It will be, like these two awards, as we lead, others will follow in our slipstream.

As if these awards we alluded to are not enough, others keep coming thick and fast. Our Batho Pele coordinator, our pride and joy, Ms Naomi

Thomas, has just won the Core Skills Award at the Batho Pele Khaedu Management Development Programme held in Tshwane. She competed with Directors General,

Deputy Directors General as well as Municipal Managers from all over the country. What makes this award more significant is that she, as a Middle Manager here at Sedibeng beat the best that the country could offer.

At the Batho Pele session held at the Riviera Hotel earlier this year, she was awarded the top overall prize for her participation.

Sedibeng District Municipality, received special mention and commendations at both National Batho Pele Learning Network last year for a job well done. **Ikhamba lefuzi'Mbiza-Bohlale ba Phala bo tswa Phalaneng**, Ms Naomi Thomas is a reflection of the mold she came from, Sedibeng District Municipality.

I urge you all to continue with the good work and strengthen the strict adherence and implementation of the Batho-Pele Principles so as to achieve more and be the shining light of the **Public Servants at work**.

I convey my special sincerest gratitude and gratefulness for all your sterling efforts to ensure that ultimately, these **Awards were duly conferred to the most deserving**, Sedibeng District Municipality.

I thank you, Kea Leboha, Baie Dankie!