



**Welcoming & Keynote Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the OR Tambo Memorial Games Gala Dinner held in Vanderbijlpark on the 23 October 2009, in Sedibeng**

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Programme Director;

MEC for Sports, Arts, Recreation & Culture;

Chairperson of Salga;

Executive Mayors of Lesedi, Midvaal & Emfuleni Local Municipalities;

Sedibeng District Municipality Speaker;

Members of Mayoral Committees present;

All Councillors present;

Municipal officials;

Members of the media

I take this opportunity to welcome Salga as well as all Municipalities for their presence here tonight. This event, being the tail-end of the Oliver

Reginald Tambo Memorial Games, brings to mind a lot of things we have to **be** grateful for. I will digress a little to talk about these things.

OR Tambo, in whose honour these games are named, is not spoken about enough. It is said that “If you stand on the shoulders of giants, you will see much further”. With the looming giant that OR Tambo was, the leadership of this country, Nelson Mandela, President Jacob Zuma, has the benefit of seeing much further.

OR Tambo, with infinite wisdom and patience, guided the ANC through very difficult periods. He led this Glorious Movement through the storms of infiltrations, espionage, not to mention the imperative to build it throughout the entire world. It was a phenomenal task indeed.

That said, we do not hear our children and grand-children trumpeting his name. It may not have been a personal crusade for self promotion. It was a mission ordained in the heavens. But, we all have to ask ourselves, why is he not heralded and celebrated throughout the whole world in the manner that the likes of Che Guevara are heralded.

We need to take the time out in the manner that we as the 17 Municipalities gathered here today, have to spread the word that **“The Legacy left to us as a Nation by OR Tambo is too much to comprehend”**. His stature looms larger than life if we look at where we are as a country.

Less than three hundred days from today, we will be hosting the largest sporting spectacle in the world, the 2010 FIFA World Cup on the African

soil, but most importantly, in our country. This would not have been possible without the Nation building efforts of OR Tambo.

We are without doubt, as South Africa, the envy of the entire world, for the miracle of rebirth on such a grand scale is amazing indeed. In such a short space of time, we can safely speak of a nation united in its rainbow diversity. To all this we have OR Tambo to thank. That we have forgiven and reconciled to this magnitude is indeed miraculous.

It is as we partake in this Gala Dinner in his honour, that I raise my voice to say “Let us not celebrate OR Tambo in functions celebrated on the fringes of beyond OR Tambo needs and must be celebrated by all communities we lead, by the young and old, by the strong and fickle”. Each and every house provided by the government should be allocated in the honour of OR Tambo. Each township, suburb, village and hamlet must have street named after him. Let his gallant leadership and rich history be spoken of from the mouths young and old.

**In conclusion,** I take this opportunity to welcome all of you to this Gala Dinner in honour of OR Tambo in the form of the games that have just been concluded. I hope that all of you from various parts of Gauteng have been able to enjoy the warm hospitality of our beautiful District, Sedibeng District Municipality, a place we all call home.

Bon Appétit.

I thank you