



Keynote Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Christmas Carols held at the Mphatlalatsane Theater in Sebokeng on the 17 December, 2009, in Sedibeng

Programme Director

Bishop Moloji

Reverend Mehomakulu

Setjhaba sa Sedibeng

Our Distinguished Guests

On this beautiful and blessed day, blessed because the Good God and Lord made it so, blessed be His Name, I greet you all in the name of our **Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ of Nazareth.**

It is with sadness that we heard this morning of the passing of former **Minister of Health, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang**, and we rejoice in the knowledge that she will now be in the good hands of our Lord Jesus Christ in heaven, for he has said "There are many rooms in my Father's house, if it were not so, would I not tell you so".

At this time, I believe that our prayers are with her family and friends, for it is said, “Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted”.

This Christmas carols come at the time when our country has just observed the 16th Days of Activism Campaign on No Violence against Women and Children under the theme – *Do Not Look Away, Act against Abuse*, the campaign that actually runs throughout the year but revived annually around this period. I hope and trust that we are so far helping in ensuring the achievements of the objectives of this important campaign

My role here today, is both simple and difficult. Simple because I have to speak on Christmas and the People, difficult in that I do not believe I qualify, that notwithstanding here it goes.

With Christmas, the **Good God** made clear his promise to the people, us, through a covenant made in heaven, witnessed by the angels that, “As we have made man in our own image, and given him dominion of all that is on earth, We will not forsake him to sin and the devil”.

As it was prophesized by **Prophet Izaiah**, that unto us a Messiah will be born, that he will bear the pain and die for our sins, that he will bring us back

to **God our Lord and Master**, that he will cleanse our sins with his blood, that he will bless us with untold riches.

That in him there will be no sorrow, that whist there is no one righteous in the eyes of God, we will be made righteous by the cleansing of his blood, that only through him, we will go back to **God in Heaven, Hobane yena Ke Nnete, Ke Kganya le Bophelo, ya dumelang ho yena otlaba le bophelo bo sa feleng.**

It is said in Isaiah 9 verse 6, **“For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end”**

This promise and covenant was witnessed by the angels, who went on to sing in praise “Joy to the World the Lord has come. Glory in the highest, peace on earth and goodwill to men”

To the people of Sedibeng and indeed the entire South Africa and the World, the meaning of Christmas is clear. The promise of peace is made obvious. Peace will reign and rule over the world for **God** has given us his

only begotten son **Jesus Christ** for whosoever believeth in Him shall have everlasting life.

This promise finds further expression in **Proverbs 10 verse 22** in which it is said “The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it”. We are as a people blessed by the birth of Christ, we will be made wealthy beyond our imagination by believing in Him.

In Jesus’ name, our sins are forgiven instantly, nothing is impossible when we ask in his name. To us as mere mortals, we live in regret of things that we have done in the past. It is because of Christmas and the birth of Christ, that when we confess these sins in Jesus name, they are written off, the slate is wiped clean, we are new beings in His name. No more regrets.

The promise and covenant is greatly amplified in **Deuteronomy 28 verse 1-2**, where it is said “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands that I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God”

It is a very open secret, to all the people here, that with Christmas, the promise of heavenly peace, wealth and blessings are assured if we obey the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, we will be made righteous through his blood, we will be cleansed by believing in Him.

We are and will not be forsaken, because Jesus is indeed the Lion of Judah, if it were not so, **Shadrack, Meshack and Abednigo** would have been eaten in the lion's den, he is the fire that cleanses our sins, big and small, if it were not so, **Daniel** would have been burned in the fire pit with his friends, but Jesus Christ, our Lord commanded the fire not to burn Daniel.

To the people of Sedibeng, the true believers of Christ our Lord, Christmas is the time to rededicate ourselves to the commands and teaching of **Jesus Christ our Redeemer**, so that we can be rejoined to **God in Heaven**. In Jesus' words, we will pray with belief and faith, when we say "**Our Father, which art in Heaven - Hallowed be thy name - Thy kingdom Come - Let your will be done in my life as it is Done in Heaven**" - **Amen and it shall be done**. This indeed is the covenant and the meaning of Christmas to me.

Amen

I thank you