



**End of the year message from the Sedibeng District Municipality
Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of
the Employee Year-end function held at the Emfuleni Caravan Park
on the 18 December 2009, in Sedibeng**

Madam Speaker, MMC's, Councilors here present
Municipal Manager, Members of staff and colleagues

Like a marathon runner, we are approaching the end of the year. It is as the finish line beckons that the strain on the legs seems most unbearable. We have run the race, completed the course and the Medal of Honor is well in sight. It has been a good year.

We know that it has been a good year. We have received awards by the bagful, we have come on top, we have faced challenges in the eye and came out victorious, we fought a good fight, we belled the cat and lived to tell our tale.

Our tale is a very good one, a good yarn to spin while sitting under the South African sky in a cloudless night. Sedibeng District Municipality has

done it again. In the face of adversity, it weathered a storm or two, like young David to his Goliath, with faith we conquered.

Who is this David, who is Sedibeng District Municipality, who is the Council, who is the all conquering hero, who ran the race and won? Look in the mirror and you will see. The gallant women and men who tend our gardens and fields in and around the Municipality precincts and open spaces, who create an environment that is pleasing to the eye and provide sustenance to the birds and the bees, who take care of our flora and fauna. That is the conquering David.

The men and women, who provide us with our refreshments, both hot and cold, day in and day out. This they do without a single word of complaint. Rain or shine, they clean out the offices we call our home, for one long week after the other, month after month until the end of the year. Through the rains of summer and the cold of winter, they oil the big machinery we call the Municipality; These are our all conquering marathon runner, the Council.

The young and not so young, the long and the short, the brown and the blue, in all shades of hue, the drivers who make our deliveries on time, the brave employees of Sedibeng District Municipality, who when tragedy struck, they alone acted with dignity and compassion, with innate

understanding of the right thing to do, My pride in all of you, knows no bounds.

The secretaries and administrative assistants mostly understood, with spring in your steps making our days greatly fulfilling, making our jobs easier to bear, making the leading of this beautiful region a calling most fulfilling, You are the winning Sedibeng District Municipality.

Pressured into battle, with little preparation, provision and arms, with ever dwindling budgets and short-staffed, both figuratively and literally, our managers and supervisors were called on to face their Goliath and mount the Everest. Without missing a step nor a beat, into the battle they marched, *"Theirs was not to ask the reason why, theirs but to do and die, Into the valley they rode, **To snatch the victory from the claws of defeat**"*

Take pride at the litany of our successes - **Your successes**, so that you understand my joy and pride. Once again we have received an unqualified audit from the auditor general, this we would not have achieved without your dedication and commitment. To that we are eternally grateful. We have not commissioned a baker when a builder was required, we did not pay a dancer when we needed to pay a digger. Like a reigning champion, we have defended our title of "Ambassador of the

Operation Clean Audit” we did it again. We have accounted for every public penny entrusted to us.

Once again, when everybody was mumbling and complaining about the 2010 FIFA World Cup, we are continuing to secure the rights to host some of the Football Association in our region for the period leading up to and including the World Cup.

COGTA in its assessment of the Sedibeng District Municipality says that in the face of adversity, we together with our constituent local municipality, have discharged our constitutional mandate of service delivery to our communities, For that we only have you to thank.

We are the reigning champion in Records Management in the country for all Municipalities - Metros and District Municipalities notwithstanding, a mantle and title we will defend successfully, all of this because of you. This is borne out by the fact that we won the Vuna Award, defended it with three successive clean audits that won us the Ambassadorial Role of Clean Audits, as if that was not enough, we have another unqualified audit in the pipeline. We don't rest on our laurels. *Nil Nisi Optimum* - Only the Best are Good Enough.

Meritorious mention of the following categories of employees is in order, this as a result of their adding immeasurable value to very well-oiled Sedibeng District Municipality machine:

- 132 New staff members who have joined our staff compliment this year, a warm welcome to the winning team
- We say goodbye to two members of staff from Sedibeng District Municipality this year, Mr MN Mncwera and Ms K Van der Merwe, may they enjoy their well earned rest, we will miss you
- It is better to have lived, loved and lost than to have never loved at all, we have during the preceding year lost seven loved ones,
 - Mr T Mofokeng
 - Mr L Mokhele
 - Mr KJ Nthebe
 - Ms W Rantsuku
 - Ms M Mohono
 - Mr M Rampai
 - Mr M Mahata - **May their Souls rest in Peace**
- To the youngest staff member in Sedibeng, Ms NM Thosa at twenty years, we look forward to many years of enthusiastic service from you
- To the longest serving member of staff, Mr MG Mkumbeni at sixty four years young, we hope you continue to enjoy the invigorating environment that makes Sedibeng the best place to be.

- To the longest serving employee, Mr MJS Hermans, with 43 years and eight months under his belt, may the years you have served be an inspiration for others to follow.
- To those members who have been with us for more years than my age and that of the Speaker, that is thirty years in the employ of the Council are:
 - SC Nhlapo from Licensing and Testing
 - Hermanus MJS from Town Hall
 - Nkumbeni MG from Town Hall
 - Moamohe LE from Town Hall
 - Seobi NM from Vereeniging Theatre
 - Pretorius I from Fresh Produce Market
 - Rowe CC from Heritage
- The latest member to join our staff compliment, Mr Neville Felix, may he inject his infectious energy in all of us.
- I have the pleasure of introducing our new Municipal Manager, Mr Yunus Chamda, welcome to Sedibeng District Municipality.

I would be failing in my duty, were I to forget to mention and thank the support of the staff in my office, who made sure that I hit the ground running for the entire year that was. Guys, I am looking forward to your to greater support from you in the New Year, because I know you can. I have no doubt that whilst the rest of your colleagues will be winding down

their well deserved rest, all of you will be by my side on the 1st of January 2010 as we carry out the business of council planned and scheduled for that day with the Victims and Survivors of various massacres of Sedibeng.

In this season of merriment, as we are about to take our well earned break and rest, to spend and enjoy with our loved ones, I do hereby wish you a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year**. To those who may not have had such a smashing year, they say in Setswana “**Ngwaga o sa nthateng, Kgabakganya**”.

You are the Greatest

I Thank You All