



**Purpose of the Event Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality
Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of
the Human Rights Four Nations Tournament Media Draw held on
Wednesday, 24 March 2010, Emerald Resort & Casino,
Vanderbijlpark, Sedibeng**

Programme Director: Cllr. Mluleki Nkosi;

Local Municipality Executive Mayors: Cllr. Assistance Mshudulu; Cllr.
Busisiwe Modisakeng;

Sedibeng District Municipality MMC for SRAC & H: Cllr. Mluleki Nkosi;

The General Manager of Corporate Affairs at Metropolitan: Ms Christabell
Kota;

Members of Mayoral Committees present;

The South African Football Association Representatives;

Officials from all institutions;

Distinguished guests

People of Sedibeng

Media

Every individual aspiring to be among the best will agree with me today when I say it feels good as the Executive Mayor of Sedibeng District Municipality, to be rubbing shoulders with young people like you.

This is made most demanding by the fact that the young people one will be rubbing shoulders with have travelled kilometers from their home towns to showcase their talent in Sedibeng, *the cradle of human rights*.

I indeed feel honoured and privileged on behalf of the people of Sedibeng to be delivering this address to you all on the shores of our beautiful Sedibeng District Municipality that is proudly formulated by our constituent Emfuleni, Lesedi & Midvaal Local Municipalities.

Your arrival in Sedibeng comes barely 3 days after the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre, the Commemoration that we are continuing throughout the month of March under the appropriately thought theme: *“Together we can do more to protect human rights”*

During this period, we recall that fateful day when unarmed protesters against the unjust and humiliating apartheid pass laws were mowed down by the apartheid forces in Sharpeville.

On behalf of the people of Sedibeng, the *Four Nations Tournament Draw* which will be taking place here today touches our hearts in the

manner that cannot be measured. We feel privileged to host such an eminent International Soccer Tournament.

You will recall that this is the second time that we host this type of a Tournament. The first was when we hosted the Under 17 Soccer Tournament last year and we had hoped to continue with that trend.

This Tournament comes during the period in which the people of Sedibeng, the country and international world is brought together to advocate and protect human rights campaigns and principles across the world. Therefore, as we compete in this Tournament, we must do so with the objective of fulfilling this goal

We are commemorating this period in the manner that we are doing with the understanding that we are doing it for our ancestors, heroes & heroines and the survivors who are here with us today to share the stories of that fateful day so as to be able to continuously work towards a better life for all.

Brothers & Sisters, you will surely agree with me when I say, this is the period which will never descend our Region and the Country again in the life of many of us, a day which came to be popularly known as the Sharpeville Shootings.

Doing this **Media Draw** today during the year in which we celebrate the two decades of President Mandela's freedom.

In essence we are celebrating the legacy of the President Mandela generation given to all of us, black and white, poor or rich, gay or straight, peasant or landlord and young or old to safeguard, the legacy and the benefits that they fought for, for us to be free as we are today.

This legacy is built on the values of humanity, selflessness, equality and constitutional democracy. It is a legacy that demands of us, with no options whatsoever, to defend it, uphold it and live by its doctrine. It is a legacy that has no patience for racial or cultural divisions. In the main, it is a legacy that seeks to forge national unity and social cohesion amongst the people of South Africa.

Therefore, for us to be seen to be heeding these legacy objectives, our day to day work must be guided by discipline and governance principles which include among other respect, democratic, collective leadership, constructive criticism and self criticism, accountability and mandate as elected public representatives.

We must uncompromisingly pursue these principles and traditions to marshal our Country and those of our neighbouring countries towards attaining a fully democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and a united nation.

It is with the above that I once again recommit our District Municipality and its constituent Local Municipalities to a responsibility to create a better life for all and ensure amongst others, that our people have decent shelter,

drink safe water, that there is no divide between rural and urban development, that we contribute to ensuring decent education for all and our regional economy is not for the privileged few.

This recommitment is informed by the fact that, if these conditions do not exist, then our role as public representatives will be abandoning our quest for peace, justice and democracy in our country.

On behalf of the people Sedibeng and its constituent Local Municipalities, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for making it possible and finding it imperative for you to be part of this important Special Anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre's **Four Nations Soccer Tournament** which will be kick starting tomorrow.

This year we will be hosting Under 20 National Teams from Swaziland, Botswana and Lesotho on behalf of our South African Under 20 National Team.

This draw today precedes the important and prestigious Soccer Tournament referred to above which we will be hosting for the following reasons:

- As part of our Human Rights Month Programme and most importantly in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre;
- As part of instilling, deepening and advocating the Human Rights principles among our people;

- To expose our residents, especially the youth to international football events;
- As part of our soccer development programme;
- As part of encouraging our footballers to aspire to improve both themselves and their respective clubs/teams

Since we are not a 2010 Soccer World Cup Tournament host city, this is another way of bringing to our shores competitive football;

This Tournament will be held from the 25, 26 & 27 March 2010 at the Boipatong Stadium and will take the form of **knock out system**, one game each day – Thursday & Friday starting at 16h00 and Saturday will be losers' final at 12h00 & final at 15h00

In addition to the international profile that the Teams will build for themselves through this historic tournament, winning teams will receive trophies and gold medals while those who may have not done well will receive silver medals

To ensure that our players do their best, there will be *the player of the tournament award*; *the goalkeeper of the tournament award* and *the top goal scorer of the tournament award*.

This tournament will further be used to strengthen ties between South Africa and our SADC countries. Each of these countries will benefit either directly or indirectly from the 2010 Soccer World Cup and their continued collaboration is of great importance. These countries competed last year in the under-17 tournament and this is a continuation of that working relationship.

Programme Director, it is our intention to host this Tournament annually with a bigger programme of activities, including coaching clinics and other capacity building initiatives. For our communities, this is the commitment we planned to achieve starting from next year, 2011.

We dedicate this Tournament to the many sons and daughters of the soil, who have perished in the prisons of apartheid, those who have spent many years of their lives in exile, and those who were tortured by the apartheid security forces who stood the test of time, fighting for the course that we are enjoying its benefits today.

Let us once again take off our hats to many families and religious houses that protected our people and youth in particular, who fought bullets with stones.

Remember, the Four Nations Soccer Tournament this year is held in honour of those victims and survivors of the aggressive and destabilising

apartheid sponsored raids and massacres that took place in our own Sharpeville...therefore, do your best!

We acknowledge and thank the support and commitment we received from the Metropolitan Life Limited; the South African Football Association and all our stakeholders who it possible for this Tournament to happen.

With 78 days left before the kick off of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup in South Africa later this year, I believe and trust that you have already purchased your tickets and your vuvuzelas are ready to roar...

Guys, the battle field has been leveled.....Ke Nako!

Ke a leboha!