



**Speaking Notes by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Political Steering Committee Meeting held on the 01<sup>st</sup> April 2010, in Sedibeng**

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Dear Colleagues,

Comrades and fellow councillors

Today marks the 10 weeks before the opening ceremony of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. It is with great jubilation and excitement that we all are looking forward to this great event.

This excitement may well be misplaced if we lose sight of some of the critical areas of service delivery which we are to deliberate on today. You will recall that I have since declared and committed this team that these areas of service delivery would be carried out in the next *100 Days Programme* by the Sedibeng District Municipality and our constituent local Municipalities.

**Colleagues**, with the challenges facing us at this time, with the amount of work that needs to be carried out, we might just find ourselves working around the clock, just to make sure that we are up to speed with all that we set out to do for our communities for we are here because of them. The time for talking, engaging in extreme analysis of the pros and cons of the decisions we took is over. The time is left for us now is to implement, period! This is what our communities want to see us doing.

For this purpose, our Political Steering Committee meetings held on modnays must be continued.

We will be looking at progress reports on a weekly basis with the objective of tracking and tracing the implementation of the decisions that we take. Our inability to track down the implementation of the decisions taken creates a vacuum in which political-administrative disjuncture succeeds, thus allowing some of the major decisions taken to fall through the cracks.

I enjoin this leadership core to take up the clarion call of the State President, Honorable Jacob Zuma who has declared this, 2010, the Year of Action. This is the year of business unusual. This is the year leading up to the 2011 Local Government Elections, where we hope our mandate will be renewed by our constituencies.

We must avoid doing the same thing in the same manner, over and over again, hoping for different results, as this will surely be a sign of insanity on our part. We cannot be doing it like we did last year and hope for different results, for indeed we are not insane.

I take this opportunity to remind us all that a lot of sterling work has gone into the development and review of our Draft IDP which will soon see its way through media and other public participation processes to ensure that our communities take a center stage in assisting us to lead them in the direction that takes them a better life and prosperous Sedibeng.

We have taken a lot of efforts to develop our Quick Wins. We have applied our minds in developing projects for the *100 Days Programme*. Allow me to remind us all of those things that we committed ourselves to in the light of the above.

These are projects which we are going to carry out within the allocated time, even if it means that some of us are going to work without sleep for the entire period leading up to their completion.

**This is the *100 Days Programme & its Deliverables***

These are the projects among which will be aimed at beautifying Sharpeville through various developmental programmes and other areas

in the Region. I am aware that work has already been done in some of the areas that we are going to discuss and that is a good sign that we will see the finish line within a prescribed time.

- Seiso Street, Sharpeville Hall, Phelindaba Cemetery and other projects. A project plan should be set up working backwards, with commitment from all, to show leadership that we can deliver on what has been committed. Cemetery upgrade phase one must be auctioned as a matter of urgency.

Sharpeville is being focused on. One item for Evaton is added on. Emfuleni Local Municipality has been brought on board.

**Cemetery upgrade** - Tender document local content percentage is 25% but preferred bidder is prepared to offer more than 25% by themselves. This must be encouraged.

**Upgrade of exhibition centre** - National Treasury gave us R 23.8 million. Some money will be received on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to start with the constitutional walk. This must be effected and auctioned on.

**Sharpeville Hall** – The tender closed on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The hall can be completed in 100 days. We have to monitor this one very closely.

**The Constitutional Walk-** Development must be done in such a way that money won't be wasted. Some work must be done between April and 31 May 2010, whilst some work can be done on the stadium. Professional advice is awaited in respect of the doable jobs.

**Memoranda of grievances received from Concerned Residents of Sharpeville** – We need to find a way of incorporating and actioning them

**Issues like HIV, Youth Development and refuse removal in the area**– need to be incorporated into our *100 Days Programme*. Province also committed themselves in respect of the same issues. Emfuleni has a similar programme.

Emfuleni is doing an upgrade in the stadium and we should also take opportunity to do work as well. Work on the constitutional walk is critical. Other local municipalities must be drawn into our 100 days programme.

Lesedi has a reservoir and roads projects which are already running. We must check how far they are to include it in the 100 days project. If we have nothing to do with it we should not include it. As a District we must however indicate what is happening in the area.

We should look at timeframes and ensure letters of appointments go out for all projects. A 100 days calendar must be drawn up as a matter of serious urgency.

**Evaton Road Paving** - This project is funded and must be carried out without further delay. We have R 7.5 million to use in this financial year and the road paving project must be done before end of June 2010. We must also look at how many contractors will work on the seven (7) roads.

**Communication through Batho Pele Office** has to be speeded up. People should phone in with their complaints. Radio stations wants to continue broadcasting and they can report on the 100 days deliverables as communities never know what is going on. We should have a centralized desk where people can phone in for constant contact with the municipality.

**The SANRAL project** which is outstanding must be included in the 100 days. It goes up to R 8 million and must be built into the 100 days projects. The Municipal Manager and Executive Director must unpack this issue and look at ways to incorporate it.

There must be a technical team which will fully be engaging in these projects to report on what is taking place. If any blockages are being encountered, the Steering Committee can look at it without any delays.

Sedibeng must have a project management unit based in the district so that ELM can be assisted and to also save money. We should have a unit instead of project managers everywhere. The Communication strategy must clearly communicate the number of jobs and broad beneficiaries and value of the money so that you entice the community and enable them to see how they benefit. We must communicate all the projects to the community.

Sedibeng promised the Boipatong Community that by 17 June 2010, their graveyard will be different. We must build a long slab with tombstones in Boipatong as part of the 100 days. Let us not overlook the process of consultation. We should go back to the public and family members. The project does not cost a lot of money. Sedibeng must commit itself to this project and the relevant department must run with this project from today.

### **Mitta Molete's house in Boipatong**

In Boipatong Mitta Molete's house has not been built yet. MEC committed R40 000.00 to the building of that house. We committed R200 000.00. Emfuleni and other stakeholders were requested to also assist financially as well. Several letters have been written to various businesses who have not responded to financial assistance.

The Municipal Manager must device a team to focus on this project as this has become a critical issue. This project must be attended to as this will be the champion project. There was a commitment from contractors in Boipatong. This commitment must be checked as well.

Work on Mitta Molete's house must be done on either a Saturday or Sunday on a weekly basis. Boipatong graveside slab can be done by the same contractors.

Work can be finished in a day. Money will be coming come from our own funding and the Municipal Manager and CFO has to look at the financials. The Youth Advisory Centre housed in Boipatong clinic has been vacated. Community Services is looking for an alternate place to house the youth centre. We must prioritize and concentrate on the graves as these are less expensive.

Feasibility studies are being undertaken in Emfuleni, Lesedi and Midvaal. Some projects can be done as quick wins. Boipatong wetlands studies show that funding can be supported. The Political Steering Committee must dictate based on the preliminary work that has been submitted. They must indicate what must be done within the 100 days. We were supposed to have received R31 Million for projects by the 31 March 2010.

SANRAL project is a joint venture with Sedibeng initially for R10 mill. A contractor was appointed and a losing contractor took Sedibeng to court who ruled that the process should be restarted. SANRAL was not happy, which was an embarrassment but they indicated commitment to continue with the project.

The project was revised at a cost was R6 million more. The agreement was that Sedibeng provide up to R 8 million. Sedibeng has appointed a contractor and SANRAL appointed the engineer.

The SLA was also revised. Sedibeng is awaiting SANRAL to confirm continuation for appointment of an engineer. Sedibeng's money is available and committed. SANRAL project will not be included in the 100 days project.

Some 100 days projects must be launched in the month of April 2010.

**I thank you**